



## **Increase Funding for Public Transit in the Final State Budget**

The New York Public Transit Association (NYPTA), which represents transit operators, suppliers and advocates across New York State, thanks the Governor, Senate and Assembly for your commitment to fund public transit in the pending FY 2025-26 state budget. Our members operate services that connect New York communities, providing opportunity that drives economic development. Ridership is rebounding throughout the state, and investments in better services are needed now to build on our success. As you work to finalize the budget, we urge you to provide the maximum funding for transit operations and capital projects as follows:

- **STOA – We appreciate the increases in state operating aid proposed by both houses and urge you to work towards our goal of a 15% STOA increase to all upstate and downstate non-MTA transit systems.**
- **Non-MTA Capital – We appreciate the increases in capital funding proposed by both houses and urge you to provide \$319.5 million in capital funding to non-MTA transit systems.**
- **Dedicated Funding - Provide sustainable, dedicated funding to upstate transit systems so they can maintain and expand transit service.**
- **MTA Capital Program - Fully fund the \$68.4 billion MTA 2025-2029 Capital Program.**
- **Rural Transit - Provide \$6 million in state aid from the DOH budget to rural transit systems impacted by the state’s Medicaid transportation policy.**

Transit services benefit everyone throughout New York, in upstate and downstate communities; those who ride, and those who do not, by:

- Lowering gas costs as transit riders reduce the demand for gasoline.
- Reducing air pollution from fewer motor vehicles on the road, and less traffic congestion in cities.
- Transporting our neighbors who cannot or choose not to drive, to work, medical appointments, shopping, and social activities.
- Supporting local economies by providing workers and customers with low-cost alternatives to driving.
- Supporting economic development by providing employers with access to workers; generating new revenues for local government.
- Employing our neighbors working in the transit industry or supplying goods and services.

**These wide-ranging benefits of public transit justify increased financial support for more and better transit services across New York state.**

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