

BELLONE ANNOUNCES THREE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAM SUPPORTING ECONOMIC GROWTH, PROTECTING WATER QUALITY, LEVERAGING STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDS FOR SUFFOLK

Monday, April 25, 2016

(Long Island, NY) Today, Suffolk County Executive unveiled his proposed 2017-2019 Capital Budget and Program. While this Capital Budget supports critical infrastructure and economic development initiatives needed to support a prosperous future for Suffolk County, borrowing levels for serial bonds in 2017 are lower than both the 2015 & 2016 Adopted Capital Budgets.

“This program funds projects to create jobs through supporting an Innovation Economy and improves our water quality while living within our means,” said County Executive Steve Bellone. “This Capital Budget provides funding for smart investments that will attract young people to our region and supports projects which leverage State and Federal aid. Looking for opportunities where we can partner with the State and Federal government to best serve our residents and County is of paramount importance to me and underscores prudent fiscal practices.”

Water quality is crucial to our economic future and quality of life. The Reclaim our Water initiative supports sewerage of densely populated areas surrounding the Forge River, Patchogue River, Connetquot River and Carlls River, fortification of existing wastewater infrastructure and pilot testing of innovative/alternative on-site wastewater treatment systems to replace cesspools and septic systems. As part of this Capital Budget, Suffolk County continues to build on the progress made thus far to sewer approximately 10,000 homes:

- **Forge River Nitrogen Reduction Project** – construct a new sewage treatment plant and collection system in the Mastic-Shirley area.
- **Carlls River Nitrogen Reduction Project** – extend the Southwest Sewer District No. 3 into North and West Babylon and Wyandanch.
- **Connetquot River Nitrogen Reduction Project** – extend the Southwest Sewer District No. 3 into the Great River area.
- **Patchogue River Nitrogen Reduction Project** – will connect 648 additional parcels into the Patchogue Sewer system.
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In addition to water quality projects funded as part of the 2017-2019 Capital Budget and Plan, this Budget also advances the replacement of the Southwest Sewer District’s outflow pipe which has been discussed for years. Suffolk County is home to world-renowned education centers, research institutions and some of the best quality of life assets in the country. The proposed Capital Plan supports the creation of the physical infrastructure needed to support the Long Island Innovation Zone, a multimodal corridor which will connect three major branches of the Long Island Railroad, educational institutions, Brookhaven National Lab, the Ronkonkoma Hub and Long Island MacArthur Airport.

2017-2019 Innovation Zone capital projects include:

- **Ronkonkoma Hub**-sewer infrastructure to connect Hub to Southwest Sewer District,
- **Reconstruction of CR 97, Nicolls Road**-creation of multi modal transportation corridor using Bus Rapid Transit designated travel lanes, creation of hiking and biking trails, traffic signal priority to support reconfiguration,

- **Reconstruction of NYS Route 110**-implemnetation of multimodal transportation will improve north-south mobility, increase transit use,

County investments proposed for the support of the Innovation Zone in the 2017-2019 Capital Budget and Plan will leverage more than \$200 million included in the recently approved NYS Budget to support biotech and energy research at Stony Brook University and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, infrastructure improvements at the Ronkonkoma Hub, and a federal customs station at MacArthur Airport.

Additional projects included in the Capital Budget:

- **Equipment for Tick-Borne Illnesses** –new program will collect American dog ticks, blacklegged ticks, and lone star ticks from various locations and analyze for a variety of pathogens that cause human disease such as Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, babesiosis, ehrlichiosis and Rocky Mountain spotted fever (*Rickettsia rickettsii*).
- **Mud Creek Watershed Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project** –restoration of fish and wildlife habitat within the riparian (stream floodplain) corridor of the East Branch of Mud Creek, including freshwater wetland and upland habitats that were extensively degraded by the operation of the former Gallo Duck Farm.
- **Family Justice Center Addition to Cohalan Court Complex** design and construct a one-story addition to the Cohalan Court Complex for a new Family Justice Center, which will host and consolidate available support services and legal agencies related to family violence cases. The space will combine various partnering agencies within a Courthouse setting including the District Attorney’s Office, the Suffolk County Police Department, the Department of Social Services, the Probation Department, the Sheriff’s Office and advocates representing the County’s victims’ services agencies. The planning work for this project will be funded with Suffolk County District Attorney forfeiture funds. Construction funding is included in 2018.
- **Energy Conservation at Various County Facilities** Suffolk County continues to pursue an aggressive energy conservation program, both in new design and the renovation of existing facilities. The Proposed 2017-2019 Capital Budget and Program continues a dedicated funding commitment for energy conservation projects.

“I thank the legislature for their consideration of the 2017-2019 proposed Capital Budget and Program. This budget strives to make the right investments to balance our present and future needs at the lowest possible cost for Suffolk residents,” stated County Executive Steve Bellone.