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 economic recovery and growth. Transit is how people connect to jobs, health care, shopping, education, job training and recreational activities. Transit has proven itself as essential to their communities during the pandemic by providing transportation for essential workers, delivering meals to senior homes and community centers, and even serving as shelters for COVID-19 testing sites. Transit systems are implementing innovations to provide more travel options and make transit easier to use. Services are being re-imagined and there is a commitment to build back better coming out of the pandemic. Robust transit service supports growth in the economy, addresses climate change, improves social equity, and moves people from poverty to prosperity. Capital funding is vital to replacing over-age vehicles, improving infrastructure, and ensuring safety. New funds are needed to support a transition to electric vehicles to meet climate change and energy goals. Transit infrastructure investment creates economic stimulus and jobs.

Our goal is to work together, and with our elected leaders in Albany, to secure increased funding for transit systems. Robust transit service and the connections it provides can be a catalyst for a strong economic recovery and returning vibrancy to our communities. A cut in transit funding would make it increasingly difficult for transit systems to continue to transport essential workers and help the economy recover from the Coronavirus pandemic.

Public transportation is essential to economic recovery and growth, keeping riders and communities safe, and essential workers serving the public. Transit agencies are making transit easier to use by providing new technology like real-time schedule information, smart card fare payment, mobile ticketing, and Wi-Fi. 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. Robust transit service supports growth in the economy, addresses climate change, improves social equity, and moves people from poverty to prosperity. Accelerating investment in transit will accelerate these benefits at this critical time. Without increased funding, our state’s transit services will shrink, and thousands of New Yorkers will be left at the curb.