

2017 Transit Awareness Day Major Points

Following are talking points to use with members of the Executive Branch, the State Legislature, staff, and media.

Transit Supports the State's Economy:

- Every day, New Yorkers make over 9 million trips on public transit to get to work, to businesses and shopping, and to education and health care.
- Businesses and communities are demanding more transit service to meet expanding mobility needs.
- Investment in transit supports economic growth and sustainable communities across the state.

Transit Operating Assistance:

- A state investment of \$15 million will grow transit service in communities across the state to serve new economic development, improve access to jobs and meet growing demand for more service.
- An across the board 2% increase in STOA is also needed to help fund the growth in expenses to operate existing essential services.

Transit Capital Funding:

- We support the Executive Budget appropriation of \$84.5 million in capital funding for non-MTA transit systems that fully funds the 3rd year of the 5-year transit capital program.

Rural Transit:

- \$5.0 m. in state funding from the Department of Health is needed to continue to assist rural counties impacted by the state's Medicaid changes and account for additional counties affected.
- NYPTA recommends a study by NYSDOT and NYSDOH of the full financial impact on transit systems of the state's Medicaid changes, including recommendations to preserve essential rural transit services.
- NYPTA supports legislation that will improve the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Rural Public Transportation.

Transportation Network Companies:

- NYPTA supports legislation authorizing Transportation Network Companies outside NYC and distribution of a portion of revenues to local transit systems.

Upstate Transit Funding:

- NYPTA supports creation of a Temporary Advisory Board on Upstate Transit Funding. A sustainable, growing revenue source is still needed to provide stability and predictability for upstate transit systems.

Importance of Transit in New York State

- NYPTA represents the broad-based transit industry in New York State – NYPTA represents over 100 transit systems across the state, nearly 100 private sector manufacturers and suppliers, and many other community and transit advocate groups.
- The mobility provided by transit supports important state programs – Transit supports economic development, job growth, anti-poverty, housing, energy conservation and environmental protection.
- Demand for transit is growing – Transit ridership is growing across the state and the public is demanding more and better service.
- Transit means jobs -- Transit investment supports over 75,000 transit workers as well as thousands of private sector jobs of manufacturers and suppliers across the state.

New York State Transit Facts

- NYS transit systems carry over 9 million riders each day, providing over 3.8 billion passenger trips annually.
- Transit service is provided in 60 of New York's 62 counties.
- If all of New York's transit systems other than the MTA are combined, they would comprise the 7th largest transit system in the United States.
- Transit provides access to thousands of businesses, expands the labor pool for employers and supports economic development across the state.
- 70% of transit trips are taking residents to or from work.
- Transit is a vital link for more than 3 million New Yorkers with disabilities.
- New York's transit systems employ over 75,000 workers.
- Transit manufacturers and suppliers located across the state create thousands of jobs for New Yorkers.
- Transit buses are manufactured in Plattsburgh; subway and rail cars are built in Plattsburgh, Hornell and Yonkers; paratransit vehicles are outfitted and sold in Dansville and Penn Yan; transit system software is developed in Plainview and Johnson City; vehicle air condition is built in Syracuse.
- Each \$1 billion invested in transit infrastructure supports 22,000 jobs.
- Transit investment has a multiplier effect on the economy, with operating aid providing an economic multiplier of 3.2 for every dollar invested.
- New York's transit systems lessen our dependence on foreign oil and save 1.3 billion gallons of gasoline annually, reducing the state's carbon emissions by over 17 million tons.
- Transit service saves New Yorkers 260 million hours in travel time annually.
- Transit reduces traffic congestion -- Each full transit bus takes up to 60 cars off the road. A full subway car takes up to 200 cars off the road.
- Transit service reduces the need for new roadway and parking infrastructure.