



INVEST IN NEW YORK STATE'S
INFRASTRUCTURE.

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ARE BUILT ON IT.

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REBUILD NY KICKS OFF STATEWIDE CAMPAIGN LAUNCH IN BUFFALO

Buffalo, NY... As part of a comprehensive campaign seeking to increase public funding for and raise awareness about the challenges facing New York State's infrastructure, Rebuild NY Now today kicked off a statewide tour with a press conference at the corner of Main and Best in Buffalo. The campaign will launch alongside local elected officials, community leaders, members of the clergy and organized labor, and private local businesses. This diverse coalition stood together to highlight New York State's decaying infrastructure and call for a renewed commitment to infrastructure investment that will create thousands of jobs and offset serious environmental and health hazards to local communities.

The corner of Main and Best is a local example of the dire need for upstate urban infrastructure investment in downtown Buffalo. Despite funding in the medical campus and housing within the last 10 years, Main Street is in a serious state of disrepair and needs remedial attention and substantial investment.

This first stop on a tour across New York State, comes on the heels of Rebuild NY Now's release of a 30 second TV and 60 second radio spots, as part of an overall media campaign, including a highly targeted digital advertising plan which also includes social, mobile radio and video ads, that will run statewide and highlight New York's infrastructure crisis that currently costs New Yorkers more than \$24 billion per year.

You can watch "Infrastructure Injustice" [here](#) and watch "Infrastructure Crisis" [here](#).

"New York has critical infrastructure needs and it is no surprise that it has one of the worst rankings in structurally deficient bridges and roads," said Mike Elmendorf, President and CEO of Rebuild New York Now. "Our communities suffer and the social injustice continues as some of the most decaying infrastructure is concentrated in low-income areas. Investing in infrastructure projects right here in Buffalo and the rest of Western New York is the right thing to do to tackle safety and health hazards that impede New Yorkers from a higher quality of life."

"Millions of full-time tourism, agriculture and manufacturing jobs across New York are dependent on the quality, safety and reliability of the state's transportation infrastructure network," said Senator Tim Kennedy, Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee. "It is critical that New York dedicates resources for local infrastructure maintenance and improvements, especially those that have been neglected and are in desperate need of repair. I'm committed to fighting alongside my colleagues at every level of government to ensure this funding is delivered, and that the safety of New Yorkers and the prosperity of our greater economy is prioritized."

"In every corner of New York State, roads, bridges, and other critical infrastructure are in desperate need for attention and repair," said Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes. "I commend the Rebuild NY Now coalition for raising awareness about the immediate needs of the state's infrastructure and helping to put people to work, reconnect communities, and ensure the safety and well-being of all New Yorkers."

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Recent studies show that for every billion dollars spent on infrastructure repair and development, more than 28,000 jobs are created. That's 28,000 New Yorkers residing in high need communities with unemployed and underemployed workers. Moreover, in 2017 the DOT projected 2,116 bridges would become deficient in the following five years, an almost 100% increase since its evaluation in 2009.

These crumbling roads cost each and every New York driver \$1600 annually. Every day, New Yorkers drive over a severely dilapidated bridge on their way to work or school – this is a disaster waiting to happen. Investment today means safer, cheaper and more efficient travel for more than 17 million New Yorkers.

“A sound economy is inextricably linked to robust infrastructure that enhances the lives of local communities” said Brenda McDuffie, CEO of the Buffalo Urban League. “Sensible investments in the long term for the benefit of families, while creating more jobs in the process, will be invaluable to New York State. State highways are in disrepair and the solution is simple. New Yorkers deserve safe roads to go about their lives.”

“Economic development does not happen without well-designed, well-maintained and well-funded infrastructure,” said Dottie Gallagher, President & CEO of the Buffalo Niagara Partnership. “As the regional chamber of commerce, we know the safe and efficient movement of goods, services and people is at the core of our economy. Buffalo Niagara Partnership members continue to identify the lack of resources to adequately address our infrastructure needs now – and in the future – as a major impediment to economic growth and investment in Buffalo Niagara.”

“Buffalo deserves the attention and care of our policymakers in Albany,” said Ronald Benning Sr., Pastor, King Solomon Holiness Church and Mount Carmel Baptist Church. “Our local economy and the social well-being of families depends on well-maintained roads and bridges. I whole-heartedly support Rebuild NY’s proposal to elevate the families of Buffalo. We’ve needed adequate infrastructure investment for years and smart investments like this one make all the difference.”

“The citizens of Western New York pay their fair share of taxes in New York State and the equal distribution of infrastructure funds is critical to maintaining and improving area roadways,” said Jeff Brylski, President, Teamsters, Local 449. “The needed funding that stems from Rebuild NY’s proposal will provide hardworking men and women thousands of good paying jobs that are essential to the economic vitality of the region,” said George Harrigan, Secretary/Treasurer, Teamsters, Local 449.

“Western New York has a lot to offer in terms of diversity, intellect and families from all corners of the world seeking the American dream,” said Peter Capitano, Business Manager, Laborers, Local 210. “We are asking for the good faith and political will of policy makers to do what is right for our middle-class and low-income communities. Western New York deserves the chance to thrive and infrastructure is a vital piece in making that happen.”

“Local investment is a critical component of a functioning and equitable society,” said Chris Austin, Northeast Carpenters Union. “Structurally sound infrastructure ensures safety and dignity of life for all. Western New York suffers from run-down, neglected and fragile bridges and roads that pose a threat to local communities. Securing proper investment will revitalize local neighborhoods and be conducive to families reaching their full potential.”

“Buffalo’s strength and resilience is dependent on its local economy and the quality of its infrastructure,” said Gary Swain, Business Manager, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 17. “Building a stronger Buffalo for its residents will be crucial to ensuring sustainable growth and development in the years to come.”

“Rebuild NY’s proposal will empower the families of Western New York and the Southern Tier,” said Ed Giardini, Business Manager, Laborers Local 621. “A viable economy means safe and dependable infrastructure where local communities can thrive and access quality schools, hospitals and other services.”

“The evidence makes it abundantly clear that Western New York suffers from inadequate infrastructure,” said John Dennee, Deputy Commissioner of the Highway Department for Erie County Dept of Public Works. “It is a public safety concern that our roads and bridges have been abandoned long enough and we need deliberate action to see to it that funding gets to communities in need.”

“On behalf of the NYS Association of Town Superintendents of Highways, Inc., more than 900 members support Rebuild NY Now’s efforts on calling for increased investment in our roads and bridges,” said James Dussing, Superintendent of Highways, Town of Clarence. “Nearly half of our local roads are in fair or poor condition and our state’s local governments need to spend an additional \$1.75 billion annually just to bring our system into a state of good repair. We are urging support for a significant increase for the Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS), Marchiselli, Emergency Winter Recovery, PAVE-NY and BRIDGE-NY.”

“It’s simple – New Yorkers need to be able to rely on safe and useable infrastructure,” said Jay Simson, President and CEO, ACEC New York. “We can’t have a vibrant economy and worthwhile quality of life when roads and bridges are degraded and nearly impassable. Hundred-plus year-old water and power systems waste energy, money and our natural resources. We’ve identified the problems, and it’s time to act on the solutions.”

"As an advocate for traffic safety, AAA is pushing for a more robust plan for roads and bridges across New York State," said Elizabeth Carey, director of public relations at AAA Western and Central New York. "If you consider the most recent TRIP report, researchers found that 10 percent, or more than 1,700 bridges in New York, were in poor condition or structurally deficient. In fact, the report found that only 37 percent of New York's bridges are in good condition. AAA is calling on elected officials to make our infrastructure a priority for the safety of all motorists."

"Investing in our roads, bridges, and other deteriorating infrastructure is critical to the future of Upstate New York," said Michael Kracker, executive director of Unshackle Upstate. "We're proud to support the Rebuild NY Now coalition and strongly encourage our leaders in Albany to responsibly fund critical infrastructure projects across the state. A successful Upstate economy requires a strong foundation."

About Rebuild NY Now

Rebuild NY Now is a partnership of supporters seeking to raise public awareness about the issues impacting New York State’s infrastructure. The coalition actively engages federal and state elected officials to support public policies that promote safe roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, and other vital infrastructure.

As part of its effort to educate the public and our federal and state policy makers, Rebuild NY Now promotes relevant research, data points and news reports that highlight the need to rebuild New York State’s deteriorating infrastructure.

Supporters of Rebuild NY Now are committed to advocating for appropriate investment in the state’s deteriorating roads and bridges.

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