

**EDUCATION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE**  
**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**  
**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Education & Information Technology Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on June 10, 2014.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory  
Leg. Sarah S. Anker, Chairwoman  
Leg. Monica Martinez, Vice Chair  
Leg. Thomas Cilmi  
Leg. Lou D'Amaro  
Leg. Robert Trotta

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

George M. Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature  
Sarah Simpson, Assistant Counsel to the Legislature  
Lora Gellerstein, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature  
Doug Miller, Acting Commissioner/Information Technology  
Pat Connolly, Director/Telecommunications  
Gail Vizzini, Suffolk Community College  
Ben Zwirn, Suffolk Community College  
Robert Lipp, Budget Review Office  
Benny Pernice, Budget Review Office  
Tom Vaughn, County Executive's Office  
Michael Pitcher, Aide to Presiding Officer  
Anne Shybunko-Moore, appointee to the Suffolk Community College/Board of Trustees  
And all other interested parties

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

6/10/2014 Edu/IT Committee meeting

**THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:01 AM**

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Welcome to the Education and Information Technology Committee meeting. Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Martinez.

**SALUTATION**

Please remain standing for a moment of silent meditation and prayer as we think of those in our military protecting our freedom.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE OBSERVED**

**INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS**

Thank you. Okay, we do not have correspondence. We do not have a presentation this morning. We will go to our -- we have -- we're going to go right to an Introductory Resolution. We're going to take out of order Resolution 1565. I'll make a motion.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Second.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Okay. All in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Motion carries. We have before us **resolution 1565, Reappointing member to the Suffolk County Community College Board of Trustees (Anne Shybunko-Moore). (Anker)** I'd like to make a motion to approve.

**LEG. MARTINEZ:**

Second.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Okay, we have a second. Okay. On the motion. Okay. All in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Motion carries. Motion is approved. Congratulations. Thank you, Anne. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

**MS. SHYBUNKO-MOORE:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Okay. We're going to continue with our resolutions. Okay. We have **IR 1509, Amending Resolution No. 422-2013, ensuring Suffolk County Government Internet content is accessible to the print-disabled. (Schneiderman)** I'll make a motion to approve. Can I have a second?

**LEG. MARTINEZ:**

Second.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Second over here. All in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Motion carries. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

**IR 1510, Appropriating funds in connection with Suffolk County Disaster Recovery Project (CP 1729). (Co. Exec.)** I will make a motion to approve.

**LEG. MARTINEZ:**

Second.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

All in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Motion carries. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

**IR 1511, Appropriating funds in connection with the acquisition of Fiber Cabling Network and WAN Technology Upgrades (CP 1726). (Co. Exec.)** I will make a motion to approve. Do I have a second?

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

I'll second, but is anyone here?

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

On the motion we have Acting Commissioner of IT, I believe Doug Miller. Would you like to come forward, please. Okay, we're going to discuss the 1511 resolution. And, again, this is appropriating funds to the Fiber Cabling Network and WAN Technology upgrades. Welcome. And if you could give us a brief overview of this particular Resolution.

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

My name is Doug Miller. Brief overview of the project: This is our -- this is the money that we use each year to accommodate end-of-life switch replacements for our wide area network as well as other device upgrades and improvements. This money used to be contained in the Operating Budget. It was moved to the Capital Budget several years ago. And this represents the only money the County has to accommodate moves, changes, adds and deletions to the wide area network.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Legislator Martinez.

**LEG. MARTINEZ:**

To the what, you said? The last sentence, I'm sorry.

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

It's what we use in case County departments move or they need extra capacity, we have to add extra fiber, extra circuitry to those departments to connect them back to the County's wide area network.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Legislator D'Amaro.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Good morning. Thank you. So this is appropriating a half a million dollars for the wide area network -- excuse me. So is there any way this money is going to be spent to fix something that's not working?

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

Yes. We use it to replace end-of-life switches, that kind of stuff, if that's what you're asking.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Well, what's not working specifically right now?

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

Right now everything is working.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Oh, I thought you said yes.

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

Yes, as things break we use the money --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

No, no. I said is there anything not working. And you said -- you said what?

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

I'm sorry, I misunderstood that.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Okay.

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

We use the money in case things do break.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

So explain to me what this -- what a switch -- how it's at its end of its life. Why can't it live another year?

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

Although they may be still working, the manufacturers do not cover them past a certain point in time, which means we cannot get operating system upgrades for those switches.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Right. What do you call them? What are they called?

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

Switches.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Just a switch. What does that do exactly?

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

That connects various locations back to the Countywide area network core. So between our data centers, countywide applications like e-mail, IFMS, all those things ride over our network. And those services are delivered to various departments and locations including the Legislative Offices via switches and routers.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Okay. So the manufacturer -- how many switches do we have?

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

We have over 400 devices in the network.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

And how many would this replace?

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

In 2014 we have -- we have a replacement schedule. It's about 19 switches in 2014; in 2015 it's another 19; in 2016 it's 79; and 2017 it's 79 as well.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

And the decision to replace the switches is based on the manufacturer's recommendation?

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

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It's based on when they actually become end-of-life and they're no longer supported, which means we can't upgrade the software on the switches, which puts us at risk in case one of them goes down, we have an outage in the network.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Why not replace them as they fail? I mean is it difficult to replace a switch?

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

It's not -- we do replace them on a time schedule. We don't wait for them to fail because that represents an outage for a department that's using the services.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Okay, but how often do they fail?

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

Probably a weekly basis.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Has one failed since January 1st?

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

Yes. At least once a week, Pat?

**MR. CONNOLLY:**

Once a week.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

They fail once a week? Now switches that have failed --

**MR. CONNOLLY:**

Hi, I'm Pat Connolly.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Hi, Pat.

**MR. CONNOLLY:**

In answer to your question --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

You need to move the mike closer, please.

**MR. CONNOLLY:**

In answer to your question --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

No, closer than that.

**MR. CONNOLLY:**

In answer to your question --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

There you go.

**MR. CONNOLLY:**

Thank you. In answer to your question, the devices fail randomly, but, you know, we could have one or two a week; we might not have one for another week or two. But then, you know, the next

week we could have two or three fail.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

So we have 400 devices. And you would say that one to two fail a week?

**MR. CONNOLLY:**

Closer to 450; around 450.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

About 450. And about one or two fail per week on average.

**MR. CONNOLLY:**

No, not on average.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Oh.

**MR. CONNOLLY:**

But in any given month we have probably three, four, you know, like it equates to probably one a week.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

One a week.

**MR. CONNOLLY:**

Right.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Now, the switches that failed most recently, were they beyond their end-of-life?

**MR. CONNOLLY:**

No, they were not. Because what we've been doing with this Capital Project is keeping them current. And the risk that you're taking --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

But we're still failing one a week. We do this every year but we're still failing one a week.

**MR. CONNOLLY:**

Equipment breaks no matter who the manufacturer is. If it's in service --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Well, how much higher would it fail if we didn't do this every year? What if we did it every other year?

**MR. CONNOLLY:**

Well, I think the big -- I don't know. Well, it would be older so chances are it would fail more often. However, the risk that we would take about not replacing these in a timely fashion before they become or as they become end-of-life is that let's just say the -- in the Hauppauge Data Center we have a switch that's \$100,000. If that breaks and it's not covered by the Smart Net Agreement, which is who we -- we have -- the manufacturer is Cisco --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Right.

**MR. CONNOLLY:**

-- on most of our gear. Their maintenance coverage is Smart Net. So we have every one of those 450 switches covered with Smart Net from -- you know, annually. Every year we renew that contract.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Right.

**MR. CONNOLLY:**

And if we take a switch that's end-of-life and we don't replace it before it becomes end-of-life, or, you know, as it's becoming end-of-life, if that breaks, we're going to have to come up with, in the case of the Hauppauge Data Center \$100,000 to replace a switch. So that's the reason why we have them covered. And what happens is you can't cover them if they become end-of-life. The manufacturer will not put them on -- -

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

How long are they covered for?

**MR. CONNOLLY:**

Well, they're covered for a year. Every year it's an annual contract that we --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

So the switches are only covered for one year. And if they break after that, they cannot be upgraded or they cannot -- what happens if they're not covered? What do you mean by that?

**MR. CONNOLLY:**

When you first buy a switch, it's covered for one year warranty.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Okay.

**MR. CONNOLLY:**

That only covers the hardware that you could say *this broke and send me another one*. And different switches we have different coverage depending upon -- if it's Public Safety, we have four-hour response. Most -- you know, most County businesses we have index business day, which is less expensive. So they would replace -- they would send the switch and then either our vendor or we would, depending on the complexity of it, we would replace --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

That's the first year. So once you get beyond the first year, they're put on a schedule to be replaced or are they replaced immediately?

**MR. CONNOLLY:**

No. They don't -- they don't come out of the network until the manufacturer -- usually when a manufacturer sells something, it's got an active life cycle of about five years.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Okay.

**MR. CONNOLLY:**

And then after that five-year period, they -- or sometime during that five-year period, they make an announcement that this switch is going to become end-of-life five years out. So in -- you know, in 2010 they were letting us know what's going to become end-of-life in 2015. And that's the schedule that we're working off. So the actual switch could have been in the network for ten years before it gets taken out.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

See, what I'm thinking is, is there a better way to schedule the replacement of these devices? Because this is recurring, Commissioner? This a recurring program we have; right?

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

Yes.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

We spend about half a million a year on this?

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

This year we're looking for a half a million, yes.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

What was it last year? We're spending that -- we're bonding for that, but yet we're still failing at one a week. Maybe there's a way to rethink a program or a replacement program on how we do this that would be more cost effective and more efficient on your side. Because if we're going to spend a half a million dollars and they're going to fail once a week anyway --

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

We're not spending the full half a million dollars, by the way, on the switch replacements. That's a portion of the Capital Project request.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

What else is it for?

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

The switches are about \$100,000 worth.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Oh, okay. Well, you didn't tell me that. Okay. All right. So what's the other 400,000 for?

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

Okay, so we have a couple of components to this project.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Okay.

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

Sort of inter-related to disaster recovery as well. Aside from the switch replacement schedule which is about \$100,000 of the 500,000 that we're requesting --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Right.

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

-- we also are seeking to get some money for fiber cable improvements around the network; mostly in the area of Public Safety we'd like to add.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Is any of that cable failing now?

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

It's not a question of failing. It's a question of --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Well, that's my question, though.

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

Okay. None of the cable is failing right now.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Okay. All right. But, again, you want to anticipate -- and you have a schedule to replace cable or --

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

We plan to add additional fiber to the Public Safety network to ensure that they're always up and running during any sort of disaster that befalls the County.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

How come we don't ensure that now?

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

Because it's a question of funding. And we've been planning to do this as we go along. So it's timed implementation depending on the funding that we get year over year.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

So have any of the law enforcement agencies in the County said that the system is not functional or working properly or we need -- you know, what led you to this conclusion?

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

The storms that we had last year, disasters that have occurred and brought down the network in various areas, we look at those and then we try to improve that so that it doesn't happen again going forward.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Okay. That makes sense. So areas that were vulnerable. What is this like, enhanced cabling of some kind?

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

We're placing older technology with newer technology. We replaced, you know, Verizon-based telephone type circuits with fiber circuits that we own called dark fiber. Those type of improvements around the County.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

So it's an upgrade. We learned from our experience the areas that we need to upgrade. And this will enhance our ability to respond and communicate during a storm.

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

Yes. And also in conjunction with the future plans of doing a void technology for phones, we want to make sure the network is as robust as we can possibly make it going forward.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Yeah, we don't have that now, do we?

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

I have it in several locations around the County as far as -- central County we still use the older technology called {Centrex}.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Yeah, we're trying to switch over to VOIP?

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

Here and there, like a hybrid system. It doesn't make sense in every location. But where it does, we would like to do that, yeah.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

All right. I appreciate you answering my questions. Thank you.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Legislator Cilmi has a question.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Can you talk to us a little bit about the -- I don't know quite how to ask this. The expenditure itself, let's say for purpose of argument that it's, you know, required and something that we should do. Are there -- are there options in terms of how much we actually spend on these switches? Or are we married to one particular company that makes the switches and, you know -- when you go out and actually do the purchasing, which I assume basically what we're doing is we're giving you some authority here to spend up to a half million dollars on whatever it is you have to spend a half a million dollars relative to this project. And then you go out and you do the purchasing commensurate with that. So when you do that purchasing, how do you evaluate which types of switches to buy, which type of fiber to install, etcetera?

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

Depending on the location. We have -- we avail ourselves of a network engineering consultant to help us scale the switches appropriately for each location. As far as the brand goes, we typically buy off State contract and we look to go the most inexpensive way possible per location that's appropriate.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Is any of this money in this particular request going to a consultant?

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

No, this is all for equipment and fiber cabling land upgrades.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Okay. I mean do we -- is there any way to save money -- aside from not upgrading when we need to upgrade? Are there different things we could be doing with the types of switches or the way we actually set our network up?

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

I would say that we're sort of on a path to get to a much better network. And it's kind of hard to say off the top of my head where we could sort of stop that process. As far as the switches go, I would say, no, there's really no way to economize on what we're doing. This is about the bare minimum that we can replace every year. We're only doing 19 this year. We squeeze as much life as we can out of them. Many of them are over seven years old.

The other areas of the project, which I didn't get into articulating, but I will, if you don't mind, is -- one of other things we'd like to do is, is in our West End data center and our East End data center, we'd like to sort of cross correct the switches, the core switches, which gives us full tolerance and redundancy, which we don't really enjoy right now. That's one of the aspects of this project as well.

The other problem is with this project, as I said, they took the money out of our Operating Budget a few years ago to do any sort of moves, changes, adds and deletions to the wide area network. So if the department was to move, legislative office moves, anything like that, we have to accommodate that expense to extend the network to those locations. We use some of the money from this project

to do that. It is a Capital Project. We may not necessarily spend all \$500,000 in the six months we have left in 2014. We will spend it going into 2015 if we don't get to everything. And so that's -- it's just a fact of the County that things move, they change and we have to accommodate those. And that's some of the money that we need to do that.

**LEG. CILMI:**

When exactly was it taken out of Operating?

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

I think it was around 2008, we used to keep several hundred thousand dollars in our Operating Budget in the consulting line to do this type of work. And it was moved to Capital for financial reasons back then.

**LEG. CILMI:**

So you would view this as a need rather than a want.

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

Yes, this is guaranteeing that we can extend the County services to all departments. It's a need for us. It's not a want.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Okay. Thank you.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Legislator Trotta.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

These switches last how long?

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

Depends on the switch and the complexity, but anywhere from, you know, over five years to -- some cases we have them seven years, eight years old.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

And you're going to bond them for how many years?

**MR. LIPP:**

That's -- basically we take all the Capital Projects for a serial bond and we blend them together. So the average has been 18 years.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

So we're going to buy something that last seven years and pay for it for 18, which means in seven years we'll be buying it again and paying for it again.

**MR. LIPP:**

Just as a point of information, so this year in the 2014 Adopted Program, we have \$500,000 obviously. Last year was \$600,000 that we appropriated. In 2012 it was 300,000. In 2011 it was 1.3 million almost; 2010 372,000; and prior to that apparently, but I'm not sure exactly, it was in General Fund Pay-As-you-Go.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

Okay.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

I have a question. Is there any way we can go back to Pay-As-You-Go? Are we -- you know, again, what's happening is we keep, you know -- you know, accumulating these expenses. And, you know,

basically what we're looking into finding what is absolutely necessary. We don't want to be in a County stuck with all these horrific computer issues, especially with the disasters that have happened. And, again, we can go back and maybe even discuss the resolution 1510. But we're focused on what do we absolutely need right now? So if you wanted to elaborate on that.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

I would just like to jump in here for a second. As Acting Commissioner Miller said, this is really a need for his IT Department, not a want. And if anybody would like to try and find us \$500,000 of operating expenses that's not currently being used or programmed in some other way, we'd be happy to take a look at that. But it's a pretty tight budget as we all know.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

And, again, I'm going to go back to the disaster -- let's see -- it was Disaster Recovery Project, that's IR 1510, you know, that's for a million dollars; again, this is part of a similar project that you're working on. And it's something that we've learned from the past storms that we need to do.

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

Yes, 1729 is disaster recovery. That goes beyond just the storms, though. We also are seeking to consolidate all the various County data centers as much as possible, as departments permit, into our two data centers, West End and East End; and provide those departments with some full tolerance, some high availability; also backup for their data between the two sites. If one were to go down, they can then operate out of the other one. We do that now with e-mail, IFMS system and Payroll. And so we'd like to extend those services to other departments and not continue to pop up various departmental data centers around the County.

As far as the DR goes, the request included fitting out our Hauppauge West End data center with additional electric, additional UPS capacity, some more large bulk storage to put more servers in there, some VMware hardware to virtualize more service which helps us on the licensing end of things. And also with the disaster recovery between that and the East End. So it's a larger project besides just disaster recovery. It's equipping our data centers to handle that type of situation as we go forward.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Legislator Cilmi has a question.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Just to follow-up, in your -- I guess the backup to the request is a statement that says -- it says we have two -- and this is copy and pasted from something, so forgive me if there's anything wrong with it, but it says we have two notable major projects on the table for 2013 to include the old infirmary building being migrated to single mode fiber and re-routing fiber out of the old Consumer Affairs building where fiber currently resides that services other buildings on the Campus. Does that -- what's going on there?

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

Because -- well -- that was 2013, so -- because the Consumer Affairs building that that was referencing was in the North County Complex. That actually, I guess, was closed down or abandoned. So we didn't -- we didn't have to do that. We do have to move the fiber from the old location, because, believe it or not, it was terminated in the lower level of the old building. So that's on the table, something -- that and companies going to be working on doing.

**LEG. CILMI:**

So what does this statement, then, refer to? Unless I'm reading it incorrectly, it says two notable major projects on the table for 2013. Is it really for 2014? Or was it -- were they on the table for 2013 and this statement is somewhat erroneous in that case? Or --

**MR. CONNOLLY:**

I think the statement was from 2013. The Consumer Affairs building, they moved out into the Department of Labor building. And the -- at that point we were going -- they were going to demo the building. The Capital Project to demo the building, I don't believe, got passed. So, therefore, the cable is still in the building in the basement, as Doug mentioned. So when that -- when they moved forward to destroy the building, there's two other -- the fiber comes into that building and loops the two others on that side of the street. So we need to reroute the cable that goes to -- the fiber cable that goes to those two other buildings. But we've held off because the money's tight. We did not do that work. And, you know, it's still -- we're still waiting to do it, but we're going to do it prior to that building getting destroyed.

So right now it's just sitting over there in the basement. The other two buildings that go through it, that cable continues to their locations. They're still up and working fine. But when that building gets destroyed, we're going to have to go in there and reroute the cable so those two other buildings continue to work as they do today.

**LEG. CILMI:**

And that applies to this Capital Project in that -- how?

**MR. CONNOLLY:**

The way -- the way -- what happened early on, I guess, we had two different Capital Projects. We had one for wide area network, I believe, and we had a different one for the equipment we were talking about earlier. They combined those two, because they're very -- they are very similar. If we're putting up a new location in the County, typically we need new hardware for it and we need to run fiber to it. Because if we were never in that location before, we need to get it -- connect to our wide area network back to the rest of the County.

So they combined those two. And we -- so part of the money goes to fiber optics. And part of it goes to the equipment. That makes the switches work and everybody's desktop, you know, work off of that. And as Doug mentioned earlier, there's about 450 locations -- I'm sorry, 250 locations roughly. And there's about 450 switches within those 250 County locations. Some of them are rented space; some of them are County-owned buildings.

**LEG. CILMI:**

And just to reiterate a question from before, so the entirety of this half a million dollars is for physical equipment and not for labor associated with the installation of that equipment; is that correct?

**MR. CONNOLLY:**

On the fiber optics, it also pays for the installation of it.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Because we don't do that ourselves?

**MR. CONNOLLY:**

We don't. We don't have anybody that can -- we don't have anybody on our staff that can splice fiber optics. And also you need trucks and big gear to pull the fiber optics through -- you know, like on a Campus like this, we have, you know, manholes that connect the various buildings. And basically we don't have the equipment to go into those. You need gas sniffers. Because when -- if you see Verizon working in the street basically they put down -- they have test equipment to make sure that there's no gas in that hole before anyone climbs into it. We don't have any of that equipment as we speak.

**LEG. CILMI:**

And how much of the half a million dollars is earmarked for that? Roughly? I won't, you know --

**MR. CONNOLLY:**

I mean every year it changes because, you know, of the needs but --

**LEG. CILMI:**

Okay.

**MR. CONNOLLY:**

When we knocked down that building to reroute that fiber, it's going to be about a \$20,000 job. That's -- you know, that's pending as we speak, though.

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

We had allocated 50,000 of the 500,000 for the fiber end of the --

**LEG. CILMI:**

How much, I'm sorry.

**ACTING COMMISSIONER MILLER:**

50,000.

**LEG. CILMI:**

50,000. Okay. Thanks.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

So, again, you know, just so you understand our concerns, and it'll be going in front of the whole Legislature, we just want to make sure what you're doing is absolutely needed. And we know how important our technology is with the County. So I guess with that, I believe -- did I make a motion? I'll make a motion to approve. We have it, okay. All right. You second? Okay. All right. All in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Motion carries. Thank you. **(VOTE: 6-0-0-0. P.O. GREGORY INCLUDED IN VOTE)**

We're going to continue. **IR 1513, Appropriating funds in connection with the traffic circle Ammerman Campus (CP 2143). (Co. Exec.)** I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEG. MARTINEZ:**

Second.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Okay, we have a second. I just -- okay. Do you want to talk about that? This is funding for the traffic circle for Suffolk Community College. Basically the information I have at this point it is \$225,000 serial bonds, 50% state-aided. Is there someone from the College who would like to come up and speak on that?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Good morning. Can everyone hear me? Okay. Jon DeMaio, Suffolk Community College. Yes, this is for the traffic circle at the Ammerman Campus. You're correct. It's one of the significant traffic concerns, which is the intersection of West Road and North Road, two of the main access points to the Campus that come to a T. There is poor sight lines in that area, a lot of backups, which during the heart of our enrollment can be seen out onto Nicolls Road. We had a conceptual design study that recommended a modern roundabout or traffic circle given the volumes were fairly consistent from all three directions of that intersection; would be the best way to improve traffic safety there and keep traffic moving. So this allows us to move forward with that project. And it is 50% state-aided. And that financing is in place.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Legislator Cilmi first.

**LEG. CILMI:**

So this is 225,000. Is that -- that's our commitment to it, right?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Correct.

**LEG. CILMI:**

So the whole project is 450?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Total, yes.

**LEG. CILMI:**

And it's your belief or the Traffic Engineer's belief that -- that installing this traffic circle will alleviate the traffic problems that exists, particularly during peak times of traffic when you're on the Campus?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Yes, that's correct.

**LEG. CILMI:**

And those peak times are when exactly?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Fall semester is certainly our highest.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Throughout the semester or just at certain times?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Throughout the semester but I would say depending on the class schedule for that semester, which may vary, certain days may have higher traffic volumes than other, depending on how that's been distributed. That varies. But that particular point is always going to see the highest traffic because it represents the two main ways of accessing the Campus from Nicolls Road.

**LEG. CILMI:**

And how severe are the backups onto Nicolls Road?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Again, it depends, but if you're trying to leave the Campus when classes get out, you're going to spend quite a lot of time before you even get to a signal to leave the Campus. Entering, particularly in the mornings we've had to dispatch our security forces out there to help direct traffic, to keep flow moving. We have seen cars turning onto the Community College from Nicolls Road heading south stuck to try and get across to the first circle you come to by the Brookhaven Gym. Similarly on South Coleman entrance, same thing. They'll get stuck trying to cross if the backups are severe enough.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Is this a daily occurrence? And I'm asking these questions because as Legislator Anker articulated with our last bill, we really have to be cognizant of what we absolutely need versus what we want. So is this a daily occurrence or is it something that happens occasionally or --

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Not only is it a daily occurrence, but if we -- because this accomplishes two things: One, it alleviates a traffic volume problem. And, two, it improves safety. The sight lines, what you can physically see

insofar as how far down the road you can see a car coming before a driver makes a decision to pull out onto North Road from West Road is poor. So you have a car coming on, quote unquote, racing to class, someone's trying to leave. They've made the decision to turn onto that intersection too late, you have an accident there. It is -- has the highest rate of, fortunately, to this point fender benders on Campus of any location within the grounds.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Have we tried adjusting the traffic signaling at the location?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

There is no signal.

**LEG. CILMI:**

There is no signal.

**MR. DeMAIO:**

There is no signal. There is a stop sign on West Road. And it's through traffic on North Road. A signal was looked at as a potential solution, but the roundabout was favored over a signal. Because of the queues you would have associated with signalization at that intersection. You'd still have backups if you put a signal there.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Okay. I mean, my experience with traffic circles is that sometimes they can cause their own issues. It can be confusing at times. I'm not sure how creating a circle is going to alleviate a traffic problem. It's just going to disperse it in a different -- or just line up the queue in a different form.

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Well, the traffic circle should reduce the queues because you have flow continuously moving through the circle. You're not coming to a dead stop to make a decision on where you want to park depending on where your class happens to be on the Campus. So the Traffic Engineer's recommendation was based on, okay, we know we have queues because cars are coming to a stop at that location. A modern roundabout allows them to continue to move to access whatever parking lot they happen to be going to. So it absolutely should reduce the queue.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Any idea how much we paid the Traffic Engineer?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Oh, this was part of a overall traffic study. This was one of the recommendations. The report covered the entire Campus. I don't know off the top how much the report was, but it was in the neighborhood of, I'm going to say 50,000 or less.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Okay. And this was one of several recommendations.

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Correct.

**LEG. CILMI:**

All right. Thanks.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Legislator Trotta has a question.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

Did you ever think of staggering the time the classes start and stop?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

I believe they have been staggered. And staggered not only throughout the day, but Monday through Friday to help alleviate the peak traffic that we had experienced. And I think there's been some benefit to that, but it does not address the physical restrictions of that intersection. Even with that staggering, when you look at the number of cars that are going past that intersection, it just doesn't have the capacity to safely allow --

**LEG. TROTТА:**

Where exactly is this?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

So if you're coming out of the Ammerman Campus from Nicolls Road, and you have that first traffic circle, you go up the hill, that's West Road. West Road ends at a T. The T intersection is met by the entrance from South Coleman Road referred to as North Road. That is a through street so there is no stop sign there. But there is a stop sign on the West Road Side. And that's the T that will be replaced by a traffic circle. So pretty much in the heart of the Campus.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

It's on Campus.

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Absolutely.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

Parking is on the way up and on the way down on both sides of that road.

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Really you have to get to that intersection to get access to the main parking fields. So if you come up from South Coleman Road, you have our facilities buildings; you have one academic building; the auto building. But other than that, you have to keep moving into the heart of the Campus to get access to the four lots, the eight lots where most of the traffic is parking. So anyone looking to park for the day to go to class is coming to that T intersection.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

I mean I've looked at the schedule. The classes seem to start at the same time. I mean I don't -- I don't -- you know, it's been a while since I've seen it, but I can remember saying -- you know, there used to be a relief point there. And it seemed like everyone flooded in at the same time. I mean are you sure they're staggered like this?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Well, insofar as the academic calendar, that's not something I'm involved in, planning. I'm more in the Capital Projects area. What I can tell you is actual traffic counts were taken. Volumes were looked at throughout the day back when the initial study was done. And the end recommendation was insofar as traffic safety and reducing queues out onto the neighboring roadways, this was the best solution.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

Well, I mean, I can tell you from firsthand the Grant Campus, they let the students out at the same time. There's no -- you know, they should be ten minutes apart so it doesn't happen. And, you know, I'm pretty sure looking at -- you know, it was a couple years back, they all start and stop at the same time.

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Again, I'm not sure what the academic calendar will look like for this year.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER,**

Maybe, again, that's something we might want to look into. But again like with high school, some of these kids have a class after that, you know, class so it's got to be timed. So, again, you know, it's something we can look into. But it sounds like it's a necessity with the safety issue. Legislator D'Amaro, did you have a question?

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

I do. This is a -- this is an intersection that's on the Campus itself. It doesn't lead to -- it doesn't impact or abut an outside road.

**MR. DeMAIO:**

It only impacts an outside road if the queues to get to the intersection are long enough so that traffic backs up onto Nicolls Road. That is how it would impact a road; either Nicolls Road or South Coleman Road.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

If you come off Nicolls Road, you go up West Road, you hit North Road. It's at that intersection you want to put a traffic circle. How does that affect Nicolls Road?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

It should improve the ability for students to get onto the Campus and cross over Nicolls Road to do so. Because instead of coming to a stop at West Road, they would enter the traffic circle and continue to flow around that intersection.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

But if I'm coming into the College Campus off Nicolls Road, there's already a traffic circle there.

**MR. DeMAIO:**

At the Brookhaven Gym, yes. That allows them to make the decision to either park at the Brookhaven Gym --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Right.

**MR. DeMAIO:**

-- or to keep going into the heart of the Campus to access additional parking. So students who have a class in Brookhaven Gym would get off right there from that first circle. Anyone who's not taking a class there would continue up --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

But are you saying that traffic gets backed up from the intersection of North Road and West Road all the way down through the traffic circle onto Nicolls Road?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Yes.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

It does.

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Yes.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

And how far onto Nicolls Road does it go?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Again, it really affects that intersection, which was improved recently because there are now two turn lanes onto that first traffic circle. But even with --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

I don't know that a -- I understand that there's a traffic problem. But I don't know that putting in that circle is going to solve this problem.

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Well, again, the -- that intersection is only controlled by a single stop sign.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Also, the reason why I say that is that that intersection -- I mean, there's Ross Road you can turn on, right, before you get to that intersection. And so that takes you another section of the Campus. But you're saying most of the parking is off North Road?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Correct.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Well, why not just build a road from Ross Road to the parking lot and access to the parking lot?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Because in addition to those lots that are at that location, you have the seven lots, the eight lots that are more spread out. They're on the opposite side of North Road. This was -- this was the result of not only looking at this particular intersection --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

If you have traffic backing all the way down West Road through the traffic circle and onto Nicolls road --

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Yes.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

-- this traffic circle is not going to solve that problem in my opinion. I think what you have to look at is you have limited access from the roads in the Campus to your parking lots. You need more access. So in other words, if I'm -- when I first get onto Campus, I should have parking options. Or if I go towards Ross Road, I should have parking options, places where I can turn, get into those other lots. Several of them, I think, as opposed to putting one traffic circle in, which I've been through traffic circles; they're great when there's not heavy traffic. But when you have heavy traffic in a traffic circle, it's a disaster waiting to happen in my opinion. So who did your study?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

The study was performed by Cameron Engineering.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Okay. And did they look at possibly just creating a couple of other roads -- I'm not talking about cost here. I'm just talking about how do you solve this problem.

**MR. DeMAIO:**

The best solution, sure.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Yeah, I don't think this is the best solution.

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Well, this was the solution that was recommended. And insofar as that particular intersection -- and it's good that you bring up the access to additional parking --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Because you always have access off of North Road to your major parking lots there, right?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

You have access off of North Road to the parking facilities to the north. And you also have access --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Right.

**MR. DeMAIO:**

-- from Ross Road to a couple facilities.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Right, a couple.

**MR. DeMAIO:**

But not as -- not as many. That road is primarily used to get --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

I'm looking at a map. I don't know what's between Ross Road and those parking lots.

**MR. DeMAIO:**

A-hum.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

But I have to believe there's a way to put some access through there.

**MR. DeMAIO:**

You could. But then the Traffic Engineer also looked at, okay, how many access points do you want to a parking facility.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Well, I think if you have traffic backed up onto Nicolls Road, I think you'd want several.

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Again, when you look at a parking facility --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Listen, engineers, you know, they think one way.

**MR. DeMAIO:**

(Laughter)

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Okay.

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Well, I'm going --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

They probably came up with this solution, if I had to guess, because it's probably more -- it costs less money to do, if I had to guess.

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Well, again, if I can talk about the overall study of the Campus for a moment, they didn't just look at this intersection. They looked at, as you say, access to parking fields, wayfinding on the Campus, what parking areas come up first, second and third; the capacity of those parking areas and how they're designed. The other Capital Project we have on here today is the parking expansion project. Both these projects are interrelated. They're being design -- the design is moving forward at the same time. The construction would be bid at the same time to --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Is there any more -- I understand that. Thank you. Is there any more access in this plan to these other lots?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

The lots are being improved so that once you access the lots, you can safely travel around the lot.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Okay, that's fine. But is there any other access being planned to the lots other than what's existing?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

That's being developed as we advance that project. So that's part of the expansion and reconfiguration of those lots.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

So --

**MR. DeMAIO:**

To look at that in combination with what we're talking about now.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

So right now you're considering additional access to the parking lots?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

We're considering how to either maintain the access we have or move that access. But what we have to be careful of is how many access points we have to a parking field. Because --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Why?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Because it can create a dangerous traffic situation.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Really?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Yes.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

More than what you have now?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Yes.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

I mean have you ever been to a mall when it's crowded?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Regrettably, yes.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

It works. You know why it works?

**(LAUGHTER)**

Because there's places for cars to go. It's almost limitless. I mean there are many ways to get into these parking lots in major shopping centers and malls and things like that. That's what you need. A traffic circle at the end of the line where you have what? That's got to be two to three miles of backup traffic?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Two to three miles from that intersection.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

From the intersection all the way onto Nicolls Road.

**MR. DeMAIO:**

It's not that far, no.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

All right. What is it, a mile?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

It's probably a half a mile.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Okay, half a mile of backed up traffic. I don't think the circle's going to solve your problem.

**MR. DeMAIO:**

It's certainly going to --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

How do you know it's going to solve your problem?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Well, we we had --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Because an engineer told you?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Well, because an engineer told us. We've looked at it and reviewed the data. It made sense to our Department insofar as traffic engineering's concerned. And it was a viable option because a signal or multiple traffic control devices there, stop signs that bring a car to a complete stop doesn't address your queue. And the sight lines there are particularly poor.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

In heavy traffic, believe me, those cars are coming to a complete stop at that traffic circle. They are. Not only are they coming to a stop, but it will be uncontrolled. You know, there's no signal. At least now, yeah, you have backup. But people know when to stop and go. You know, if you're rushing to class, as you say --

**MR. DeMAIO:**

U-hum.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

I don't know that your judgement's 100% focused at that point.

**MR. DeMAIO:**

I agree.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Yeah. So --

**MR. DeMAIO:**

I agree.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

-- I don't think this is a good solution. It's -- it may work; it may not. I don't think it will. I think what you have to do to relieve traffic is you have to permit more access, different access points from these roads into the parking lots.

**MR. DeMAIO:**

And we can look at that.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

You're not doing that with a traffic circle.

**MR. DeMAIO:**

The traffic circle isn't specifically adding access --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Why are you so supportive of this traffic circle?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Because the data that they --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Why wouldn't you want to look at other access points to the parking lot?

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Legislator D'Amaro, can I make a suggestion real quick. It seems like we have some issues with the traffic circle. And I was wondering if we delay -- if we tabled this resolution for the traffic circle and maybe have Cameron come and explain to us, you know, what the -- you know, why this is a priority for the Campus, would that hold up funding for the College?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Well, at this point we're trying to advance the design. This is the construction phase. So if it's -- if it's tabled, we -- this project's going to have some significant impacts to the Campus. So we need to prepare well in advance.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

If I can make a suggestion, I understand there are some questions here that you need to be resolved. And maybe we can get somebody who did the study from Cameron Engineering to the full Leg on Tuesday, I would just say maybe we can discharge it just so we move it forward. It's still going to need --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

I'm not going to support that.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Okay.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Because -- very supportive of the Capital Projects at the College. I think most of us, if not all of us are.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Absolutely.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

But I'm really looking at this from a practical point of view. I understand how the traffic is a problem and we want to solve that. I just really don't believe this is the right solution. I really don't.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Fine, I appreciate that. I'm just saying that it still has to get past the full Legislature. Any funds that are going to be bonded need 12 votes. So there's another -- I'm just saying if we -- at least we can advance it, if it wants to be tabled, at least we got it to the floor so it's -- we don't have to go back through this again.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

I just don't think that's appropriate. We haven't seen the study. We haven't heard from the Engineer. And I just don't think that's appropriate to do in this particular -- I understand if there's a time sensitive issue or something like that, but I just don't think that's appropriate to do right now.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

So my --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

There are legitimate questions about this right here in this Committee.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

My question is, is this time sensitive, both IRs, both 1513 and 1514? Because I think a presentation by the engineering firm would be appropriate.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

We could table it a cycle.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Okay. So I'm going to make a motion. I'll take back my motion to approve and I'll make a motion to table. And this is IR 1513. Can I get a second on tabling this? Okay, Legislator Cilmi. All in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Motion carries. **(VOTE: 6-0-0-0. P.O. GREGORY INCLUDED IN VOTE)**

Now we have **Resolution 1514 (Appropriating funds in connection with parking expansion**

**Ammerman Campus) (CP 2152). (Co. Exec.),** I'll make a motion to table because I'm assuming we will get a full presentation. And again I have to ask, is this time-sensitive regarding the funding?

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Both projects will be advanced at the same time, so they're related.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Okay, so I'll make a motion to table. Can I get a second? All in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Motion carries. **(VOTE: 6-0-0-0. P.O. GREGORY INCLUDED IN VOTE)** Thank you.

**MR. DeMAIO:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Okay, we're going to continue. **IR 1530, Accepting and appropriating a Sub-Award Agreement from the Research Foundation for the SUNY, the prime recipient of a grant award from the National Science Foundation, for participation in a project entitled "Collaborative Research: A Novel Multidisciplinary, Multi-Campus Undergraduate Minor to enhance Stem Learning in Energy Science, Technology and Policy"** And this is **100% reimbursed by State funds at Suffolk County Community College. (Co. Exec.)** I will make a motion to approve.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Second.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

And we'll place this on the Consent Calendar. Can I have a second? All in favor? On the motion.

**LEG. CILMI:**

I'm sorry. I know it's only -- what is it \$16,000 or something? But --

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

It's a hundred percent reimbursed by the State.

**LEG. CILMI:**

I understand that but it's really a hundred percent reimbursed by the taxpayers. The State just kind of is the conduit to that. So can we just talk for a moment about exactly what this is?

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Okay. Ben, you want to come up or --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Yes, this is actually coming through the National Science Foundation through, I think, Stony Brook. And it is a \$16,340 grant. And I will read to the justification, Legislator Cilmi, but it's in academicese so I'm not sure I can translate that.

**LEG. CILMI:**

I actually have a justification here. It will provide a multidisciplinary multi-Campus minor with a unique regional public/private four-year college and community college partnership in Energy, Science, Technology and Policy tailored to student and stakeholder needs and unified through online content research opportunities, a dedicated cross institution advisor and broad base mentoring and internship program. Okay.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

I couldn't have said it better myself. There you are.

**LEG. CILMI:**

So explain to me what it is.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

There it is. There it is right there black and white.

**LEG. CILMI:**

What are we paying for? Are we paying for some of our -- a faculty member or what's going on?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

I think it goes -- there's nobody -- there's not an extra faculty member, but this is going to go toward paying for somebody to do this program; somebody at the College.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Is it a program that we're engaged in anyway?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

I can't -- I really can't tell you without bringing somebody from the academic world from the College here, which I could do for the General Meeting. This will go on the Consent Calendar, but I can either get the answers to you privately or through the Chair. But as I say there's no out-of-pocket expense to the Suffolk County taxpayer. That doesn't have an impact on the General Fund. Because it adjusts the budget. It amends the Operating Budget. We come back before the Legislature so --

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Again I'm looking --

**LEG. CILMI:**

What is the --

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Oh, go ahead.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Pardon me. I'm sorry --

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

No, go ahead.

**LEG. CILMI:**

-- Chairwoman. What is the Research Foundation for the State University of New York?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

It is part of SUNY. And it is a separately-funded operation.

**LEG. CILMI:**

And it's a grant award from the National Science Foundation.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Right.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Is that --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

This is coming --

**LEG. CILMI:**

-- a privately-funded --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

And it's coming through Stony Brook so there's a two-year, four-year synergy from the Community College to a four-year school. As students graduate from the Community College with an Associate's degree, this helps them integrate and to go onto a four-year program.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Is the National Science Foundation a privately-funded --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

I think it's federally-funded.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Federally-funded. Okay. You know what? I will -- I will support this, but I'd love to have a better description.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

I will have somebody who -- -

**LEG. CILMI:**

In layman terms of exactly what this is.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

I'll have somebody contact you directly. If there's anybody else who needs it. And Legislator Trotta as well.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Okay. So are we good to go on this? I believe I -- did I make a motion to approve? Yes. Okay. All in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Motion carries. **(VOTE: 6-0-0-0. P.O. GREGORY INCLUDED IN VOTE)**

I see no further business. Committee is adjourned.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 10:53 AM  
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**