The 2018-19 state budget fully funds the Metropolitan Transportation Authority’s (MTA) Subway Action Plan – for a total of $836 million - to make emergency repairs and enhance subway performance. The plan also expands select bus services throughout the city, so residents can get around more easily and reach their destinations on time. And, to establish a longer-term plan for New York City public transportation, the budget enacts a $2.75 surcharge on for-hire vehicles, $2.50 for yellow cabs and $0.75 for pooled trips below 96th Street in Manhattan, averting an executive proposal which would have placed a $1.52 toll charge for all vehicles below 60th street in Manhattan and over $25 for trucks, resulting in particularly burdensome costs for small businesses and a potential pass along of increased costs to consumers.

The budget also seeks to limit the impact of the federal tax plan on New York’s homeowners, which increases taxes on many middle-class families by restricting state and local tax deductibility by creating state-operated charitable contributions funds designed to help improve health care and educational outcomes for New Yorkers. New York State will donate to the funds will be able to claim these contributions as deductions on their state and federal tax deductions, as well as claim a state tax credit equal to 85% of the donation amount.

Weprin Announces State Budget Investments for All New Yorkers

ALBANY, NEW YORK (TIP): Assemblyman David I. Weprin announced, April 5, that the New York State has passed an on-time $163.3 billion 2018-19 state budget that includes a nearly $1 billion increase in education funding, significant investments in infrastructure and transportation, protection for New York’s homeowners from federal tax changes and support for seniors’ health and well-being.

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Other highlights of the final 2018-19 state budget include:

- $8.16 million to support long-term care for seniors and $7.81 million to preserve spousal refusal to couples do not lose their life savings in the event a spouse becomes ill and needs nursing home care.
- Restorations of $13.99 million to prevent hospital and nursing home reductions and $12 million in managed care reductions.
- $86.4 billion in education funding, including a $618 million increase in Foundation Aid and key allocations to college-opportunity programs, including to the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), the Education Opportunity Program (EOP), the Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP), the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (C-STEP), as well as for the Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge (SEEK), Liberty Partnerships and College Discovery programs.
- $12.1 million to SUNY and $6.3 million to CUNY, as well as community colleges to increase community college base aid. The plan includes funding for CUNY Child Care Centers, CUNY Accelerated Study in Associate Program (ASAP), Educational Opportunity Centers (EOCs), and $92 million in state operating support for SUNY hospitals.
- $35.1 million in critical Bundy Aid for independent colleges, based on degree productivity.
- $15 million for STEM instruction in nonpublic schools, including parochial schools and yeshivas, for a 200-percent increase over 2016.
- $30 million in operating and capital support for New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) for treatment and recovery programs, residential service opportunities, and public awareness and education activities.
- $109 million for a first-in-the-nation opioid stewardship program with a fund to be used for the ongoing and growing costs of prevention, treatment, and recovery services for individuals with a substance abuse disorder.
- $8 million in additional funding for libraries, providing a total of $96.6 million; including $75,000 for the Queens Library’s Langston Hughes Cultural Center.
- $350,000 in assistance for nonprofits dedicated to resettling individuals and families from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- A measure creating a commission to ensure that the people of New York State are accurately counted in the 2020 U.S. Census.
- Legislation to ensure that employers across the state have comprehensive policies to combat sexual harassment in the workplace, bars confidentiality clauses in any settlement except when specifically requested by the victim and banning mandatory arbitration agreements for claims of sexual harassment.
- Legislation prohibiting domestic abusers from possessing both handguns and long guns and prohibits individuals with an outstanding warrant for a felony or other serious offense from receiving or renewing a firearm license.
- Legislation to encourage children and youth to attend the event. Deepavali plans to bring Young Indian families, youth and kids together through Sports, Family get-togethers and Community outreach activities. We are going to have a membership drive for the young adults and we plan to add many new young members this year. With that in mind, our young Deepavali team Rajeev Chaudhary, Anuj Goenka & Atul Kukar did a fantastic job in organizing this Bowling event, which got rave reviews. We are encouraged by the tremendous success of this event and we are going to have many more such programs in the coming months. One such program being planned is to give free Golf lessons to the younger generation in the coming few months and the other is a family picnic for them.

AIA Organizes Desi Next Bowling Event to promote networking among young families

LONG ISLAND, NY (TIP): The Association of Indians in America, NY Chapter (AIA-NY) organized its first Bowling Event under its recently launched cultural exchange group called “Desi Next” at AMF SyossetLanes in Long Island on Saturday March 31, 2018 to promote Networking among young families and strengthen youth development programs and activities and have been working towards energizing our youths, while understanding their concerns, said Gobind Munjal, the president of AIA NY Chapter. We try to give the young adults the autonomy to build their programs that suits and attracts the younger generation. Keeping this in mind, AIA NY Chapter launched “Desi Next” in January 2017 to provide a platform for the younger generation where they can socialize, interact, address their issues and concerns and develop programs to suit their need. We appointed young individuals Anuj Goenka, Atul Kukar and Rajeev Chaudhry to lead the charge for these youth programs. On January 22nd, 2017, we managed to arrange the very first program under Desi Next and it was a huge success with 150 young adults and their children attending the event. Desi Next plans to bring Young Indian families, youth and kids together through Sports, Family get-togethers and Community outreach activities. We are going to have a membership drive for the young adults and we plan to add many new young members this year. With that in mind, our young Desi Next team Rajeev Chaudhary, Anuj Goenka & Atul Kukar did a fantastic job in organizing this Bowling event, which got rave reviews. We are encouraged by the tremendous success of this event and we are going to have many more such programs in the coming months. One such program being planned is to give free Golf lessons to the younger generation in the coming few months and the other is a family picnic for them.

AIA NY Chapter other upcoming programs are as follows:

- Investment Seminar on May 17, 2018
- Fundraiser Event for our Project India Charity Program on June 9, 2018 in Manhattan, NY
- Benefit Gala on Sept 15, 2018 for the 31st Deepavali Festival
- 31st Deepavali Festival Celebrations on Oct 7, 2018 at the iconic South Street Seaport in Manhattan, culminating with a spectacular display of Fireworks.
- Children Deepavali in Libraries around end of October 2018.

The Association of Indians in America (AIA) is the oldest organization of Asian Indians in America founded on August 20, 1967. It is the grassroots national organization of Asian immigrants in the United States. With chapters and membership spread across the United States of America, AIA represents the hopes and aspirations of those immigrants who are united by their common bond of Indian Heritage and American Commitment.

For more info, please find us on Facebook and visit our website www.theaiany.org (Press Release)