



2018 State of the State Overview

On Wednesday, Governor Cuomo gave his 2018 State of the State address, which covered his policy agenda for the upcoming year. The address included many proposals, many of which will be included in his 2018-2019 Executive Budget Proposal, and others which may be proposed through different methods throughout the rest of the year. Here is an overview of issues included in the State of the State address that are significant for NYSH&TA:

Tourism Proposals

The Governor's first tourism-related proposal is to complete a new 136,000 square foot Expo Center that will be the largest exposition facility north of New York City between Boston and Cleveland. The facility will have 110,000 square feet of flexible event space, and 4,000 retractable seats. The new Expo Center will increase the total amount of indoor space at the Fairgrounds to over 450,000 square feet.

The Governor also proposed finishing the Hudson River SkyWalk project in 2018, which is a 1.8 mile scenic pedestrian trail linking the Olana State Historic Site in Greenport to the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in the Village of Catskill in 2018.

The Governor proposed investments in infrastructure and year round attractions at Whiteface Mountain, Gore Mountain, and Belleayre Mountain, as well as the Olympic Facilities, as well as a request for expressions of interest to firms with ski industry and winter sports expertise to ensure resources are invested to maximize benefits to the ORDA and the regional economy.

The Governor proposed "bridging the gap in the North Country's Tourism Lodging Needs", which he plans to accomplish by directing Empire State Development to commission a study to identify lodging development opportunities in the Adirondacks and Thousand Island regions, and to provide \$13 million in capital funding through the REDCs and URI.

Governor Cuomo's final tourism industry proposal is to bring the World University Games back to Lake Placid in 2023.

Other Proposals of Interest

In addition to tourism industry-specific proposals, the Governor introduced a number of proposals that will affect the tourism industry.

He announced a plan to direct the Department of Labor to conduct a series of hearings to examine the elimination of the tipped wage credit, which NYSH&TA will oppose and fight. We will follow up with more information on hearings as the information is released.

The Governor also proposed a continued investment of \$750 million for Round 8 of the REDCs, which have been in existence since 2011, and provide capital dollars that are used for regional priority projects.

Finally, the Governor has announced increased investment in Taste New York and advance new marketing opportunities to connect New York agricultural products to new people and businesses.