

June 16, 2025

The Honorable Representative Joanna E. McClinton  
Speaker of the House  
149 South 60th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19139-3093

Dear Speaker McClinton and Pennsylvania House Democratic Caucus,

The undersigned 22 organizations, on behalf of our members and supporters across Pennsylvania, are writing to you today to urge you to **support full funding for Pennsylvania's statewide public transit systems as a top priority in state budget negotiations.**

Governor Shapiro has made a significant and essential [proposal](#) to tackle transit's immediate and urgent fiscal crisis. We also recognize the need to secure additional support for public transit given the significant statewide need for sustained and robust funding. There are several commonsense and achievable tax reforms that were introduced together as the [Transit for All package](#). These merit consideration as part of a comprehensive strategy to fully fund our transit systems statewide.

**Dedicated funding will support mobility and access for all Pennsylvanians** across the state's 52 transit systems and 67 counties. Public transit is a cornerstone of Pennsylvania's economy and climate leadership. Without timely funding, public transit systems will face catastrophic cuts to service and drastically reduce transportation access for all Pennsylvanians.

**Transit agencies face an existential crisis statewide.** Pittsburgh Regional Transit (PRT) announced cuts to fixed route service of up to 35% with an additional 9% increase in fares. This is on top of 20% service cuts over just the last 5 years in Allegheny County. Without proposed funding, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) will be forced to make drastic cuts to service to close a \$213 million gap. Transit service will see across-the-board fare increases of 21.5% and SEPTA will need to eliminate 32 bus routes, shorten or reduce service to an additional 75, and cut 13 regional rail lines. Without your timely support, some of these lines, including the Paoli/Thorndale, Wilmington/Newark, Trenton, Chestnut Hill West, and Cynwyd lines, will be eliminated entirely. The Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority (LANTA) announced projected 20% service cuts coupled with 25% fare increases. The South Central Transit Authority, which oversees BARTA in Berks and Lancaster counties, [reported](#) a major funding deficit that will significantly impact service.

**Public transit is a critical resource for all Pennsylvanians.** Public transit service currently operates in every single county in Pennsylvania. Funding would support transit services that serve over 1 million riders daily in urban, suburban, and rural Pennsylvania. That includes [shared ride](#) and dial-a-ride for elderly people and people with disabilities as well as bus services that provide vital connections for our state's rural communities.

**Pennsylvanians need public transit to reach work, school, and essential services.**

Public transit supports job creation, job access, and [significant economic growth](#). Undermining public transit will shrink Pennsylvania's economy and make it harder for everyday Pennsylvanians to get to work with limited transportation choices. Without SEPTA, commuters [will also face heavier traffic](#) with the equivalent of 275,000 additional cars on our roads daily. Supply trucks will face longer travel times of on average 20% leading to increased costs and delays for Pennsylvania businesses. PRT is also a [major economic driver](#), supporting 40,000 jobs statewide and generating \$100 million in tax revenue. PRT is the chosen mode of transit for more than 130,000 trips each weekday that would otherwise be taken by car. **Funding public transportation is fiscally responsible governance that stimulates the economy and supports workers.**

**Public transit is a climate and public health solution in all 67 Pennsylvania counties.**

Public transit trips significantly reduce pollution and improve the quality of the air we breathe. Public transit also reduces greenhouse gas emissions essential to combatting climate change, which is itself a pressing public health threat. Extreme heat caused by climate change exacerbates health challenges for the most vulnerable populations, including children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.

**Public transit is essential for Pennsylvania combatting climate change through public transit operations**, further reducing air and carbon pollution. As one example, all SEPTA buses are electric or hybrid-electric vehicles, with a goal of achieving a zero-emission bus fleet by 2040. Funding is essential to continue these efforts.

The cuts to statewide public transit service that will result from inaction will harm our entire commonwealth. **We cannot afford to let our transit services fail. We ask that you commit to securing dedicated funding as a top budget priority.**

Respectfully submitted,



Chestnut Hill  
United Church



