INVEST IN TRANSIT TO ACCELERATE NEW YORK’S ECONOMY
THE IMPORTANCE OF TRANSIT TO NEW YORK’S ECONOMY

Transit is the lifeblood of economic development in New York. It provides access and connectivity that makes New York move and the economy flourish. Across the state, people are demanding better connections and more travel options for work, education, shopping, healthcare and recreation. Changes in ridership, geography and travel markets are placing new demands on transit – to address changing travel patterns, and meet travel needs in urban and rural areas.

The State’s transformative initiatives, focused on the economy, poverty, energy and the environment are working, and transit can accelerate the impacts. Transit systems want to support increasing transportation demands that this success is generating, and provide travel options that communities deserve, and businesses need, to grow and thrive in the 21st century.

SUMMARY

• Across New York State, businesses and the public want better connections and more travel options for work, education, shopping, healthcare and recreation.

• We need to reimagine transit – to provide the services necessary to respond to changing travel needs and grow the economy.

• A multi-year investment plan that increases state funding in transit service will accelerate improvements and provide more options to respond to community demand.

• Increased investment in transit service will complement state and local priorities, including anti-poverty, economic development, environmental sustainability and smart growth initiatives.

• Providing a greater level of access and mobility will ignite job growth and drive the long-term success of our state and local economies.

Significant and meaningful investment in transit service will complement and sustain the state’s successful efforts.

• Transit systems accelerate the impact of economic development.

• The state’s success has increased transportation demands, as employment grows and the economy thrives.

• Transit operators are developing innovative options that communities and businesses need, to grow and prosper.

• Public Transportation is Green Transportation. It lowers our carbon footprint and supports the Governor’s green energy goals.

• Transit is a key driver of employment growth. Most transit customers rely on services to get to jobs and provide for their families.

• Expanded services means opportunity for people who need it most.
A PLAN TO ACCELERATE TRANSIT IMPROVEMENTS ACROSS THE STATE

A Reimagined Transit System Can Accelerate Success

We need to reimagine transit - to provide the services necessary to respond to changing travel needs and grow the economy. A multi-year investment plan that increases state investment in transit service will accelerate improvements. Such a plan will allow upstate and suburban downstate transit systems to provide the quality of service that responds to increasing demands from businesses and communities, increase access to new employment opportunities, and spur growth in jobs and economic development. The outcome will be high-quality transit service across the state, similar to the vision the Governor has outlined for a reimagined MTA.

A multi-year investment plan will:

- Serve as a catalyst for economic development and job growth
- Respond to changing travel needs and increasing travel demands
- Provide flexible funding to meet local conditions
- Support the work that transit systems do with Regional Economic Development Councils
- Complement Downtown Revitalization Grants that drive growth in upstate communities
INVESTMENT ACTIONS — WHAT WILL THIS FUNDING DO?

**Increased Transit Investment Will Have Wide-Ranging Benefits**

Implementation of a multi-year plan to increase transit investment will have wide-ranging impacts that transform transit service and provide community benefits:

- Expand services by extending routes; adding night/weekend service, improving frequency
- Reverse service cuts implemented during the 2008 recession
- Provide connections to new and growing employment centers
- Implement Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) to improve capacity on high volume routes
- Deploy modern technology - real-time information; smart card/mobile ticketing; in-vehicle WiFi
- Foster linkages and develop complementary service agreements between transit operators across the state
- Create partnerships with other travel options - bike-sharing; car-sharing; and ride-sourcing services like Uber and Lyft

**Here’s what’s possible across the state...**

**Buffalo Region** - Increase peak bus and rail service; expand service to economic activity centers and regional tourism attractions; accelerate technology deployment (WiFi, real-time schedule information, mobile ticketing).

**Rochester Region** - Create downtown circulator route to connect business districts and tourist hubs; increase frequencies on trunk routes; create suburban circulator service; expand mobility options (bike-sharing, car-sharing, TNCs); provide mobile payment options and WiFi.

**Capital Region** - Expand BRT network; increase frequencies on trunk routes; add service to medical campuses and high-tech centers; expand downtown shuttles to link business districts with hotels and attractions; fully integrate automated payment systems across all services.

**Central New York** - Increase frequency of service in Syracuse and suburbs; restore services in Utica; reconfigure and expand service to growing employment centers; provide mobile ticketing; dedicated airport service to downtown Syracuse.

**Broome County** - Expand service to new employers and growing industrial and distribution hubs in Broome, Tioga and Chenango counties.

**Westchester County** - Increase service on high-volume routes; add weekend service; add mid-day express service to Westchester Community College.

**Nassau County** - Increase service frequency on heavily used routes; improve connectivity to LIRR; extend paratransit service county-wide; provide new service to growing areas like Port Washington; initiate new demand responsive, crowd-sourced service.
Outcomes from increased investment

Increased investment in transit service achieves significant outcomes that complement State and local government priorities, including:

- Innovative services and more travel options
- Strategic expansion that connects people with good-paying jobs
- Enhanced appeal and livability of small urban and rural communities
- New technology that increases efficiency and meets customers’ demand
- Retain millennials to boost the state and local economy
- Support the SUNY system, as students account for millions of transit rides each year
- Reduce traffic congestion and energy use
- Support the State’s anti-poverty, economic development, environmental sustainability and smart growth initiatives.
OUR TRACK RECORD OF SUCCESS

Transit Can Build Upon Recent Examples of Success

Transit systems are at the forefront of innovation. They recognize their responsibility to evaluate the efficiency of their organization before asking for financial assistance from customers and government. They look for opportunities to support communities while providing safe and reliable service every day. Transit systems are forming innovative partnerships with businesses and universities to meet demands for additional service and revenue.

New investment can build on transit’s success in supporting state and local development and community priorities. Following are recent examples of how transit systems have worked to address changing demands for service:

**Access to Jobs:**
- **Buffalo:** NFTA Metro extended bus service on two major routes into the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus to support campus growth (where employment is projected to exceed 20,000 jobs by 2020), jobs access, economic activity and address neighborhood quality of life issues associated with traffic and parking.
- **Rochester:** RGRTA customized service to support the Maximus call center employment goal of 2,500 workers, adding service during the week to accommodate shift times. Maximus subsidizes additional weekend service. Reaching these employment goals was not possible without public transportation.
- **Capital Region:** CDTA customized service to support Albany International Airport’s continued growth, adding service to insure all shift employees have access to public transit. Albany International Airport subsidizes the additional service and is a member in the popular Universal Access program.

**Economic Development:**
- **Capital Region:** CDTA has extended bus service to Mohawk Harbor in Schenectady to support one of the region’s largest new development sites. Two bus routes serve the facility and CDTA has partnered on a Universal Access program with Rivers Casino and Resort to insure their 1,100 employees have the best mobility options.
- **Central New York:** Centro added summer seasonal service to Lakeview Amphitheater, Loop the Lake bike trail and New York State Fairgrounds, and to the recently constructed Township 5 retail location in Camillus.

**Access to Education:**
- **Rochester:** RGRTA created a bus route to provide direct service from the RTS Transit Center to a new Downtown campus for Monroe Community College (MCC). MCC subsidizes a portion of the cost so that students, faculty and staff can ride to school without paying a fare by showing their MCC ID.
- **Westchester:** Bee-Line Bus extended service to Westchester Community College, increasing opportunities for students developing skills and job training for the labor force.

**Anti-Poverty:**
- **Central New York:** Centro increased service to grocery stores from lower income areas on Syracuse’s south side.
INVESTING IN TRANSIT WILL ACCELERATE NEW YORK’S GROWTH

New York benefits from the more than 100 transit systems throughout the State. Increasing investment in transit delivers more connections and better, safer and more reliable service. With the economy poised for continued expansion, now is the time to invest in transit. Providing more mobility will ignite job growth and drive the long-term success of our state and local economies.
PUBLIC TRANSIT TAKES US THERE
Map of New York State Public Transit Systems

Over 100 Public Transportation Systems around the state serve our communities and play a significant role in finding solutions. Whether it’s more jobs, a cleaner environment, energy independence or a better quality of life, public transportation takes us there!

For more information, visit the New York Public Transit Association online at: www.nytransit.org

Transit Means JOBS!

These New York State businesses play a crucial role in providing innovative products and services to public transportation and are key contributors to the State’s financial health.

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Businesses all over NYS contribute to the public transit industry and provide thousands of jobs.

Cummins, Inc.
Albany, Syracuse, Buffalo and Jamestown, NY
1,450 Employees

Seifert Transit Graphics
Oriskany, NY
Certified NYS WBE