

# STATEWIDE TRANSIT ACTION PLAN



There is a transformation taking place in the world of transportation. New mobility options including car-sharing, bike-sharing, on-demand services, and transportation network companies like Uber and Lyft are increasing in availability and use. Technology is changing the way we travel, allowing us to request, track and pay for trips with a mobile device. Autonomous vehicles may be more prevalent in the future.

At the same time, businesses and the public are demanding more from public transit. They want new transit service, more frequency, more access to more destinations, and access to technology. Our communities want an array of travel options to improve livability and attract high-tech business and smart development. Revitalizing our urban downtowns is a statewide priority. Strong public transit is the backbone for success.

New York State should implement a **Statewide Transit Action Plan** to transform public transit by reimagining transit systems and how they are funded, to ensure a brighter future for all of New York's communities.

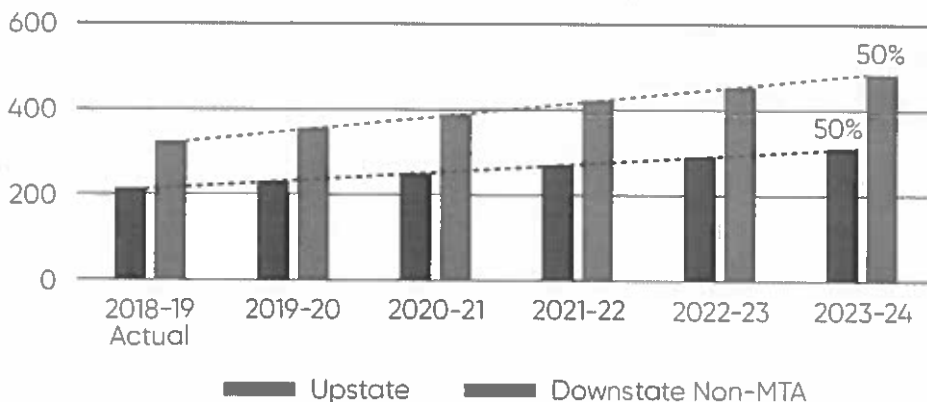
We are one state. All communities deserve adequate investment that provides sustainable transit service. A funding plan that invests in the MTA, suburban and upstate transit systems will drive increased mobility and growth in communities across the state, and not leave any area behind.

## → STATEWIDE TRANSIT ACTION PLAN PROPOSAL

- 1 Provide adequate, recurring funding for the MTA through Congestion Pricing and other dedicated funding sources to address long-term capital and operating needs.
- 2 Increase transit operating aid for non-MTA transit systems by 50% over the next 5 years, starting with a 10% increase in the 2019-20 state budget. The plan would add \$20.6 M. for upstate transit and \$32.4 M. for downstate non-MTA transit in 2019-20.

### STATEWIDE TRANSIT ACTION PLAN

(Millions of Dollars)



## → A STATEWIDE TRANSIT ACTION PLAN ENSURES THE SUCCESS OF MANY STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAMS

Investment that transforms transit enhances the success of state programs and goals including:

- Economic development and job creation
- Growing tourism
- Downtown revitalization
- Clean energy
- Poverty to prosperity
- Climate change and protecting the environment
- Affordable housing
- Improving health and wellness
- Sustainability and smart growth

## → WHY A STATEWIDE PLAN?

The way New York funds transit no longer produces the results customers and communities expect and will not sustain current services:

- The MTA system needs increased resources to improve service reliability, add capacity and address an aging infrastructure.
- Businesses and New Yorkers across the state are demanding more service, connections and technology, far outpacing the State's current investment in transit.
- New mobility options are emerging, and a strong transit network is the backbone.
- Younger workers and growing high-tech businesses want to locate where there is robust transit.
- Status quo funding will result in less transit service and leave Upstate communities behind the economic resurgence.
- Implementing a Statewide Transit Action Plan will provide sustainable transit services, support economic growth and provide balance to increased investment needed by the MTA.

## → DESCRIBING THE ACTION PLAN

- A stronger economy due to improved access to jobs, job training, education, healthcare, retail and recreational destinations
- Additional capacity and improved reliability on MTA's subway, bus and commuter rail networks
- More/new/transformed transit service - expanded routes, more frequencies, BRT
- New technology - real-time information, mobile fare payment, integrated trip planning apps
- New mobility options/partnerships - bike-share, car-share, on-demand services TNC coordination, employee shuttles
- Expanded traffic signal priority for buses with NYSDOT and local governments
- Introduction of electric vehicles into transit fleets



## OUTCOMES FROM INCREASED INVESTMENT

- More mobility and connections in communities across the state
- Shorter travel times, improved reliability and greater regional access
- Support for business growth and jobs, boosting local economies
- Reduced poverty in upstate cities by providing greater access to jobs and training
- Improved livability, transit-oriented development and smart growth
- Sustainable communities, revitalized downtowns, fewer cars, healthy lifestyle



## WITHOUT STATEWIDE ACTION

Current funding constraints will lead to:

- Less transit service that serves a smaller local geography
- Increased auto use, traffic congestion and pollution
- Loss of younger workers, new development opportunities and jobs
- Less mobility for transit dependent population including seniors, those with low incomes and persons with disabilities
- More people left waiting at the curb

# WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED WITH A STATEWIDE TRANSIT ACTION PLAN



Transit systems across New York State have specific plans and projects that can be achieved with increased investment. Following are some improvements in transit service that are possible:

## → WESTERN NEW YORK: NFTA WILL:

- Add service to alleviate peak congestion on crowded routes, reduce pass-ups, and improve reliability;
- Increase weeknight access to more employment opportunities;
- Expand service to improve geographic coverage of job centers and destinations;
- Reduce reliance on capital funds to support operations and invest in capital projects that improve the convenience and dependability of the region's transit system through implementation of new technologies;
- Add internal capacity to support new technology maintenance, asset management, data analytics, transit-oriented development, and information technology.

### **Customer Benefits:**

- Many bus routes would have their afternoon peak service extended past 6 p.m.
- Suburban activity centers, currently served only during traditional work hours, would get service extended into the evening;
- New bus shelters would be constructed throughout the system at heavily used bus stops;
- Bus routes serving major transfer locations would get more frequent service to shorten wait times;
- Provides funding to operate expanded rail service in the future.

## → ROCHESTER REGION: RGRTA WILL IMPLEMENT "REIMAGINE RTS" WHICH WILL:

- Improve route frequency on weekends to encourage week-long travel;
- Extend hours of service earlier in the morning and later at night;
- Expand the number of frequent routes by 50 percent to improve the entire system;
- Ensure mobility solutions in suburban and rural areas are more robust;
- Implement technologies that integrate various mobility solutions for travel planning and payment
- Make the necessary upgrades to our campus to add up to 20 electric buses to our fleet.

### **Customer Benefits:**

- 95% of current customers will have faster, more direct service with shorter wait times;
- 64% of current customers and 23% of all Monroe County residents will have access to more routes with 15-minute service;
- Transit service will start earlier and end later each day so that customers in second- and third-shift jobs have better access;
- Better access to jobs for the 41% of households in Monroe County that are in poverty or struggling to afford basic needs;
- Ten new connection hubs with real-time information will provide customers with easy connections between fixed-route buses, microtransit, ride sharing, car sharing, bike sharing and vanpool options.



## **CENTRAL NEW YORK: CNYRTA WILL:**

- Increase frequency of service in Syracuse and suburbs;
- Restore prior services in Utica;
- Reconfigure and expand service to new and growing employment centers to continue to address poverty issues in our community;
- Provide mobile ticketing;
- Provide dedicated airport service from downtown Syracuse.

### **Customer Benefits:**

- More frequent service in Syracuse, every 20 minutes rather than 40 minutes, in the urban core during midday to get people to service industry jobs;
- New service to serve 2nd shift jobs located outside Syracuse's urban core;
- Greater frequencies on routes in Utica, from 30 minutes to 20 minutes, in the urban core during midday to get people to service industry jobs;
- New service targeting the Hancock Airpark corridor and Northern Boulevard – neither of which currently have existing public transit service;
- Express service initially supporting workers at the Syracuse Airport with potential to expand service for general population use;
- Allow customers to use smart phones to pay transit fares.



## **CAPITAL DISTRICT: CDTA WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP THEIR TRANSIT SYSTEM TO BE MORE CONVENIENT FOR CUSTOMERS, BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS INCLUDING:**

- Increase frequencies and widen service spans on heavily used routes;
- Expand Universal Access fare arrangements with major regional employers;
- Expand downtown connector services to support the hospitality industry;
- Improve and expand the CDPHP regional bikeshare program which connects a new mode of transportation with CDTA transit services;
- Purchase and pilot 4 electric buses and charging technology in the next 12 months, provide for immediate expandability based on the results of the pilot;
- Expedite new Bus Rapid Transit services on the River Corridor and the Washington/Western Corridor that include intelligent transportation technologies;
- Expand signal priority, traffic calming, real time schedule information, mobile and smart card payment systems.

### **Customer Benefits:**

- More frequent service on heavily used routes, every 10-15 minutes, impacting the majority of CDTA's route network and making it more attractive to more than 700,000 people;
- More Universal Access arrangements with employers with 250+ employees in locations with good transit service and access;
- Connect people with urban downtowns which are now home to 75% of the region's residents and many business start-ups;
- More bike stations and partnerships with colleges and major employers to bring the program closer to potential users;
- The new 40-mile Bus Rapid Transit network will serve close to 75% of the region's employment centers and provide more than 10 million trips annually;
- New technology that makes regional travel seamless for customers;
- Introduce CDTA's micro transit on-demand program designed to better serve customers and reduce operating costs in low volume locations.

## → WESTCHESTER COUNTY: THE BEE-LINE WILL:

- Increase service on high volume routes including service between the Bronx and Getty Square in Yonkers and the Bronx and White Plains;
- Increase the span and frequency of service on weekends;
- Add mid-day service to Westchester Community College;
- Modernize the bus dispatching and vehicle locator system.

### **Customer Benefits:**

- Strengthen intermodal travel opportunities between Westchester County and the Bronx, comprising about 23% of Bee-Line Passengers;
- More opportunities for shift workers requiring transportation in the early morning and late-night hours to access places of employment for the 70% of Bee-Line passengers that do not have access to a personal vehicle;
- Increase opportunities and better connectivity to New York City and elsewhere in the MTA commuter shed for the nearly one third of Bee-Line riders who currently transfer to a Bee-Line Bus, MTA subway, MTA bus or MTA commuter rail line;
- More service will increase access to jobs and education for the approximately 80% of riders who use the Bee-Line system to travel to workplaces, schools, or workforce training;
- Real-time information and up-to-the-minute service alerts will become available to the public.

## → NASSAU COUNTY: NICE BUS WILL:

- Increase service frequency on heavily used routes increasing access to jobs;
- Extend afternoon and evening service to support shift workers, 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.

### **Customer Benefits:**

- Over 1.3 million Nassau County residents will have quick and easy access to frequent transit buses running every 10 minutes or better in peak periods and every 15 minutes or better in off-peak periods – an increase of 45% over today's frequent coverage;
- 25% more low income residents would have access to frequent routes;
- 45% of all residents would have access to frequent routes;
- Nearly 825,000 jobs will be accessible to Nassau County residents via buses running every 10 minutes or better in peak periods and every 15 minutes or better in off-peak periods, an increase of 31% over today's frequent coverage;
- 31% more residents would have better access to jobs.

## → SOUTHERN TIER: IN BROOME COUNTY, BC TRANSIT WILL:

- Expand work commuter service to underserved areas such as the Kirkwood/Conklin Industrial area, distribution hubs and area nursing facilities;
- Implement a modern fare collection system that allows prepayment, proximity card payment, and mobile ticketing and payment;
- Compensate for operating expenses that have exceeded inflationary increases, such as fuel cost, healthcare and employee benefits.

## → FINGER LAKES: IN TOMPKINS COUNTY, TCAT WILL:

- Increase bus fleet by 15-20% and address the maintenance needs of buses that are beyond their life-expectancy;
- Increase bus frequency and service span to meet increases in housing and employment;
- Install new fare collection system with mobile fare payment;
- Improve connectivity with various modes of transportation;
- Develop a community-based urban circulator system;
- Provide faster bus service by expanding traffic signal priority for buses;
- Begin transition to an electric bus fleet.

### **Customer Benefits:**

- More service will reduce crowding on heavily traveled routes and provide access to jobs with non-traditional work hours;
- New buses will provide more comfortable rides to customers;
- Electric buses will reduce GHG emissions, fuel and maintenance costs and provide sustainable transportation in our community;
- First-mile, last-mile services will provide better access to jobs and essential services for transportation vulnerable households in areas without transit service;
- Mobile Fare Payment will attract more riders – especially a younger demographic who find the current fare options inconvenient;
- Faster, more reliable service, especially in areas with traffic congestion.

**NEW  
YORKERS  
FOR BETTER  
PUBLIC  
TRANSIT**

