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**BROAD COALITION OF LABOR, BUSINESS, CIVIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS LAUNCH AGGRESSIVE CAMPAIGN IN ALBANY TO 'KEEP NEW YORK WORKING'**

*Advertising and Lobbying Efforts to Ramp up as Coalition to Keep New York Working Pushes for \$12 Billion Stimulus Plan to Save 435,000 Jobs while Improving State's Infrastructure*

*Group Unveils Specific 'Shovel-Ready' Projects in Regions Across State*

**January 27, 2009 (Albany, NY)** – The Coalition to Keep New York Working, a group of top labor, business, civic and environmental organizations from across New York, today continued their push for a \$12 billion New York State stimulus package by announcing they would embark on an aggressive advertising and lobbying campaign aimed at state lawmakers and unveiling a list of specific shovel-ready infrastructure projects they said would help jump start the state economy.

At a press conference in Albany, the group pledged to aggressively seek support from state and federal legislators for a stimulus plan that invests heavily in improving roads, bridges, public transportation, schools, clean energy, parks, sewage and water treatment facilities across the state.

“The Coalition to Keep New York Working firmly believes that putting money towards crucial infrastructure projects will put New York back to work,” said **Dr. James Melius, President** of the New York Roadway Improvement Coalition. “Our leaders are facing historically challenging choices when it comes to the fiscal crisis gripping our state, but the potential for jobs and economic activity this stimulus package includes is a choice that can not be ignored.”

With job-loss estimates for New York at 225,000 over the next two years alone, the Coalition is calling for a \$12 billion stimulus package that would create or save 435,000 jobs and generate \$19 billion in economic activity across the state. They announced specific projects in the Capitol Region, Central New York, Long Island, New York City, the North Country, the Southern Tier, Westchester, the Hudson Valley and Western New York where work could commence right away, providing an immediate jolt to the state economy.

Potential projects included in the group's proposal include: rehabilitating aging New York City subway stations; investing in new energy efficient modes of transportation; making improvements to service on the Long Island Rail Road and Metro North; investing in Bus Rapid Transit; making waste water system improvements in counties across the state; moving forward on crucial road and bridge repairs in several upstate counties; completing the Erie Canal Trailway; and investing in city and state parklands, school construction and clean energy.

"The Empire State Transportation Alliance (ESTA) strongly supports investment in a full five-year capital program for the MTA and the recommendations put forth by the Ravitch Commission," said **Kevin Corbett**, Co-Chair, ESTA. "We also call on the state to invest in other critical transportation, infrastructure and environmental projects that are ready to go but in jeopardy due to a lack of state funding. Making these strategic investments will provide much needed job stimulus around the state as well as important long-term benefits for New York's future."

"We have a unique opportunity to help our economy and our struggling workforce while simultaneously helping millions of New Yorkers who rely on our roads, bridges, highways, waterways, parks and public transportation every single day," said **Gary La Barbera**, President, NYS Building and Construction Trades Council. "This Coalition will not rest until our elected leaders step up to keep New York Working."

"The economy of New York is suffering and we are losing jobs at a staggering rate," said **Denise Richardson**, Managing Director, General Contractors Association of New York. "Infrastructure investment has always been the answer to tough economic times because of its unparalleled ability to spur employment and economic development while improving peoples daily lives. Previous generations have turned to infrastructure and today we must do the same to put people back to work and lay the ground work for the next cycle of economic growth."

**Albert E. Caccese**, Executive Director of Audubon New York said, "It is widely known that an investment in new green sustainable projects can result in job creation and long term savings for our state's economy and environment. We urge Governor Paterson and our state congressional delegation to help all New Yorkers by creating new jobs that simultaneously make our environment cleaner for generations to come."

"Many leading economists believe that modern, efficient public infrastructure and facilities are at the heart of economic recovery," said, **Ross J. Pepe**, President, New York State Construction Industry Council. "New York State now has an opportunity to maximize federal reinvestment aid by adding state revenue to create jobs."

**Jerry Connolly**, Spokesman for the Coalition of Labor for Energy & Jobs, added, "The New York State Department of Labor's recent announcement of the 7 percent unemployment rate statewide, the highest since 1994, clearly shows the need for an aggressive economic stimulus package now. There are numerous crucial energy and

infrastructure projects that must take priority if we are to insure prosperity for future economic development and job creation throughout the state.”

The Coalition to Keep New York Working has brought together the New York Roadway Improvement Coalition (NYRIC), the Empire State Transportation Alliance (ESTA), and the Clean Water Jobs Coalition, who serve as the leading coalitions advocating for transit, roads, bridges, parks, and water infrastructure in New York.

The Coalition to Keep New York Working includes the General Contractors Association of New York, Long Island Contractors Association, Construction Industry Council of Westchester and the Hudson Valley, Associated General Contractors of New York State, New York State Building and Construction Trades Council, New York City Central Labor Council, Empire State Regional Council of Carpenters, District Council of Carpenters, Operating Engineers Local 14, Laborers International Union of North America, the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 9, Mason Tenders' District Council of Greater New York & Long Island, Building Trades Employers Association, the Regional Plan Association, The New York League of Conservation Voters, Audubon New York, the Environmental Defense Fund, New Yorkers for Parks, Parks & Trails New York, Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy, Friends of Hudson River Park, Governors Island Alliance, City Parks Foundation, Business Council of Westchester, Tri-State Transportation Campaign, New York State Construction Materials Association, Fair Apportionment of Infrastructure Revenue (FAIR) Committee, Business and Labor Coalition of New York, New York State Association of Town Superintendents of Highways, Coalition of Labor for Energy and Jobs (list in formation).

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Area	Highlighted Projects
Capital Region	\$40 million – Livingston Ave. Bridge Rehab – Rensselaer Train Station – Phase 2 \$52 million – Schenectady Community College \$12 million – Arbor Hill Elementary \$38 million – Alt. Fuel Vehicle Research Lab and STEP (NYSERDA) \$10.8 million – Clifton Park Senior Apts.
Central New York	\$63 million – Onondaga CSO abatement – waste water \$23 million – Onondaga Community College \$10 million – Onondaga –I-690 Teal Ave. to I-481 city of Syracuse Onondaga county \$13 million – Oneida City Schools
Long Island	\$54 million – Nassau Community College \$225 million – LIPA AMI – Long Island Power Authority \$105 million – NY – 112 \$40 million – NY 110 I-495 \$100 million – LIPA Solar REP
New York City	\$664 million – CUNY \$37 million – Fashion Institute of Technology – C-Squared Project \$200 million – MTA – Raised Ventilation Grates w. bike racks \$832 million – wastewater infrastructure (17 projects) \$80 million – Grand Central Parkway – 94 <sup>th</sup> Street Interchange \$40 million – Clean Fuel Vehicles
Westchester & Hudson Valley	\$230 million – Tappan Zee Bridge Partial Deck Replacement \$100 million – Rt 17 – Parksville \$11 million – Hudson City Schools \$17 million – Westchester Community College \$14 million – Pendell Commons – 73 units affordable housing
Western New York	\$74 million – NFTA bus purchases \$72 million – Monroe Community College \$57 million – Niagara Community College \$16 million – Rt. 252 Jefferson Rd. Stage 2 \$13 million – I-630 Dewey Ave Affordable Housing \$21 million – I-86 Sherman and Bemus point
Southern Tier	\$10 million – Corning Field House \$13.8 million – Salamanca Water Treatment Plant \$82.5 million – Rt. 15 Watson Creek \$10 million – Cattaraugus I-86 – Exit 16-17
North Country	\$15 million – Clinton Community College \$26 million – Ogdensburg – Prescott International Bridge \$6.9 million – Village of Sackets Harbor waste water treatment plant \$22 million – I-87 resurfacing