


October 4, 2024

TO: Hon. Vedat Gashi, Chair
Hon. Jose Alvarado, Vice Chair
Hon. Tyrae Woodson-Samuels, Majority Leader
Hon. Margaret Cunzio, Minority Leader

FROM: George Latimer 
Westchester County Executive

RE: **Message Requesting Immediate Consideration: 2 Bond Acts - RBR07 –
Bronx River Pathway Reconstruction.**

This will confirm my request that the Board of Legislators allow submission of the referenced communication to be submitted to the Board of Legislators October 7, 2024 Agenda.

Transmitted herewith for your consideration are two Bonds Acts for Capital Project RBR07; Amended and Consolidated.

Therefore, since this communication is of the utmost importance, it is respectfully submitted that the County Board of Legislators accepts this submission for October 7, 2024 “blue sheet” calendar.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Westchester County

George Latimer
County Executive

October 4, 2024

Westchester County Board of Legislators
800 Michaelian Office Building
White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Members of the Board of Legislators:

Transmitted herewith for your review and approval are two bond acts (“Bond Acts”) of the County of Westchester (“County”) as follows:

(1) a bond act to amend, in part, prior Bond Act No. 248-2023 to remove an \$800,000 authorization allocable to Capital Project RBR07 – Bronx River Pathway Reconstruction (“RBR07”), and to decrease the estimated maximum amount of bonds authorized to \$12,850,000 (“Amending Bond Act”); and

(2) a bond act authorizing the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$8,730,000 to finance the cost of design, construction and construction management of improvements to the Bronx River Reservation pathway and related infrastructure from the Kensico Dam Plaza to Green Acres Avenue, including rehabilitation and improvements to all pathway infrastructure including pathway pavement, footbridges, railings, stone walls, site furnishings, signage, pavement markings, grading, drainage, planting and other associated site work in connection with RBR07. This \$8,730,000 proposed Bond Act represents an increase in the amount of \$7,930,000 for construction costs and includes the \$800,000 previously authorized for RBR07 in 219-2021, as amended by Bond Act 248-2023 (“Consolidated Bond Act”).

The Amending Bond Act is required to remove design bonding authorizations related to RBR07 so that those authorizations may be included in the Consolidated Bond Act for RBR07.

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation (“Department”) has advised that according to a recent recreation preference survey, walking and bicycling continue to rank high among the top recreation activities enjoyed by Westchester County residents. The Bronx River Pathway, being the most heavily used pathway in the parks system, plays a critical role in supporting these activities. To maintain its popularity and usability, the Department is addressing the deterioration of older sections as part of a multi-year phased program aimed at rehabilitating the pathway.

Design is currently being undertaken by in-house staff and consultants and is expected to be completed by the end of the fourth quarter of 2024. It is estimated that construction will take eighteen months to complete and will begin after the award and execution of the construction contracts.

Office of the County Executive

Michaelian Office Building
148 Martine Avenue
White Plains, New York 10601

Email: CE@westchestercountyny.gov
Telephone: (914)995-2900

It should be noted that your Honorable Board has previously authorized the County to issue bonds to finance RBR07 as indicated in the annexed fact sheet.

Based on the importance of this project to the County, favorable action on the proposed Consolidated Bond Act and Amended Bond Act is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "George Latimer", written in a cursive style.

George Latimer
Westchester County Executive

Attachments

**HONORABLE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK**

Your Committee is in receipt of an amended bond act (“Amending Bond Act”) of the County of Westchester (“County”) authorizing amendment to prior Bond Act, in part, prior Bond Act No. 248-2023 to remove an \$800,000 authorization allocable to Capital Project RBR07 – Bronx River Pathway Reconstruction (“RBR07”), and to decrease the estimated maximum amount of bonds authorized to \$12,850,000. The Bond Act was prepared by the law firm Hawkins, Delafield & Wood.

The Amending Bond Act is required to remove design bonding authorizations related to RBR07 so that those authorizations may be included in the Consolidated Bond Act for RBR07.

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation (“Department”) has advised that according to a recent recreation preference survey, walking and bicycling continue to rank high among the top recreation activities enjoyed by Westchester County residents. The Bronx River Pathway, being the most heavily used pathway in the parks system, plays a critical role in supporting these activities. To maintain its popularity and usability, the Department is addressing the deterioration of older sections as part of a multi-year phased program aimed at rehabilitating the pathway.

Design is currently being undertaken by in-house staff and consultants and is expected to be completed by the end of the fourth quarter of 2024. It is estimated that construction will take eighteen months to complete and will begin after the award and execution of the construction contracts.

It should be noted that your Honorable Board has previously authorized the County to issue bonds to finance RBR07 as indicated in the annexed fact sheet.

The Planning Department has advised your Committee that based on its review, RBR07 may be classified as a Type “II” action pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQR”) and its implementing regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617. Therefore, no environmental review is required. Your Committee has reviewed the annexed SEQR documentation and concurs with this recommendation.

It should be noted that an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of your Honorable Board is required in order to adopt the Consolidated Bond Act. Your Committee recommends the adoption of the proposed Consolidated Bond Act.

Dated: _____, 20____.
White Plains, New York

COMMITTEE ON

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

CAPITAL PROJECT #: RBR07

NO FISCAL IMPACT PROJECTED

SECTION A - CAPITAL BUDGET IMPACT

To Be Completed by Budget

GENERAL FUND

AIRPORT FUND

SPECIAL DISTRICTS FUND

Source of County Funds (check one):

Current Appropriations

Capital Budget Amendment

AMEND BA 248-2023 PULL OUT \$800,000 PERTINENT TO RBR07

SECTION B - BONDING AUTHORIZATIONS

To Be Completed by Finance

Total Principal \$ 12,850,000 PPU 5 Anticipated Interest Rate 2.34%

Anticipated Annual Cost (Principal and Interest): \$ 2,780,766

Total Debt Service (Annual Cost x Term): \$ 13,903,829

Finance Department: maab 10-4-24

SECTION C - IMPACT ON OPERATING BUDGET (exclusive of debt service)

To Be Completed by Submitting Department and Reviewed by Budget

Potential Related Expenses (Annual): \$ -

Potential Related Revenues (Annual): \$ -

Anticipated savings to County and/or impact of department operations

(describe in detail for current and next four years):

SECTION D - EMPLOYMENT

As per federal guidelines, each \$92,000 of appropriation funds one FTE Job

Number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Jobs Funded: 95

Prepared by: Dianne Vanadia

Title: Associate Budget Director

Department: Budget

Date: 10/4/24

Reviewed By:

*10/4/24
Nigel*


[Signature]

Budget Director

Date:

10/4/24

TO: Michelle Greenbaum, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Jeffrey Goldman, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Carla Chaves, Senior Assistant County Attorney

FROM: David S. Kvinge, AICP, RLA, CFM 
Assistant Commissioner

DATE: September 18, 2024

SUBJECT: **STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW FOR CAPITAL PROJECT:
RBR07 BRONX RIVER PATHWAY RECONSTRUCTION**

PROJECT/ACTION: Per Capital Project Fact Sheet as approved by the Planning Department on 09-04-2024 (Unique ID: 2683)

With respect to the State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations 6 NYCRR Part 617, the Planning Department recommends that no environmental review is required for the proposed action, because the project or component of the project for which funding is requested may be classified as a **TYPE II action** pursuant to section(s):

- **617.5(c)(2):** replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or facility, in kind, on the same site, including upgrading buildings to meet building, energy, or fire codes unless such action meets or exceeds any of the thresholds in section 617.4 of this Part;
 - **617.5(c)(8):** maintenance of existing landscaping or natural growth;
 - **617.5(c)(9):** construction or expansion of a primary or accessory/appurtenant, nonresidential structure or facility involving less than 4,000 square feet of gross floor area and not involving a change in zoning or a use variance and consistent with local land use controls, but not radio communication or microwave transmission facilities.
-

COMMENTS: The project involves rehabilitation or in-kind replacement of the existing trailway and infrastructure with the exception of one pedestrian bridge that will be relocated approximately 200 feet to the north to relieve current bicycle/pedestrian conflicts. The project will include new site furniture (i.e., benches) and signage to improve the recreational experience, as well as restoring culverts and swales to maintain a clear pathway. Landscape maintenance may include the removal of hazardous trees in proximity of the pathway as needed for public safety, as well as the addition of native plantings. Disturbance will not exceed 5 acres. Overall this project will serve to prevent erosion, bolster native habitat, and enhance public recreation.

cc: Andrew Ferris, Chief of Staff
Paula Friedman, Assistant to the County Executive
Lawrence Soule, Budget Director
Tami Altschiller, Assistant Chief Deputy County Attorney
Kathleen O'Connor, Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Conservation
Blanca P. Lopez, Commissioner of Planning
Peter Tartaglia, First Deputy Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Conservation
Dianne Vanadia, Associate Budget Director
Robert Lopane, Program Coordinator, Department of Public Works & Transportation
Susan Darling, Chief Planner
Michael Lipkin, Associate Planner
Claudia Maxwell, Principal Environmental Planner

REFERENCE BPL36
T0073
T0047
RCC17
B015E
RB180
RB04A
BCR50
BCR62

ACT NO. -20_____

BOND ACT OF THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK, AMENDING ACT 219-2021 ADOPTED DECEMBER 7, 2021, AS AMEDNED BY ACT 248/2023 ADOPTED DECEMBER 11, 2023, IN RELATION TO THE PREPARATION OF SURVEYS, PRELIMINARY AND DETAILED PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES NECESSARY FOR PLANNING VARIOUS CAPITAL PURPOSES IN AND FOR THE COUNTY, AT THE MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST OF \$16,150,000. (Adopted _____, 20_____).

WHEREAS, this Board has heretofore duly authorized the issuance of \$13,700,000 bonds to finance the cost of preparation of surveys, preliminary and detailed plans, specifications and estimates necessary for various capital purposes in and for the County, pursuant to Act No. 219-2021 duly adopted on December 7, 2021 (the “Bond Act 219-2021”); and

WHEREAS, \$50,000 of such amount was authorized for the preparation of surveys, preliminary and detailed plans, specifications and estimates necessary for the replacement of the County Center roof and associated building renovations; and

WHEREAS, such \$50,000 was subsequently authorized to be issued pursuant to a subsequent Bond Act and Bond Act 219-2021 was amended to reduce the amount of bonds authorized to be issued by such \$50,000 pursuant to Bond Act 248/2023 duly adopted on December 11, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Bond Act 219-2021 also authorized the issuance of \$800,000 bonds to finance the cost of preparation of surveys, preliminary and detailed plans, specifications and estimates necessary for the reconstruction of the Bronx River Pathway; and

WHEREAS, such \$800,000 has been or will be authorized pursuant to another Bond Act authorizing the planning, construction and construction management associated with the reconstruction of the Bronx River Pathway and that it is necessary to reduce the amount of bonds Authorized pursuant to Bond Act 219-2021 as amended by Bond Act 248/2023, now therefore

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS OF THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK (by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the voting strength of said Board), AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION (A) The bond act duly adopted by this Board on December 7, 2021 and amended on December 11, 2023, entitled:

“ACT NO. 248/2023

BOND ACT AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$13,650,000 BONDS OF THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, OR SO MUCH THEREOF AS MAY BE NECESSARY, TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COST OF PREPARATION OF SURVEYS, PRELIMINARY AND DETAILED PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES NECESSARY FOR PLANNING VARIOUS CAPITAL PURPOSES IN AND FOR THE COUNTY; STATING THE ESTIMATED TOTAL COST THEREOF IS \$16,950,000; STATING THE PLAN OF FINANCING SAID COST INCLUDES THE EXPENDITURE OF \$3,300,000 GRANT FUNDS EXPECTED TO BE RECEIVED AND THE ISSUANCE OF \$13,650,000 BONDS HEREIN AUTHORIZED; AND PROVIDING FOR A TAX TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON SAID BONDS

is hereby amended and consolidated to read as follows:

BOND ACT AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$12,850,000 BONDS OF THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, OR SO MUCH THEREOF AS MAY BE NECESSARY, TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COST OF PREPARATION OF SURVEYS, PRELIMINARY AND DETAILED PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES NECESSARY FOR PLANNING

VARIOUS CAPITAL PURPOSES IN AND FOR THE COUNTY; STATING THE ESTIMATED TOTAL COST THEREOF IS \$16,150,000; STATING THE PLAN OF FINANCING SAID COST INCLUDES THE EXPENDITURE OF \$3,300,000 GRANT FUNDS EXPECTED TO BE RECEIVED AND THE ISSUANCE OF \$12,850,000 BONDS HEREIN AUTHORIZED; AND PROVIDING FOR A TAX TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON SAID BONDS.

(Adopted _____, 20____)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS OF THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK (by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the voting strength of said Board), AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, constituting Chapter 33-a of the Consolidated Laws of the State of New York (the "Law"), the Westchester County Administrative Code, being Chapter 852 of the Laws of 1948, as amended, and to the provisions of other laws applicable thereto, \$12,850,000 bonds of the County, or so much thereof as may be necessary, are hereby authorized to be issued to finance a portion of the cost of preparation of surveys, preliminary and detailed plans, specifications and estimates necessary for planning various capital purposes in and for the County, to wit: campus wide site improvements at the Valhalla Complex, the electrification of the County's two mass transit bus garages, design and engineering services for the replacement of the HVAC system at the Cerrato maintenance facility, design for the restoration and modification of the County Center, design associated with the replacement of chillers, ice storage system and related work at the Michaelian Office Building, design associated with the rehabilitation of approximately 5.57 miles of Central Avenue from the Bronx/Westchester line to the NYS Thruway bridge and the rehabilitation of the Central Avenue access ramps to and from Palmer Road, a distance of approximately 0.38 miles, study and

preliminary design to determine options and associated costs for the replacement of the Broad Street viaduct over the Bronx River Parkway, design for a stand-alone building to replace the existing infirmary at the County Jail, and design to rehabilitate or replace elevators for the Corrections Department; all as set forth in the County's Current Year Capital Budget, as amended. To the extent that the details set forth in this act are inconsistent with any details set forth in the Current Year Capital Budget of the County, such Budget shall be deemed and is hereby amended. The estimated total cost of said class of objects or purposes, including preliminary costs and costs incidental thereto and the financing thereof is \$16,150,000. The plan of financing includes the expenditure of \$3,000,000 expected to be received from ConEd and \$300,000 expected to be received from the New York Power Authority (collectively, the "Grant Funds") and the issuance of \$12,850,000 bonds herein authorized, and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the sale of such bonds, and the levy of a tax to pay the principal of and interest on said bonds.

Section 2. The period of probable usefulness of the class of objects or purposes for which said \$12,850,000 bonds authorized by this Act are to be issued, within the limitations of Section 11.00 a. 62 (2nd) of the Law, is five (5) years;

Section 3. Current funds are not required to be provided as a down payment pursuant to Section 107.00 d. 9. of the Law prior to issuance of the bonds authorized herein, or any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the sale of such bonds. The County intends to finance, on an interim basis, the costs or a portion of the costs of said improvements for which bonds are herein authorized, which costs are reasonably expected to be reimbursed with the proceeds of debt to be incurred by the County, pursuant to this Act, in the total amount of \$12,850,000. This Act is a declaration of official intent adopted pursuant to the requirements of Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2.

Section 4. The estimate of \$16,150,000 as the estimated total cost of the aforesaid class of objects or purposes is hereby approved.

Section 5. Subject to the provisions of this Act and of the Law, and pursuant to the provisions of §30.00 relative to the authorization of the issuance of bond anticipation notes or the renewals thereof, and of §§50.00, 56.00 to 60.00 and 168.00 of said Law, the powers and duties of the County Board of Legislators relative to authorizing the issuance of any notes in anticipation of the sale of the bonds herein authorized, or the renewals thereof, relative to providing for substantially level or declining annual debt service, relative to prescribing the terms, form and contents and as to the sale and issuance of the respective amounts of bonds herein authorized, and of any notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said bonds or the renewals of said notes, and relative to executing agreements for credit enhancement, are hereby delegated to the Commissioner of Finance of the County, as the chief fiscal officer of the County.

Section 6. Each of the bonds authorized by this Act and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the sale thereof shall contain the recital of validity prescribed by §52.00 of said Local Finance Law and said bonds and any notes issued in anticipation of said bonds shall be general obligations of the County of Westchester, payable as to both principal and interest by general tax upon all the taxable real property within the County. The faith and credit of the County are hereby irrevocably pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds and any notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said bonds or the renewals of said notes, and provision shall be made annually in the budgets of the County by appropriation for (a) the amortization and redemption of the notes and bonds to mature in such year and (b) the payment of interest to be due and payable in such year.

Section 7. The validity of the bonds authorized by this Act and of any notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said bonds, may be contested only if:

(a) such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which the County is not authorized to expend money, or

(b) the provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of the publication of this Act or a summary hereof, are not substantially complied with,

and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity, is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication, or

(c) such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

Section 8. This Act shall take effect not earlier than January 1, 2024 and in accordance with Section 107.71 of the Westchester County Charter.

SECTION (B) The amendment of the bond act set forth in Section (A) of this act shall in no way affect the validity of the liabilities incurred, obligations issued, or action taken pursuant to said bond act, and all such liabilities incurred, obligations issued, or action taken shall be deemed to have been incurred, issued or taken pursuant to said bond act, as so amended.

SECTION (C) This Act shall take effect not earlier than January 1, 2024 and in accordance with Section 107.71 of the Westchester County Charter.

* * *

STATE OF NEW YORK)
 : ss.:
COUNTY OF NEW YORK)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have compared the foregoing Act No. -20____ with the original on file in my office, and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of the said original Act, which was duly adopted by the County Board of Legislators of the County of Westchester on _____, 20____ and approved by the County Executive on _____, 20____.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the corporate seal of said County Board of Legislators this _____ day of _____, 20____.

The Clerk and Chief Administrative Office of the County Board of Legislators County of Westchester, New York

(SEAL)

LEGAL NOTICE

A Bond Act, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted by the Board of Legislators on December 7, 2021 and amended on December 11, 2023 and amended on _____, 20____ and approved, as amended, by the County Executive on _____, 20____ and the validity of the obligations authorized by such Bond Act may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the County of Westchester, in the State of New York, is not authorized to expend money or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this Notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the publication of this Notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

Complete copies of the amended Bond Act summarized herewith shall be available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Legislators of the County of Westchester, New York, for a period of twenty days from the date of publication of this Notice.

ACT NO. _____-20_____

BOND ACT AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$12,850,000 BONDS OF THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, OR SO MUCH THEREOF AS MAY BE NECESSARY, TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COST OF PREPARATION OF SURVEYS, PRELIMINARY AND DETAILED PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES NECESSARY FOR PLANNING VARIOUS CAPITAL PURPOSES IN AND FOR THE COUNTY; STATING THE ESTIMATED TOTAL COST THEREOF IS \$16,150,000; STATING THE PLAN OF FINANCING SAID COST INCLUDES THE EXPENDITURE OF \$3,300,000 GRANT FUNDS EXPECTED TO BE RECEIVED AND THE ISSUANCE OF \$12,850,000 BONDS HEREIN AUTHORIZED; AND PROVIDING FOR A TAX TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON SAID BONDS. (adopted on December 7, 2021 and amended on December 11, 2023 and amended on _____, 20____)

object or purpose: to finance a portion of the cost of preparation of surveys, preliminary and detailed plans, specifications and estimates necessary for planning various capital purposes in and for the County, to wit: campus wide site improvements at the Valhalla Complex, the electrification of the County’s two mass transit bus garages, design and engineering services for the replacement of the HVAC system at the Cerrato maintenance facility, design for the restoration and modification of the County Center, design associated with the replacement of chillers, ice storage system and related work at the Michaelian Office Building, design associated with the rehabilitation of approximately 5.57 miles of Central Avenue from the Bronx/Westchester line to the NYS Thruway bridge and the rehabilitation of the Central Avenue access ramps to and from Palmer Road, a distance of approximately 0.38 miles, study and preliminary design to determine options and associated costs for the replacement of the Broad Street viaduct over the Bronx River Parkway, design for a stand-alone building to replace the existing infirmary at the County Jail, and design to rehabilitate or replace elevators for the Corrections Department; all as set forth in the County’s Current Year Capital Budget, as amended.

amount of obligations to be issued:

and period of probable usefulness: \$12,850,000; five (5) years

Dated: _____, 20____
White Plains, New York

Clerk and Chief Administrative Officer of the County Board of
Legislators of the County of Westchester, New York