



February 21, 2025

**Governor Kathy Hochul**  
**Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie**  
**Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins**  
**Senate Transportation Committee Chair Jeremy Cooney**  
**Assembly Transportation Committee Chair William Magnarelli**

Public Transportation provides a critical service to residents of Rochester and Monroe County, ensuring jobs, healthcare, childcare and critical services are within reach for the ¼ of City residents and 11% of county residents that do not own a car. Choosing to ride the bus over driving your car is more affordable and reduces our community's air pollution.

Rochesterians and residents of Monroe County need more affordable transportation options than we have today. The State of New York's funding to public transportation can put as much as \$4,000 a year back in the pockets of people who choose to ride the bus over using a private vehicle according to RMI.

We, the undersigned community organizations, call on the State of New York to fully fund the requests of the Rochester-Genesee Regional Transit Authority (RGRTA) and the New York Public Transit Association specific to our region:

**STOA Program Recommendations**

- Increase Non-MTA STOA appropriations by 15% from 2024-25 levels to begin to expand transit services across the State.

**Capital Funding Recommendations**

**Multiyear Capital Program**

- Include \$1 billion over 5 years to fund Non-MTA facility needs as part of the MTA plan.

**FY 2025-26 Budget**

- Enact the Governor's proposed \$219.5 million capital funding for non-MTA systems.



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- Provide an additional \$100 to non-MTA transit in 2025-26 as part of the funding package for the MTA Capital Plan.

### **STOA Hold Harmless**

- Continue the STOA Formula Hold Harmless to maintain state operating support to transit systems that have not yet achieved pre-Covid ridership levels.

### **Dedicated Revenue for Transit**

- Dedicate revenue from the Cap and Invest Program to fund transit systems statewide.
- Establish a state commission to address the limited dedicated revenue sources that fund non-MTA transit systems.

In addition, we are calling on the state to **expand fare-capping programs, EBT integration programs, and free fare programs**. Because equity is at the heart of community vibrancy, we **support Senator Cooney's proposal for a new \$5 million Workforce Transit Equity Fund** to better connect workers to job opportunities and combat poverty across our state in this year's budget. Finally, we support **Assembly Member Bronson's bill to require publicly funded economic development projects to establish a public transportation access fund**.

The incoming federal administration is likely to roll back transportation funding, leaving the most vulnerable New Yorkers, our economy and environment, behind. However, if you build a robust, frequent and reliable transit system in Rochester and Monroe County, people will come to ride and our region's residents will thrive as a result. **Together, we can create an affordable and sustainable New York where all New Yorkers can get where they need to go.**

### **Signed By:**

**Cody Donahue**, Director of Policy & Advocacy  
Reconnect Rochester

**Aqua Porter**, Executive Director  
Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative

**Graham Hughes**, Director of Policy & Advocacy  
Climate Solutions Accelerator of the  
Genesee-Finger Lakes Region

**Mike Bulger**, Director of Whole Child Health  
Advocacy  
Healthi Kids Coalition