

RESOLUTION NO. 2722

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) is critical to southeastern Pennsylvania's regional economy and tax base, to traffic management, and to the ability of Doylestown Township residents to move around the region; and

WHEREAS, SEPTA directly serves the residents and businesses within Doylestown Township, which helps people commute to work, school, visit friends and family, travel to shops and businesses, theaters, sports events as well as meet their day-to-day transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, SEPTA also reduces regional traffic and increases property values and the tax base within its service area, benefiting our residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, SEPTA has made significant progress on improving the system's safety, cleanliness, and efficiency, with the largest SEPTA police force in over a decade, over 700 cleaning and maintenance personnel, and a cost to operate bus and train service that is meaningfully lower than peer transit systems; and

WHEREAS, despite this progress, funding for SEPTA has stagnated while costs have escalated, a situation that threatens to completely eliminate five Regional Rail lines and 50 bus routes as well as imposing 20 percent service cuts on the remaining system and increasing fares for riders by over 20 percent; and

WHEREAS, this crisis would significantly impact local Township residents and businesses by reducing service on the R5 Regional Rail Line; and

WHEREAS, this transit funding crisis would also lead to major impacts on non-riders as well, including an estimated 275,000 additional cars on roads across southeastern Pennsylvania and an estimated \$19.9 billion total loss in property values from transit service cuts across Montgomery, Delaware, Bucks, Chester, and Philadelphia counties; and

WHEREAS, this is estimated to cost Bucks County's municipalities, school districts, and county government a combined \$3 million annually in lost property tax revenues – and would likely lead to higher property tax rates on local residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors envisions a different future in which local, regional, and state policymakers work together to address this transit funding crisis, avert the impending impacts to traffic congestion, property values, and the regional tax base, and provide the funding needed to ensure safe, frequent, and reliable SEPTA service; and

WHEREAS, the Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors believes it is critical that the Pennsylvania Governor and the General Assembly budget for transit, and is committed to working together with our local, regional, and state partners to deliver transit solutions that serve our residents and businesses and improve our quality of life; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

That the Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors urges the Governor and the General Assembly to establish permanent, dedicated, sustainable funding sufficient to provide safe, frequent, reliable service for the entire SEPTA network, including the R5 Region Rail Line.

BE IT RESOLVED THIS 17th DAY OF JUNE, 2025, BY THE DOYLESTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:


Stephanie J. Mason, Manager

BY:


Jennifer V. Herring, Chairman