



MEMORANDUM

ERIE COUNTY CAPITAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE

DATE: June 6, 2024

TO: Mark C. Poloncarz, Erie County Executive & Chair of the Capital Projects Committee

FROM: Natalie Nitsche

RE: 2025 Capital Projects Committee Meeting #1

Attendance: County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Deputy County Executive Lisa Chimera, Chief of Staff Benjamin Swanekamp, Comptroller Kevin Hardwick, Budget Director Mark Cornell, Deputy Budget Director Kim Kajdasz, Commissioner Troy Schinzel, Deputy Commissioner Thomas Baines, Legislator John Mills, Legislator Timothy Meyers, Jessica Schuster, Bryan Fiume, Scott Kroll, Erich Weyant, Jordan Zyglis, Timothy German, Sean Mulligan, Timothy Donovan, Christopher Horvatits, Alfonzo Harris, Nathan Lippitt, and Natalie Nitsche.

The County Executive called to order the first meeting of the Capital Project Committee Meetings for 2025 and recognized a quorum. County Executive Poloncarz advised that this is an introductory meeting and that no projects would be discussed.

Next, Budget Director, Mark Cornell, distributed the 2025 Capital Projects Booklet and discussed a number supplemental documents generated by the Budget Office and provided to the Committee.

The first document was a summary of 2025 capital project requests. Ten (10) County Departments and seven other agencies (5 external organizations, SUNY Erie and the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System) submitted 75 projects requesting \$159.9 million in local share funding.

The second document was a four-year history (2022-2025) of project requests (total number and cost) for all County departments/external agencies that made a request of the 2025 Capital Projects Committee. By year: 2022 – 87 Projects for \$115.9 million; 2023 – 97 Projects for \$155.2 million; 2023 – 57 projects for \$120 million.

The third document provided a five-year history of like projects to those requested in 2025. This includes prior phases of a larger project and reoccurring asks of the same project type.

The fourth document provides the status of all approved capital projects (not just projects approved as part of the Capital Projects Committee) set up in SAP from 2016 -2024, including a brief description, the source of funding (Bonded, PAYGO, Other Aid), current (as of June 1, 2024) spending within the project, and a projected completion date. This document is updated monthly and provided to the Legislature.

The fifth document is an update about the 2024 program. Last year, 50 projects were approved for \$56.1 million, bonded, and \$20.1 million, PAYGO. There have been some changes. The Consolidated Bond Resolution for 2024 was reduced from \$56.1 million to \$40.9 million; \$15.2 million was converted to PAYGO. The total size of the 2024 bond issuance will be \$48.1 million and the sale is projected for mid-July. There are five projects between 2022 and 2023 that were previously authorized but not bonded for that are included in the 2024 issuance.

The sixth document provides an accounting of the five-year anticipated debt service schedule. The County had averaged, in the past, \$63 million annually in debt service; however, in 2024, the County debt services was only \$38.7 million as a result of the maturation of several bond series. It is estimated that 2025 debt service (that would include costs associated with the \$48.1 million 2024 GO Bond Sale and \$125 2024 Stadium Bond sale) would be approximately \$47 million or still \$16 million below the 10-year average debt service costs.

The last supplemental document is a proposed schedule of meetings and presentations. Majority Leader Meyers indicated he had a conflict with the August 8th meeting. No other Committee members indicated any conflicts and the schedule was confirmed.

Next, the County Executive confirmed that this is the largest amount of funds requested to date at \$159 million in County shares and a total of \$272 million, and the County cannot approve a plan near that. County Executive Poloncarz asked if there were any questions or comments.

Motion to adjourn made by Majority Leader Meyers and seconded by Minority Leader Mills. The motion carried unanimously.