

**Written Testimony for Senate Democratic Policy Committee  
The Future of Mass Transit  
April 15, 2025**

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On behalf of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development (Conference), I would like to thank Chairman Miller, Leader Costa, and all other members of the Pennsylvania Senate Democratic Caucus for the opportunity to submit testimony on such an important topic.

At the Conference, public-private partnerships are at the core of everything we do. We have a rich history of bringing the region's public and private leadership together across the 10 counties in southwestern Pennsylvania. Working closely with regional employers, community partners, elected officials, and other key stakeholders, we turn the assets of southwestern Pennsylvania into economic growth, stronger communities, and opportunity for all. But none of that is possible without a solid foundation — and that begins with infrastructure and connectivity.

Transportation and infrastructure investments are not just about roads and rails; they're about people, jobs, and long-term economic competitiveness. These investments connect our communities, attract and retain businesses, and allow our workforce to grow. Without them, we risk falling behind in an increasingly competitive national and global market.

For our business community and members, a strong public transit system is a core priority. Many of our stakeholders and their employees rely on public transit to access jobs, goods, and services. It's one of the critical ways to improve workforce mobility and our regional market. In short, transit is an investment with a proven return.

Reliable infrastructure is one of the most frequent concerns we hear from companies exploring relocation or expansion in our region. As part of our business concierge services, we support companies from site selection to workforce development. They often ask us if they can get their products to market quickly and whether our region has the robust infrastructure needed.

That answer must be yes.

The reality is this: when our infrastructure fails, so does our competitiveness. We've made significant progress revitalizing downtown Pittsburgh through strong partnerships with Allegheny County, the City of Pittsburgh, the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh, and downtown stakeholders. The commonwealth is investing more than \$62 million toward these efforts in the next few years, which in turn will encourage an additional \$600 million in total investment. But without a strong transportation infrastructure, these revitalization efforts won't reach their full potential.

Reliable and sustainable funding streams are crucial not only to support enhancements and new projects but for the safety and mobility of the people in this commonwealth.

Businesses have choices. They can invest in places that are ready to grow with them — or they can go elsewhere. We have the talent, the vision, and the assets to compete. But we need the infrastructure — and the policy decisions — to match.

Thank you for your time and leadership on this critical issue.

