

## 2017-18 STATE BUDGET – NYPTA RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE TRANSIT

### State Transit Operating Assistance (STOA)

The Executive Budget provides flat funding for upstate and downstate transit systems, while the expenses to operate service grow and opportunities for transit to serve new job locations and growing demand are not met.

#### NYPTA Recommends:

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

### Rural Transit Needs

Rural transit systems are still experiencing severe ridership and revenue declines since the state changed the way that non-emergency medical transportation was delivered.

#### NYPTA Recommends:

- \$5.0 m. in state funding from the Department of Health - to continue to assist rural counties impacted by the state's Medicaid changes and account for additional counties impacted.
- Improving the allocation of DOH transition aid - by making the aid available by June 1 each year and using a formula based on each county's share of Medicaid transit aid prior to the state's changes.
- A study by NYSDOT and DOH of the full impact on transit systems of the Medicaid changes - including impacts on transit revenues and service levels, and recommendations to preserve rural transit services.
- Legislation that will improve the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Rural Public Transportation.

### Capital Funding

The Executive Budget appropriates \$84.5 m. in capital aid for transit systems other than the MTA, consistent with the 2016-2020 Transportation Capital Program MOU, and provides \$1.467 b. for the MTA Capital Program.

#### NYPTA Recommends:

- The transit capital funding levels contained in the Executive Budget and allocation of this funding to transit systems no later than June 1 each year.

### Other Legislative Issues

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