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One Commerce Plaza
Suite 402
Albany, NY 12210
Phone: 518.465.7330
Fax: 518.465.0273
Website: lobbywr.com

ROBERT REID | MARCY SAVAGE | KELLY FORSTER | KAYLA BOGDANOWICZ | ELIZABETH REID | MAGGIE SHUGRUE

RMS End of Week Update 8/21/2026



Cindy Schultz for The New York Times

Woman Arrested In Plot To Bomb New York State Capitol

Federal agents and police detectives have arrested a 35-year-old woman who prosecutors say was planning to bomb the New York State Capitol, according to a criminal complaint filed in federal court on Thursday.

The woman, Jessica Bowie, was charged with one count of attempting to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization, according to the complaint. Ms. Bowie told an F.B.I. informant that she had been contemplating an attack “more seriously” in the past four to six months, according to the complaint. She also posted messages of support on social media, including one praising the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and the Pentagon.

In mid-July, an F.B.I. informant pretending to be a “facilitator” began talking with Ms. Bowie about “her plans to attack the New York State Capitol building in Albany,”

according to the complaint. Ms. Bowie told this informant she lived near the Capitol and wanted help building a bomb. According to messages that were included in the complaint, Ms. Bowie wrote to the informant that she wanted to target the New York State Capitol, “ideally in a way I could get away with and hop on a plane after.”

Ms. Bowie appeared in Federal District Court in Albany on Thursday afternoon and was detained by a federal magistrate judge, Daniel J. Stewart, pending a detention hearing.

Governor Kathy Hochul said in a written statement that there was no immediate threat at this time and her administration had taken steps to increase security around the Capitol and other government buildings “amid a rise in political violence and threats against public officials.”

“I’m grateful to the F.B.I. for leading this investigation and to the New York State Police for their work to apprehend this dangerous individual,” she added.

Over the last month, Ms. Bowie scouted the building, which includes Governor Hochul’s office, at least five times. The complaint includes images from security cameras that show someone taking photos of the Capitol building and its surrounding complex.

She told these informants that she wanted to try to “get a good enough explosive in there to kill the senators and ideally to destroy as much of the building as possible,” according to a transcript of a recorded conversation included in the complaint.

Last week, Ms. Bowie asked these informants for help buying a gun, according to the complaint. On Wednesday, they met her in a car to explain how to operate and detonate the bomb she was planning to build. When she exited the vehicle, F.B.I. agents arrested her.

The complaint states that Ms. Bowie told agents in an interview: “There’s no helping me. You guys know enough.” She added that she had found on Google that she faced as many as 20 years in prison if she was convicted of what she was accused of doing, the complaint said.

“My office looks forward to aggressively prosecuting this case and delivering justice for the American people,” John A. Sarcone III, the first assistant U.S. attorney for the Northern District of New York, said in a statement.

To view the full NY Times article please click [here](#).

To view Governor Hochul’s full statement please click [here](#).

Federal Funding Uncertainty Clouds New York's Next Transportation Capital Plan

As New York begins planning its next multibillion-dollar transportation capital program, one question looms over nearly every major transportation project in the state: When will Congress provide certainty about future transportation funding?

New York's current five-year transportation capital plan expires on March 31, 2027. But Congress has not yet approved a long-term successor to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)—the five-year federal law signed in 2021 that authorizes highway, bridge and transit funding through federal fiscal year 2026.

That uncertainty is already beginning to affect transportation projects nationwide. A [recent New York Times](#) report found that as of July the Federal Transit Administration had not signed any new Capital Investment Grant agreement since President Trump returned to office, leaving more than \$7 billion in congressionally appropriated transit funding yet to be obligated. The administration also temporarily paused federal funding for projects including New York's Second Avenue Subway expansion and the Gateway Tunnel before courts ordered funding to resume. Transportation advocates say the delays have made it more difficult for agencies to plan major capital investments and could ultimately drive up construction costs. Because federal dollars support roughly 40 percent of the New York State Department of Transportation's current \$34 billion capital program, the uncertainty is complicating the state's efforts to develop its next long-term transportation plan.

Without knowing how much federal funding will ultimately be available over the next several years, state officials face a difficult choice: move forward with a new long-term capital plan based on uncertain assumptions or temporarily extend the current plan until Washington provides greater clarity.

"The challenge is that New York is trying to plan a multibillion-dollar transportation program without knowing what its federal partner is ultimately going to provide," said Ron Epstein, former executive deputy commissioner of the New York State Department of Transportation and now a senior advisor at Ostroff Associates.

Several industry sources told Under Construction News that if Congress does not act in time, New York may ultimately adopt a one- or two-year extension of its current capital plan before moving to another full five-year program—a step that would be consistent with how the state has responded during previous periods of federal uncertainty.

To view the full article please click [here](#).

August 21, 2026 Capitol Pressroom Interview with Maria Lisi-Murray, Acting Executive Director of the Justice Center for the Protection of People With Special Needs

Asked about the Justice Center's new five-year strategic plan, Lisi-Murray explains that

they are looking in a new specific way at the data with the long-term goal of prevention. Over the last 13 years, they've been looking at prevention at a high level, but they are trying to dive in and identify key areas where they can drill down to a provider level to improve resources, training, toolkits, and more. Their first goal is finding new innovative ways to achieve prevention and their data team is looking at their internal dashboards to determine what additional information they need to get a full understanding of what is happening. They are in the preliminary stages. They're also focusing on the workforce, and despite not having a direct role in hiring and management, they're identifying new opportunities for toolkits, trainings, and ultimately making sure that support and expectations are easily accessible, comprehensive, and digestible.

A part of the five-year plan is refining their internal operations and this is in line with the Governor's efficiency executive order issued to agencies. They closed more cases this past year than in prior years and have been able to do that with smart tools such as computerized tracking systems, centralized intake hotlines, and data analytics. They're also looking at statutory authority and are open to conversations about their scope as there is no agency like the Justice Center across the country.

Their Advisory Council is critical in determining the vision of the agency and their diverse backgrounds and input significantly inform the goals and details of the plan. She spent the first two years of her role largely on the road hearing from providers and learning what the Justice Center can do better, and they are also looking at the Medical Review Board to ensure it consists of experts across many fields.

In the wake of the prison strike, Lisi-Murray confirmed that they are getting the access to prisons that they need to make their reports, but she emphasized that being there in-person at the facility is just one small part of their review. Putting information out to combat negative trends is a part of what they're doing to address staff misconduct and dysfunction, and she is also a big fan of transparency.

Statement Issued By The Northeast Public Health Collaborative On The President's August 10, 2026 Executive Order Regarding Immunizations

The statement said: The Northeast Public Health Collaborative (NEPHC) firmly stands in support of science-based vaccination recommendations. Accordingly, the NEPHC reaffirms its earlier endorsement of the 2026 childhood and adolescent immunization schedules issued by the American Academy of Pediatrics, which have also been endorsed by numerous other medical organizations. These schedules reflect the current scientific evidence on vaccine safety and effectiveness and are based on the specific disease risks and healthcare delivery context in the U.S.

Undermining confidence in the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine – used for over five decades - during the largest measles outbreak in decades will lead to additional measles cases and, potentially, deaths. Immunizations save lives, and parents

should be able to trust that the health recommendations they receive are based on science.

To view the full statement please click [here](#).

Fiscal Year 2026 3rd and 4th Quarter Global Cap Reports Issued

The Medicaid Redesign Team website has been updated to reflect the Fiscal Year 2026 3rd and 4th Quarter Global Cap Reports. The posted reports can be found at: https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/regulations/global_cap/

OMIG Launches Audit Project Fact Sheet Initiative Effort

OMIG's Division of Medicaid Audit (DMA) has commenced its Audit Project Fact Sheet effort, an innovative reporting and communication initiative that promises to bolster agency transparency, data and results reporting, and provider education.

Developed as a mechanism to highlight key audit project results, the fact sheets provide a brief overview of a completed audit project summarizing the purpose of the project, the number of audits conducted, the results of the audits completed, and the most common findings. Going forward, the fact sheets will cover all DMA audit projects and provide specific project-level detail to supplement information contained in the agency's annual report and work plan.

Additionally, the fact sheets will play a key provider-education role, including those organizations that did not receive an audit as part of the project, by highlighting potential compliance risks and areas on which to focus internal reviews.

DMA launched the effort by issuing the following fact sheets:

2018 Managed Care Program Integrity Reviews (MCPIR)

Audits of Mainstream managed care plans for the 2018 calendar year of their compliance with program integrity obligations under their contract with the State.

2020 Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS) Match

Audits of managed care plans for the 2020 calendar year of capitation payments paid for Medicaid beneficiaries living in another state.

The Project Fact Sheets above and additional information about this initiative can be found at: [Audit Project Fact Sheets | Office of the Medicaid Inspector General](#)

Helpful Links and Resources

[2026 RMS HMH End of Session Update](#)
[RMS Revenue and Tax Final Budget Table](#)

RMS Health/Mental Hygiene Final Budget Table
FY 2027 Enacted Budget Financial Plan

Empire State Development Tariff Resource Guide

NYS COVID-19 Monitoring Dashboard

NYS COVID-19 Fatalities Tracker

Eliminating Distractions In Schools Resource

Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Department of Financial Services information and resources

New York COVID-19 Vaccine Information Page

Department of Health

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

COVID-19 Guidance for Medicaid Providers

Office of Mental Health

<https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/covid-19-resources.html>

OPWDD

<https://opwdd.ny.gov/coronavirus-guidance>

State Education Department

<http://www.op.nysed.gov/COVID-19.html>

NYS Department of Labor

<https://dol.ny.gov/>