



MEMORANDUM COUNTY OF ERIE CAPITAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE

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

FROM: Aislyn McQueen

DATE: August 10, 2026

RE: 2027 Capital Projects Committee Meeting #6

Attendance: County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Deputy County Executive Lisa Chimera, Budget Director Mark Cornell, Comptroller Kevin Hardwick, Commissioner Bill Geary, Commissioner Troy Schinzel, Legislature Chair Tim Meyers, Minority Leader John Mills, Chief of Staff Bryan Fiume, Chief of Staff Erich Weyant, Charles Banas, Tim German, and Aislyn McQueen. Virtual Attendees: Timothy Callan and Tina Shortt.

County Executive Poloncarz called the final meeting to order and confirmed a quorum. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved following a motion by Director Cornell and a second by Chairman Meyers.

The County Executive went over each project in the proposed 2027 Capital Budget, outlining the requested amount and recommended funding level from the direction of Director Cornell.

During review of Public Works projects, Commissioner Geary recommended reducing one project's funding from 2 million to 1 million and reallocating the remaining 1 million to the Buildings and Grounds Code and Environmental Standards fund, citing anticipated transfer credit availability.

County Executive Poloncarz asked for an estimate of tax transfer credits; Director Cornell projected 8–10 million dollars, possibly more.

The Committee agreed not to fund the EOC expansion this cycle due to its upcoming design RFP. For the Central Library, the Committee prioritized funding the air handler system, noting this will likely be a recurring request until all units are replaced. Director Cornell reported that the Sheriff's Office camera upgrade request can be phased over two years, with the first phase in 2027 and the second in 2028, ensuring essential needs are met now.

The proposed budget totals approximately 100 million dollars, with 70 million bonded. Before approval, Comptroller Hardwick expressed concern about increasing County debt. Poloncarz and other members noted rising project costs, necessary one-time investments, and significant increases in CPIU (38.6%) and construction materials (65%).

The Committee unanimously approved the 2027 Capital Projects Program and intend to clock it in to the Legislature. A motion to adjourn was made by Chairman Meyers and seconded by Minority Leader Mills.