New Yorkers for Better Public Transit is a coalition of people from all corners of the state, representing a variety of interests, who want to see greater investment in New York’s public transit systems.

Public transit is a critical component of my community’s infrastructure, is essential for mobility, and a driver of growth in our local economy.

Transit is how people connect to jobs, health care, shopping, education, job training and recreational activities.

Without increased funding, our state’s transit services will shrink, ridership will decline, and thousands of New Yorkers will be left at the curb.

Our goal is to work together, and with our elected leaders in Albany, to secure a 50 percent increase in public transit funding over the next five years.

When tied to inflation, funding for New York’s public transit systems has been held flat for years.

This has made it increasingly difficult for transit systems to adapt to changing lifestyles, new technologies and new mobility options.

It has also made it difficult to meet the growing needs of customers who continue to want more than public transit can currently provide.

There has been much publicity regarding funding of the MTA system in New York City, but my transit system deserves increased funding too.

We need to transform our transit services to provide greater access and allow our community to be successful.

Transit service needs to be more frequent and reach more destinations where people need to travel.

21st Century transit service needs to provide modern features like real-time schedule information, smart card fare payment, mobile ticketing, and WiFi.

Transit service needs to be integrated with other travel options like bike-sharing, van pooling, on-demand services and Transportation Network Companies such as Uber and Lyft.

Transit funding is needed statewide so that no area, including my community, is left behind and that all communities can continue to grow and prosper.

www.ny4bettertransit.com