

May 16, 2025

Lt. Governor Davis
President of the Pennsylvania Senate
Room 200 Main Capital
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3033

Dear Lt. Governor Davis,

We are the elected leaders of Delaware County's 49 municipalities. We write to you with one voice urging you to support SEPTA's budget increase request.

SEPTA plays a vital role in the economic vitality of Southeastern Pennsylvania. Lack of adequate funding to support SEPTA will result in major service cuts and fare increases causing an unprecedented negative impact on the Commonwealth's economy, tax revenues, employment, housing values and overall prosperity. This is not a rural or an urban problem. This is not a Southeastern Pennsylvania problem. The lack of necessary support from the Pennsylvania legislature will be catastrophic for the entire Commonwealth.

As one of the largest transit systems in the country, SEPTA connects residents to jobs, schools, healthcare, and other essential services. It serves as a lifeline for individuals who do not own a car, those who are elderly or disabled, and residents choosing a more sustainable or economical means of travel. Furthermore, the cuts under consideration would put in financial peril our beloved sports teams, our hospitals and healthcare systems, as well as our institutions of higher learning, all of which depend on after hours public transportation in order to thrive.

Beyond providing basic mobility, SEPTA and other public transit are major factors in the economic health of our municipalities by supporting small business, attracting employers, enabling access to a wider labor market, and encouraging tourism by helping visitors move throughout the Commonwealth with ease. In addition, public transit has an enormously positive impact on the environment by improving air quality and lowering greenhouse gas emissions. This is an increasingly urgent priority as we face down the climate crisis.

The local impact of SEPTA's cuts will reverberate statewide. More than any other region in the Commonwealth, Southeastern Pennsylvania powers our state. The five-county region generates 41 percent of the state's economic activity with 32 percent of its population on just five percent of its land. The region generates \$13.3 billion (38 percent) of the total tax revenues to the state general fund. Only robust public transit can generate this much economic productivity in this small geographic footprint¹.

Public transit is not a luxury, it is a necessity. Now is the time to ensure SEPTA has the funding it needs to not only maintain current service, but to expand and modernize infrastructure for the future. As the municipal leaders of Delaware County, we urge you to support legislation and budget measures that prioritize long-term, dedicated funding for SEPTA. This is an investment

¹ House Democratic Policy Committee Hearing Keeping PA's Economy Moving Forward Wednesday, March 5, 2025, p.2.

in equity, sustainability, and prosperity for all residents of our Commonwealth. Every dollar invested in public transit more than pays for itself.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter and for your service to the people of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Jill Bennett Giaeski
Swarthmore Borough President

Judy Trombetta
President of the Board of Commissioners Haverford Township

Bernice- Clark Dickerson
Morton Borough President

Jeffrey Rudolph
President of the Board of Commissioners Springfield Township

Maggy Myers
Board President and Ward 2 Commissioner, Radnor Township

Kaitlin McKenzie, Nether
Nether Providence Township President of the Board of Commissioners

Shirley Purcival
Parkside Borough President

Jody Roberts
Rutledge Borough Council President

Ronald Gravina
Chair of the Board of Supervisors Edgemont Township

Matt Sullivan
President of Rose Valley Borough Council

Joseph G. Papaleo
Folcroft Borough Council President

Robert Curry
President, Lansdowne Borough Council

Michael J. Higgins
President of the Board of Commissioners Aston Township

Tanya Allen
Sharon Hill Borough Council President

Calvin Bernard
Chairman, Chester Township Supervisors

Bibianna Dussling
Middletown Township Council Chair

James P. Kelly
Chairman, Thornbury Township Supervisors (Delaware County)

Lindsay Crosby
East Lansdowne Council President

CC: Governor Shapiro
Sen. Joe Pittman
Sen. Jay Costa
Sen. Judy Ward
Sen. Marty Flynn
Rep. Jesse Tropper
Rep. Matthew Bradford
Rep. Scott Martin
Rep. Vincent Hughes
Scott A. Sauer, SEPTA