

Kenneth W. Jenkins Westchester County Executive

April 11, 2025

Westchester County Board of Legislators 800 Michaelian Office Building 148 Martine Avenue White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Members of the Board of Legislators:

Transmitted herewith for your review and approval is an Act to amend the current-year capital budget ("Capital Budget Amendment"), as well as two bond acts ("Bond Acts"), of the County of Westchester ("County") as follows:

- (1) the proposed Capital Budget Amendment will amend the County's current-year capital budget to increase the County share for Capital Project T0046 Farebox Equipment ("T0046") by \$12,750,000 to \$16,250,000; and
- (2) a bond act amending, in part, prior Bond Act No. 220-2021 to remove a \$3,500,000 authorization allocable to T0046, and decrease the estimated maximum amount of bonds authorized to \$10,426,000 ("Amending Bond Act"); and
- (3) a bond act authorizing the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$16,250,000 to finance the cost of acquisition of a contactless reader fare collection system, as well as a separate box that will accept cash fares, including the installation of the necessary hardware and software on the buses and in the bus garages and associated work. This \$16,250,000 proposed Bond Act represents a \$12,750,000 increase to the amount previously authorized for T0046 and includes the \$3,500,000 previously authorized for T0046 by Bond Act 220-2021 ("Consolidated Bond Act").

The Amending Bond Act is required to remove the purchase of farebox equipment, ancillary equipment, design, installation and other related services related to T0046, so that those authorizations may be included in the Consolidated Bond Act for T0046.

The Department of Public Works and Transportation ("Department") has advised that the County has been an Affiliate Agency of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority ("MTA") since 2007, and has been using the MTA's MetroCard fare payment system for the Bee-Line Bus System. This direct integration and formal partnership has many advantages, highlighted by free and seamless transfers between Bee-Line and MTA's New York City Transit Subways and Buses, benefitting about 6 million passengers annually. MTA is now decommissioning MetroCard and replacing it with One Metro New York ("OMNY"), a new contactless fare payment system. In order for Bee-Line to remain fully integrated with the MTA's operations, the County will also be transitioning to the OMNY system. The current MetroCard farebox accepts both MetroCard swipes as well as coins. OMNY is a contactless reader only and will not accept cash. In addition to the new contactless OMNY system, the County will be installing a separate cash

farebox which will allow passengers to use either the OMNY reader or pay with cash. The requested funding is for the purchase and installation of both the OMNY reader and a cash farebox systems.

Following bonding authorization, the preparation of specifications will be scheduled and is anticipated to take two months to complete and will be completed by consultants. It is estimated that the production and delivery of the new equipment will take six months to complete.

It should be noted that your Honorable Board has previously authorized the County to issue bonds to finance T0046 as indicated in the annexed fact sheet.

As your Honorable Board may know, Section 167.131 of the Laws of Westchester County mandates that a capital budget amendment that introduces a new capital project or changes the location, size or character of an existing capital project be accompanied to the Board of Legislators by a report of the Westchester County Planning Board (the "Planning Board") with respect to the physical planning aspects of the project. The Planning Department has advised that the Planning Board has previously reviewed T0046 and issued a report, and that since there is no change in the scope of the work and this is simply a change in the financing plan, no further action by the Planning Board is necessary at this time.

Based on the importance of this project to the County, favorable action on the proposed Acts is respectfully requested.

Kenneth W. Jenkins

Westchester County Executive

Attachments

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

Your Committee is in receipt of a transmittal from the County Executive recommending approval by the County of Westchester ("County") of the following Acts in connection Capital Project T0046 – Farebox Equipment ("T0046"):

- (1) an Act which, if adopted, would authorize the County of Westchester ("County") to amend its current year Capital Budget ("Capital Budget Amendment");
- (2) a bond act amending, in part, prior Bond Act No. 220-2021 to remove a \$3,500,000 authorization allocable to T0046, and decrease the estimated maximum amount of bonds authorized to \$10,426,000 ("Amending Bond Act"); and
- (3) a bond act authorizing the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$16,250,000 to finance the cost of acquisition of a contactless reader fare collection system, as well as a separate box that will accept cash fares, including the installation of the necessary hardware and software on the buses and in the bus garages and associated work. This \$16,250,000 proposed Bond Act represents a \$12,750,000 increase to the amount previously authorized for T0046 and includes the \$3,500,000 previously authorized for T0046 by Bond Act 220-2021 ("Consolidated Bond Act").

Your Committee is advised that the proposed Capital Budget Amendment will amend the County's current-year capital budget to increase the County share for T0046 by \$12,750,000 to \$16,250,000.

The Amending Bond Act, which was prepared by the law firm Harris Beach, is required to remove the purchase of farebox equipment, ancillary equipment, design, installation and other related services related to T0046 so that those authorizations may be included in the Consolidated Bond Act for T0046.

This \$16,250,000 Consolidated Bond Act and represents a \$12,750,000 increase to the amount previously authorized for T0046 and includes the \$3,500,000 previously authorized for T0046 by Bond Act 220-2021. The Consolidated bond act authorizes the issuance of bonds to finance the cost of acquisition of a contactless reader fare collection system, as well as a separate box that will accept cash fares, including the installation of the necessary hardware and software on the buses and in the bus garages along with associated work, in connection with T0046.

The Department of Public Works and Transportation ("Department") has advised that the County has been an Affiliate Agency of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority ("MTA") since 2007, and has been using the MTA's MetroCard fare payment system for the Bee-Line Bus System. This direct integration and formal partnership has many advantages, highlighted by free and seamless transfers between Bee-Line and MTA's New York City Transit Subways and Buses, benefitting about 6 million passengers annually. MTA is now decommissioning MetroCard and replacing it with One Metro New York ("OMNY"), a new contactless fare payment system. In order for Bee-Line to remain fully integrated with the MTA's operations, the County will also be transitioning to the OMNY system. The current MetroCard farebox accepts both MetroCard swipes as well as coins. OMNY is a contactless reader only and will not accept cash. In addition to the new contactless OMNY system, the County will be installing a separate cash farebox which will allow passengers to use either the OMNY reader or pay with cash. The requested funding is for the purchase and installation of both the OMNY reader and a cash farebox systems.

Following bonding authorization, the preparation of specifications will be scheduled and is anticipated to take two months to complete and will be completed by consultants. It is estimated that the production and delivery of the new equipment will take six months to complete.

It should be noted that your Honorable Board has previously authorized the County to issue bonds to finance T0046 as indicated in the annexed fact sheet.

The Department of Planning has advised your Committee that based on its review, T0046 may be classified as a Type "II" action pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617 ("SEQR"). Therefore, no environmental review is required. Your Committee has reviewed the annexed SEQR documentation and concurs with this recommendation.

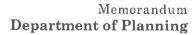
Additionally, as your Honorable Board may know, Section 167.131 of the Laws of Westchester County mandates that a capital budget amendment that introduces a new capital project or changes the location, size or character of an existing capital project be accompanied to the Board of Legislators by a report of the Westchester County Planning Board (the "Planning Board") with respect to the physical planning aspects of the project. The Planning Department has advised that the Planning Board has previously reviewed T0046 and issued a report, and that since there is no change in the scope of the work

and this is simply a change in the financing plan, no further action by the Planning Board is necessary at this time.

Your Committee has carefully considered the proposed Capital Budget Amendment, as well as the related Amending Bond Act and Consolidated Bond Act, and recommends approval of all the proposed Acts, noting that the Amending Bond Act and Consolidated Bond Act can only be enacted following adoption of the Capital Budget Amendment.

It should be further noted that an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of your Honorable Board is required in order to amend the County's Capital Budget and to adopt the Amending Bond Act and Consolidated Bond Act.

Dated: , 20\_\_\_\_. White Plains, New York





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:

March 25, 2025

SUBJECT:

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW FOR CAPITAL PROJECT:

T0046 FAREBOX EQUIPMENT

PROJECT/ACTION: Per Capital Project Fact Sheet as approved by the Planning Department on

3-18-2025 (Unique ID: 2867)

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; and
- 617.5(c)(31): purchase or sale of furnishings, equipment or supplies, including surplus government property, other than the following: land, radioactive material, pesticides, herbicides, or other hazardous materials.

COMMENTS: None.

DSK/oav

cc: Andrew Ferris, Chief of Staff

Paula Friedman, Assistant to the County Executive

Lawrence Soule, Budget Director

Tami Altschiller, Assistant Chief Deputy County Attorney

Dianne Vanadia, Associate Budget Director

Gayle Katzman, First Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Works & Transportation

Robert Abbamont, Director of Operations, Department of Public Works & Transportation

Susan Darling, Chief Planner

Michael Lipkin, Associate Planner

Claudia Maxwell, Principal Environmental Planner



#### Department of Planning

432 Michaelian Office Building White Plains, NY 10601

To:

The Westchester County Planning Board

From:

Susan Darling, Chief Planner

Date:

March 27, 2025

RE:

NO-ACTION MEMO - Capital Budget Amendment - T0046 Farebox Equipment

(2025 CBA)

The County Executive is requesting an amendment to the 2025 Capital Budget to modify the funding of capital project **T0046 Farebox Equipment (2025 CBA)**. Funding for this project will increase by approximately \$12.75 million. The prior appropriation made in 2022 was \$3.5 million, bringing the total project cost to \$16.25 million.

Since 2007, Westchester County has been an Affiliate Agency of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and has been using the MTA's MetroCard fare payment system for the Bee-Line Bus System. As the MTA is now replacing MetroCard with OMNY, a new contactless fare payment system, the Bee-Line will now need to take the necessary steps to become fully integrated with the MTA's operations and offer uninterrupted free transfers between systems.

The increase in funding is needed to contract with Cubic Transportation System, the MTA's vendor that developed OMNY, and purchase modems to integrate OMNY with the current Bee-Line Bus Fleet of 78, and to cover onboarding expenses that must be paid which are integral to the integration of the Bee-Line system with the OMNY hardware. The project also will include procurement of separate cash fareboxes in order to keep a cash fare payment option.

This project was classified as a PL1 in the Planning Board Report for the 2022 Capital Budget adopted July 6, 2021. A PL1 project is a project that has been determined to have no substantial physical planning aspects of concern to the Planning Board. There are no substantial changes to the physical planning aspects of this project as reviewed by the Board; therefore, no further action by your Board is necessary.

cc: Blanca P. López, Commissioner of Planning
Hugh Greechan, Commissioner of Public Work

Hugh Greechan, Commissioner of Public Works and Transportation

David S. Kvinge, Assistant Commissioner

Michael Lipkin, Associate Planner

#### **2022 Capital Project Requests**

#### **Adopted**

Report of the Westchester County Planning Board

July 6, 2021

George Latimer County Executive

Richard Hyman
Chair
Westchester County Planning Board

#### **TRANSPORTATION**

There are 8 projects in this Department with a rating of PL1.

#### T001U Replacement of Thirty-Foot Buses

\$11,237,000

PL1 - This project will fund the procurement of up to 17 electric and/or hybrid diesel-electric buses to replace 17 Orion thirty-foot buses that were built in 2005.

### T001Y Replace Orion V 40-foot Coach Buses \$17,000,000

PL1 - This project will fund the procurement of up to (27) forty-foot buses to replace (27) 2008 Orion V forty-foot coach buses. The project also includes appropriation for the procurement of related services, associated equipment and parts.

# T001Z Replace 95 NABI 40-Foot Hybrid Buses \$350,000

PL1 - This project will fund the procurement of up to (95) forty-foot buses to replace (95) 2009 NABI forty-foot hybrid buses.

#### T0046 Farebox Equipment \$3,500,000

PL1 - This project will modify the existing fare collection equipment on the entire Bee-Line fleet (excluding Paratransit) in order to be consistent with the new MTA fare system (OMNY).

# T0047 Replacement of HVAC System at Cerrato Maintenance Facility \$250,000

PL1 - This project involves complete replacement of the Heating Ventilating and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system at the Cerrato Maintenance Facility at the Valhalla Campus.

## T0068 Central Maintenance Facility - Infrastructure Improvements, Yonkers (2019-2023) \$3,000,000

PL1 - This project will fund infrastructure improvements at the Bee-Line Central Maintenance Facility (CMF) in Yonkers. Included in the 2022 funding is 1) replacement of HVAC systems in the penthouse, mezzanine, computer room, money room, farebox room and cleanerslounge; 2) replace the backflow prevention device associated with the main water pipe serving the facility; 3) replacement of the fuel dispensing equipment, software and VDM replacement.

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An Act amending the 2025 County Capital Budget Appropriations for Capital Project T0046 FAREBOX EQUIPMENT

BE IT ENACTED by the Board of Legislators of the County of Westchester as follows:

Section 1. The Capital section of the 2025 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

	Previous 2025		Revised 2025
	Appropriation	Change	Appropriation
I. Appropriation	\$3,500,000	\$12,750,000	\$16,250,000

Section 2. The estimated method of financing in the Capital Section of the 2025 Westchester County Capital Budget is amended as follows:

#### II. METHOD OF FINANCING

Bonds and/or Notes	\$3,500,000	\$12,750,000	\$16,250,000
Non County Shares	\$0		\$0
Cash	\$0		\$0
Total	\$3,500,000	\$12,750,000	\$16,250,000

Section 3. The ACT shall take effect immediately.