

Securing Sustainable Funding for Public Transportation (SEPTA)

A strong and reliable public transit system is essential to our economic vitality, mobility, and environmental sustainability of southeastern Pennsylvania. I will prioritize securing stable, long-term funding for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) and other transit agencies across the Commonwealth through legislative action, responsible budgeting, and coordinated advocacy.

- **Ending the cycle of crisis funding** – Rather than accepting the pattern of last-minute stopgaps that have repeatedly pushed SEPTA to the brink, I commit to negotiating multi-year funding agreements that give transit agencies predictable, stable revenue to plan and operate effectively.
- **A smarter funding structure** – Increasing the share of sales tax revenue dedicated to transit directly ties SEPTA's funding to economic activity, making it more sustainable and insulating it from the annual political battles over appropriations.
- **Leveraging state dollars for federal billions** – Pennsylvania's local funding commitment is the key that unlocks federal infrastructure grants. Strengthening state investment isn't just a local choice – it's the mechanism for bringing significantly more federal dollars back to the region.

Legislative Actions

- **Advancing Funding Bills** – I will support and vote in favor of major transportation funding legislation such as omnibus transportation bills that strengthen the commonwealth's commitment to public transit. This includes proposals like the Public Transportation Trust Fund Transfer Act, which will increase the share of commonwealth sales tax revenue dedicated to transit from **4.4% to 6.15%**, providing a more stable funding stream for systems like SEPTA.
- **Negotiating Multi-Year Solutions** – Rather than relying on short-term “stop-gap” measures, I will work with colleagues in the legislature to negotiate **multi-year funding agreements** that provide predictable support. Recent proposals have focused on securing approximately **\$292 million in recurring annual funding** for transit agencies throughout the commonwealth, including more than **\$160 million for SEPTA**.
- **Supporting Transit Reform Packages** – I will back comprehensive proposals such as the “**Transit for All PA**” legislative package, which seeks to modernize and diversify transit funding sources so agencies can rely on **dedicated, consistent revenue** rather than uncertain annual appropriations.

Budgetary and Oversight Responsibilities

- **Budget Appropriations** – I will advocate for robust transit investments each year when the legislature determines the commonwealth budget. For example, in the 2024–25 commonwealth budget cycle, lawmakers approved **\$80 million in additional mass transit funding**, including **\$46 million specifically for SEPTA**. I will continue pushing for increases that reflect the region’s transit needs.
- **Encouraging Reform and Efficiency** – Recognizing that sustainable funding must also include public trust and operational accountability, I will support oversight measures that ensure transit systems maintain **strong safety, security, and cleanliness standards**. I will also encourage innovative revenue strategies, such as the responsible development of unused transit-owned land.

Advocacy and Regional Coordination

- **Coalition Building** – Securing transit funding often requires cooperation across party lines and chambers of the legislature. I will work with **bipartisan coalitions in the Pennsylvania House** to advocate for transit funding and be a strong voice to encourage my colleagues in the Senate to act on House-passed measures.
- **Unlocking Federal Investment** – Commonwealth funding plays a critical role in securing federal grants. By strengthening Pennsylvania’s investment in transit, I will help ensure that SEPTA can meet the “local match” requirements needed to unlock billions in federal funding available through major infrastructure programs like the **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act**.

Through this combination of legislation, responsible budgeting, and regional collaboration, I will work to ensure that SEPTA and other transit agencies have the **reliable, long-term funding needed to serve riders, reduce congestion, and support economic growth throughout the region**.