2026 Erie County Capital Projects Committee

July 17, 2025

Agenda

- Review and Approval of Meeting #2 Minutes from July 10, 2025
- Old Business
    - Follow Up Information from Division of Highways
- Capital Projects Presentations:
    - Buildings and Grounds (10 Projects)
    - Sheriff (2 Projects)
- Public Comments
- Next Meeting July 24, 2024 – Presentations by:
    - Central Police Services (2 Projects)
    - Information & Support Services (2 Projects)
    - Health (1 Project)
    - Homeland Security & Emergency Services (2 Projects)
    - Parks, Recreation & Forestry (2 Projects)
    - Personnel (1 Project)

MEMORANDUM

ERIE COUNTY
CAPITAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE

DATE:	July 10, 2025
TO:	Mark C. Poloncarz, Erie County Executive & Chair of the Capital Projects Committee
FROM:	Natalie Nitsche
RE:	2026 Capital Projects Committee Meeting #2

Attendance: County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Deputy County Executive Lisa Chimera, Comptroller Kevin Hardwick, Budget & Management Director Mark Cornell, Commissioner William Geary, Commissioner Troy Schinzel, Commissioner Dan Castle, Deputy Commissioner Thomas Baines, Deputy Commissioner Karen Hoak, Legislature Chair Tim Meyers, Minority Leader John Mills, Legislator Lawrence Dupre, Benjamin Swanekamp, Bryan Fiume, Erich Weyant, Jessica Schuster, Tim German, Dominic Musilli, Nathan Lippitt, Charles Banas, Justin Rooney, and Natalie Nitsche. Virtual Attendees: Timothy Callan

The County Executive called to order the second meeting of the Capital Project Committee Meetings for 2026.

The first item up for discussion and approval are the previous meeting's minutes. Director Cornell requested to amend the minutes to include Deputy Comptroller Timothy Callan in attendance at the first meeting. Comptroller Hardwick made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, and Chair Meyers seconded the motion.

Highways – presented by Deputy Commissioner Hoak and Commissioner Geary

Project #1: 2026 Capital Overlay-Maintenance
This request is for $9 million. This would provide for the rehabilitation, maintenance, and reconstruction of the county highway network including pavement restoration, shoulder widening, sight distance, and safety improvements. This is entirely reimbursable by CHIPS and PaveNY. Road scoring will be happening shortly.

Director Cornell asked inquired about leftover money from 2020 to 2023 and any encumbrances. Deputy Commissioner Hoak advised most of the funds will be used this year.

Project #2: 2026 Capital Overlay
This request is for $10 million. This project would rehab multiple roads: Greiner, Wehrle, Youngs, North Forest, Eggert, and/or other capital overlay and would include resurfacing, drainage, safety, and inspection. This is reimbursable by New York State.

The County Executive and Deputy Commissioner Hoak discussed the engineering and drainage involved in the above-named roads. Massive reconstruction is not anticipated.

Project #3: Preservation of Road – Construction-Maple Rd
This request is for $3 million to rehab Maple Road from North Forest to Flint Road in Amherst and will repair pavement joints and resurface pavement on the three southern lanes.

The County Executive and Deputy Commissioner Hoak discussed the upcoming bid procedure as well as funding.

Project #4: Federal Aid-Road Construction-PIN 5763.36 William St (Transit to Bowen)
This request is for $1,323,200 for the rehabilitation of William Street from Transit to Bowen in Lancaster, or any other federal aid road project. This will include new pavement, drainage repairs, and signal improvements.

County Executive Poloncarz asked if this would include covering the exiting ditches and creating a third lane in the middle. Commissioner Geary confirmed it will be three lanes until Aurora and advised the DOT will be covering sidewalks.

Director Cornell inquired about a separate portion of Williams Street being ranked lower. Deputy Commissioner Hoak advised this project was designed first and less extensive than the other.

Project #5: Federal Aid-Road Construction-Abbott Rd
This request is for $1,020,000 for the rehabilitation of Abbott Road from Fisher Road to the City of Buffalo line in Lackawanna and will include new pavement, drainage repairs, and signal improvements.

The County Executive and Commissioner Geary discussed the intersection being redesigned.

Project #6: Federal Aid-BridgeNY Construction
This request is for $611,000 for the BridgeNY projects including: Versailles Plank Road Bridge, Concord Road Bridge, Bagdad Road Bridge, and Ketchum Road Bridge.

The County Executive and Commissioner Geary discussed the increased federal funding under the Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Act. The County Executive also inquired as to whether all of these bridges can be completed in one year. Commissioner Geary believes four can be done in one year, but it depends on the availability of contractors and steel. There was also discussion around Pay-Go and when the projects can be started.

Director Cornell inquired about percentages of funding. Commissioner Geary explained the federal versus state funding amounts.

County Executive Poloncarz asked the average age of the above-referenced bridges. Deputy Commissioner Hoak explained that most of these were constructed in the 1930s. The CE

requested the age of all of the bridges.

Project #7: Vehicle & Equipment Replacement-Highways
This request is for $5 million for front line equipment in critical need of replacing: plow trucks, high lifts, tractors, sweepers, mowers, and specialized equipment for road striping operations.

Deputy Commissioner Hoak explained that the County keeps an ongoing list of the needed equipment. The total for five plow trucks is $1.5 million, and these trucks then need to have standards put on them. Five all-wheel drive dump trucks would total $1.7 million.

Director Cornell and Commissioner Geary discussed the upcoming electrification requirements. Electrification is on hold at this point. Director Cornell and Deputy Commissioner Hoak discussed specialized equipment needs. Commissioner Geary advised that the County will begin testing and using renewable diesel in Concord to help with the carbon footprint.

Commissioner Castle asked how old equipment gets cycled out. Commissioner Geary advised they mostly get auctioned off or traded in. Nothing gets saved for parts.

Project #8: Federal Aid Bridge Preservation-Construction
This request is for $664,000 to fund the construction for bridge preservation projects which will receive federal funding, including but not limited to washing, sealing, deck repairs, joints, painting, substructure repairs, and bearing replacement.

The bridges covered by this project would be Keller Road over Hampton Brook, West Falls Road over Cazenovia Creed, Grover Road over Cazenovia Creek, Four Rod Road over Cayuga Creek, Colvin over Ellicott Creek, Zimmerman Road over Eighteen Mile Creek, and Warner Hill Road over Hunters Creek.

Project #9: Highway Safety Improvements
This request is for $1.25 million for replacing damaged guardrails, correcting recognized highway deficiencies and upgrading highway appurtenances on County roads that are determined to be hazardous or are prone to higher accident rates.

There are 157 miles of guardrails in the County. It costs about $75 per foot to replace. This would replace 3.15 miles. The County has been pursuing insurance payments for guardrails struck by vehicles.

Project #10: Springville Dam 019-0565 Compliance Rehabilitation Design
This request is for $600,000 for the rehabilitation design for Springville Dam to address spillway capacity, stability, incorporation of functional low-level outlet and various other safety and compliance related repairs.

Director Cornell and Deputy Commissioner Hoak discussed the differences in the 2026 project versus the 2025 bonding project.

The County Executive asked for an estimate of construction costs. Commissioner Geary advised about $9 million for construction. Commissioner Castle and Commissioner Geary then discussed compliance.

Minority Leader Mills and Commissioner Geary discussed the agreement between Erie County, New York State, and Army Corp of Engineers as well as the fish ladder. Commissioner Geary confirmed that this funding will bring the dam into compliance and nothing more.

Tim Callan attempted to ask a question remotely but was unable to due to technical difficulties.

Project #11: North Forest (CR294) Road Slide Construction
This request is for $606,250 for slope stabilization, full depth highway reconstruction including drainage improvements. Row acquisitions are anticipated to be required for stabilization work. FEMA funds have been obtained for this project.

The County Executive inquired about predicting the cost of the construction. Commissioner Geary opined that construction costs seem to have flattened out and are in line with inflation.

Project #12: On Call General Civil & Geotechnical Services
This request is for $500,000 which would allow retention of up to two firms for the provision of on-call general civil and geotechnical professional services for a term of three years. The current contracts are expiring at the end of this year.

Comptroller Hardwick asked if this is a capital project. Deputy Commissioner Hoak advised that this is an annual request. Director Cornell discussed that there are a few on-call agreements that have been bonded for, but his preference would be for them to be pay as you go.

Project #13: As Directed/Emergency Engineering Design Services
This request is for $250,000 to fund the design of repairs which have to be completed based on the bridge/culvert inspection reports, flags, or hazardous conditions found. This is an ongoing project needing yearly funding as this work is beyond O&M budgeting.

Project #14: Preservation of Bridges and Culverts Construction-Repair/Rehabilitation of Flagged Bridges and Culverts
This request is for $350,000 which will fund the construction of repairs and rehabilitation of structures that must be completed based on bridge inspection reports and small bridge/large culvert inspection reports and/or flags based on the priority at the time.

The County Executive asked how this funding would be applied considering federal and state funding awarded. Deputy Commissioner Hoak advised this funding would be for emergency repairs. There are 487 bridges and culverts in the County.

Minority Leader Mills and Commissioner Geary discussed that the County inspects its own bridges. There was a call from the Town of Boston supervisor regarding a culvert on Boston State Road. This structure is on the repair list.

The County Executive asked if cross culverts are coming out of operating funds. Commissioner Geary confirmed funding does come from operating funds and that the maintenance districts have restrictions on what they can do. A lot of the older culverts are only three sided with a natural bottom. The DEC no longer wants the natural bottom.

County Executive Poloncarz asked for the average age of culverts needing replacement. Commissioner Geary estimated 60-75 years old and stated that some new culverts are needed also due to topography changes.

Project #15: Preservation of Large Culverts-Design
This request is for $1 million. This is a large-scale design program for the replacement or repairs of large culverts and small bridges throughout the county. Twenty-five percent of the County's large culverts are reaching their ends of life which is about one hundred twenty-five structures in need of replacement.

The County Executive asked how many designs can be done for $1 million. Deputy Commissioner Hoak estimates three culverts can be designed for $1 million.

Director Cornell asked if $1 million in design equates to $10.3 million in construction costs. Deputy Commissioner Hoak confirmed that that is the case. Director Cornell inquired if these new constructions would last another 100 years. Commissioner Geary stated that 75 to 100 years is the goal. Deputy Commissioner Hoak explained that a lot of concrete pre-cast structures will last a long time.

Project #16: Preservation of Large Culverts-Construction
This request is for $10,300,000. This is a large-scale construction program for the large culverts and small bridges throughout the county. Potential culverts for 2026 are on Feddick, Fletcher, Jennings, Lein, Trevett (x2), and West Tillen (x2).

The County Executive asked if any of these culverts qualify for federal aid. Commissioner Geary advised the County usually one gets one culvert per year from CulvertNY. The County Executive then asked if these culverts were converted to bridges, would we get more funding from the State. Commissioner Geary advised this usually gets taken into account during the design phase with the State.

County Executive Poloncarz asked for the specifications of a culvert versus a bridge. Commissioner Geary explained that a large culvert is from five to twenty feet, and a bridge is twenty-one feet and over.

Project #17: Large Culvert/Small Bridge & Pedestrian Bridge Inspection Program-Countywide
This request is for $600,000 for the condition inspection of 487 large culverts/small bridges and 11 pedestrian bridges distributed over a 4-year program. These structures are not inspected by NYSDOT and need to be inspected by the county.

Deputy Commissioner Hoak explained inspection frequency and the RFP and construction timelines. Popli is the current contractor.

Deputy County Executive Chimera asked how many companies do this type of work. Deputy Commissioner Hoak advised there are not many.

Director Cornell inquired about the pedestrian bridge locations. Commissioner Geary confirmed ten pedestrian bridges in County parks.

Project #18: 2026 IT & GIS Services
This request is for $200,000 for the continuation of contracts for technical support of GIS systems and implementation of new work order system and hardware expenses.

Director Cornell asked what the anticipated timeframe is for DPW to spend down their existing funds. Commissioner Geary described some IT upgrades that are ongoing.

Project #19: Road Slide Construction-Hopkins Road (CR87)
This request is for $4.3 million for slope stabilization and full depth highway reconstruction including drainage improvements. Right of way acquisitions are anticipated to be required for stabilization work.

Director Cornell and Deputy Commissioner Hoak discussed the unpredictability of road slide projects and the history of price estimates.

Project #20: Federal Aid-Road Construction-PIN 5764.11 William St (Tamark to Union)
This request is for $1,162,000 for the rehabilitation of William Street from Tamark Road to Union Rd in Cheektowaga and includes new pavement, drainage repairs, and signal improvements.

County Executive Poloncarz inquired about the higher road score. Commissioner Geary discussed that the score is two years old and this is a high traffic road. Deputy Commissioner Hoak opined that the road may have had strip paving which is just a band aid.

Chief of Staff Bryan Fiume asked if this also includes a turning lane for the Thruway. Commissioner Geary advised the queuing lane is too short, but that the State is responsible for that. They need to realign the entrance and some of the exit.

Project #21: Preservation of Roads-Construction-Eggert and Colvin
This request is for $8 million for the reconstruction of Colvin from Twin Cities to south of Eggert, and Eggert south of Colvin including replacement of concrete pavement and drainage.

The County Executive asked why this is not the State's responsibility as it is right at the 290 entrance. Commissioner Geary explained that a lot of funding would be for chip and overlay, and this is reconstruction.

Project #22: Preservation of Roads-General Road Design Program

This request is for $2.5 million which will provide design for one or more roads or retaining walls supporting roads, depending on funding. Candidates include French (Union-Transit), Ransom (Main-Stage), Eggert, Wehrle (Transit-Harris Hill), Buffalo St, or another county road.

The County Executive asked if design is in 2026 and construction would be in 2027. Commissioner Geary advised French would be in phases as it will be very expensive. County Executive Poloncarz asked if this is a complete redesign with drainage. Ransom and Buffalo will have no drainage and will be mostly mill and overlay. There need to be pedestrian improvements with a wider shoulder near Knox Farm. The County Executive asked if all of these roads have to be reconstructed. Commissioner Geary confirmed French and Wehrle have to be redesigned due to traffic.

Project #23: Turn Back of Roads-Reconstruction of East Ave (CR248)
This request is for $4.1 million for the reconstruction of East Ave from Parkview to Alden-Crittenden Road in Akron and includes new pavement, drainage, gutters/curbs, driveway aprons, and limited sidewalk ramps.

The County Executive asked if this would be multiple phases. Commissioner Geary advised Akron would have one phase and the County would have one phase. The booklet may be incorrect-Commissioners will follow up.

Project #24: Preservation of Bridges-Warner Gulf Road Bridge
This request is for $2 million. This project will replace the existing culvert, but the new structure may be classified as a bridge due to the increase in span length.

The County Executive asked if this could be identified as “general” so that if they bridge costs less than $2 million, the remaining funds can be used elsewhere. Deputy Commissioner Hoak advised counsel will not allow that. Director Cornell, County Executive Poloncarz, Commissioner Castle and Commissioner Geary discussed exploring this option.

County Executive Poloncarz inquired about the rating and yellow flag. Deputy Commissioner Hoak advised a yellow flag is a safety concern that needs to be addressed. The County Executive and Commissioner Geary discussed that this is a two lane bridge that could potentially be limited to one lane before ultimately shutting down.

Project #25: Preservation of Roads-Construction-Dodge Rd
This request is for $7.31 million. This project would resurface all of the drainage, areas of the shoulder widening, and update the ADA sidewalk ramps on Dodge Road from Transit to Hopkins in Amherst.

The County Executive and Deputy Commissioner Hoak discussed the bid and construction timeline. County Executive Poloncarz and Commissioner Geary discussed potential for federal aid and getting County roads on the federal aid list. Originally these roads were two-lane roads and are now four and five lane with housing developments on them.

Project #26: Preservation of Roads-Road Slide Design

This request is for $500,000 for the rehabilitation design to address road slides caused by subsurface movement and stream bank erosion threatening the stability of the roadway for Holland Glenwood, Hayes Hollow, Zoar Valley, or other Erie County roads.

Project #27: Preservation of Roads-Retaining Walls-New Oregon Rd
This request is for $1.3 million to repair the retaining wall on New Oregon Road just south of Belcher Road, or any other locations in need of retaining wall repairs or construction.

Project #28: Preservation of Roads-Construction-New Road Phase II
This request is for $11.5 million for the second phase to rehab New Road (Smith to Tonawanda Creek Rd 2026) in the Town of Amherst and will include widening shoulders, enclose drainage, pavement mill and overlay.

Director Cornell asked why this is the lowest priority road as there is already one phase started. Commissioner Geary explained that phase one will accommodate what Natale Homes is coming in to do with the Town of Amherst as well as the traffic count on this road.

The County Executive asked if this needs to be a complete reconstruction. Commissioner Geary confirmed it does. There are no shoulders. There is no base to support a mill and overlay.

The County Executive asked if there is any public comment. There were none.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, July 17, 2025.

Motion to adjourn by Comptroller Hardwick, and Chairman Meyers seconded the motion.

From: Hoak, Karen <Karen.Hoak@erie.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2025 4:52 PM
To: Cornell, Mark <Mark.Cornell@erie.gov>
Cc: Geary, William <William.Geary@erie.gov>
Subject: Capital Projects follow up

Good afternoon,

Please see below for additional information requested:

Fed Aid Bridge Replacements-Construction-Bridge NY
Ages of Bridges
Verailles - 1928
Concord Road – 1931
Ketchum - 1932
Meahl – 1941
Bagdad – 1980

Average age of Culverts
Our Bridge Engineer confirmed that the 125 culverts (identified as at the end of their life) are mostly from the 1930's. We don't always have original detailed records on them but are able to estimate age based on type of construction, materials used and/or condition of the culvert.

Road Slide Construction-Hopkins Rd
We cant predict when there will be substructure movement that would require a road shutdown but the consultant is finalizing the engineering report which should better inform us on the status of this road slide. The report should be ready in August as design will be complete by the end of the year. I will send along additional info when the report becomes available.

Turn Back of Roads-Reconstruction of East Ave
The amount reflecting a phased request is correct.

Thank you,

Karen

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