

Remarks of Mayor Stephanie A. Miner
New York Works Task Force Public Forum
August 16, 2012 – 2:00 PM

Good afternoon and thank you for coming. I would like to welcome you all to the New York Works Task Force Public Forum today. I would like to especially welcome those of you from different corners of New York here today. As a Mayor, I take great pride in welcoming visitors Syracuse, a place where they can see wild animals roaming free—and then visit a world class zoo.

This is a historic moment for New York. As you know, and as Empire State Development's commercials remind us New York was the state that built the Erie Canal, a transportation innovation which ran straight through Syracuse and into the pages of history. New York was the state that created railroads, commerce, business, and industry.

We as New Yorkers know our potential, but we know we cannot reach that potential without the proper infrastructure.

We cannot be the state of the future with the infrastructure of the past.

That is the challenge of the New York Works task force. For the first time in our state, 45 different agencies and authorities are creating a comprehensive capital plan. New York State is streamlining over **16 billion dollars** in capital expenditures for infrastructure improvements.

This means the goal of major capital projects will be completed faster and more efficiently. More time and money will be spent doing work and creating jobs for builders and engineers and less on bureaucrats and red tape.

This **is a transparent** process: Real time updates on the status of projects will be posted on the Empire State Development website so

people in our communities can know how their dollars are being spent.

As a Mayor, I understand how important infrastructure is to cities across New York. This past Tuesday marked a milestone in our own city: the first night in 3 weeks our water crews did not have to work through the night repairing broken water mains.

Almost daily, chunks of concrete break off bridges, cracks in our roads become wider, and potholes become deeper.

The only thing **not** growing is our budget. That is why the New York Works Task Force is **so** vital: we are investing in the kind of work we need **now** which will save us maintenance costs in the long term.

New York Works creates what a Mayor needs most: **JOBS JOBS JOBS** for the people that live in my city.

Working together, gathered around the table, examining our capital priorities and the most efficient ways to make those happen is how we will rebuild New York. I thank you all again for coming and I look forward to a productive discussion.

Thank you.