



2021 CITY OF MANHATTAN Federal Legislative Action Agenda Summary

COVID-19 Pandemic - We urge Congress to provide direct federal aid for local governments to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. It is anticipated there will be continued shortfalls moving into 2021 caused by the pandemic including cuts in programs and services and an increased need for federal and state funds. Historically, local governments have been left out of the aid processes with monies passed to states.

Infrastructure and Transportation - We thank Congress for the year-long extension of the FAST-ACT for fiscal year 2021 and the inclusion of an additional \$13.6 billion to the Highway Trust Fund to allow states more certainty for planning 2021 programs. We urge the Congressional Delegation to continue recognizing the central role of infrastructure and transportation to metropolitan and regional economies and support a long-term solution to rebuild the surface transportation network, while taking steps to enhance local voices in selection and planning of projects.

Defense Communities Infrastructure Program – We appreciate the \$50 M Congress approved in FY20 for DCIP funding, with which the Department of Defense awarded sixteen grants to enhance military family quality of life. We commend Congress for increasing the DCIP for FY2021 to \$60 M. We support changes to exempt rural areas from the mandated 30% cost share, along with a revised definition of ‘rural’ to be communities with population sizes of 100,000 or greater. Together, this ensures every defense community has an opportunity to participate in this program and meet the outstanding off-base infrastructure needs of their military installations. It is imperative that Congress begins to allocate funding for DCIP every year.

Fort Riley - We are encouraged by the Congressional support to pass the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2021, which significantly provided for increases in defense spending for much needed Army troop strength training. We continue to seek enhanced support to strengthen Fort Riley as a critical component of our country’s military infrastructure and a key economic driver for Manhattan and the entire Flint Hills Region.

Manhattan Regional Airport - We thank the Congressional Delegation for supporting the reauthorization of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund to fully fund the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) with a long-term, multi-year program. We also need additional Congressional support to either encourage the Federal Aviation Administration to provide funding to replace the full 150 feet width of the Manhattan Regional Airport runway (FAA presently only wants to financially support 100 feet of the existing 150-foot width) or identify other federal funding support to maintain this key transportation asset for the City and Region, plus Ft. Riley and K-State.

National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) – As NBAF transitions to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), we urge the Congressional Delegation to strategically assure a budget for increases and appropriations for operational requirements and expectations in USDA’s budget.

Mental Health - We urge Congress to increase funding for the Community Mental Health Block Grant program to provide grants to states and local governments to fully develop plans to prevent, diagnose, and treat mental illness. We also urge the federal government to ensure that comprehensive mental health services are available to veterans and their families.

Manhattan Levee Project - We support continued appropriation of funds outlined in the Water Resource Development Act Bill so the Manhattan Levee project can continue with design and construction.

2021 City of Manhattan Standing Legislative Items

Federal Flood Mitigation Fund - We support greater funding availability to cities to mitigate flood issues through "buy-outs" of homes or businesses that are in the flood zones or have been impacted by prior floods.

Community Development Block Grant - We support full funding of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program as a direct allocation to entitlement cities, in order to effectively assist low- and moderate-income individuals and neighborhoods.

Local Control – Telecommunications - We support the retention of local control over the installation of telecommunications infrastructure and oppose efforts to preempt local authority. Cities should be able to treat small cell and other wireless infrastructure installations like other franchise agreements within municipal public right-of-way. Local governments have an important responsibility to protect the health, safety and welfare of residents, and we are concerned that enhanced Federal Communications Commission preemption measures compromise that traditional authority.

Tax Free Status of Municipal Bonds - Municipal bonds are the primary way state and local governments, including the City of Manhattan, finance the public infrastructure that supports everyday life. Those municipal bonds are tax-exempt. We support Congress and the President maintaining the federal income tax exemption for municipal bonds.

USACE 404 Permitting Process - In the last decade, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), in conjunction with the EPA, expanded its emphasis to waterways of the United States; not just navigable waterways. The Corps is now regulating a much larger area than before and the community must submit projects through a 404 permitting process. This process includes forced and unfunded mitigation costs adding approximately 10-20% in additional costs to projects; sometimes permitting costs are nearly \$100,000. We urge Congress to fix the USACE 404 permitting process through a more reasonable clarification of jurisdictions or a more equitable fee calculation and the provision of some type of resource pool for helping fund necessary mitigations, if the current jurisdiction status stands.