

CALL TO ACTION

Public transit is in trouble

With state funding no longer able to support the public transit needs of Allegheny County, Pittsburgh Regional Transit has proposed a **35% service cut and 9% fare increase** that would significantly reduce the way our friends, neighbors, and people we rely on to get to work, school, doctor's appointments, and more.

How can I help?

Contact your state elected officials to let them know how important transit is in your community.

Consider every conversation as an opportunity to highlight the importance of transit in our communities and advocate for support for transit funding.

Encourage your family, friends, neighbors and members of your community to make sure their voices are heard by providing feedback in one of the ways highlighted on the PRT Funding Crisis page. rideprt.org/2025-funding-crisis (QR code below.)

Encourage your family, friends, neighbors and members of your community reach out to their elected officials to share why transit is important to them.

Consider adding a link to PRT's Funding Crisis page to your social media. rideprt.org/2025-funding-crisis (QR code below.)



Who do I contact?

Find Your Legislator
(Visit palegis.us/find-my-legislator or scan QR code to the right.)

Call, Write, Mail or Email, Meet



How did this happen?

Act 89, the state funding measure that supported PRT and other transit agencies in Pennsylvania since 2013, has effectively expired. Additional funding is essential to maintain current service levels and meet future transit needs. Transit is a critical component of the region's infrastructure, supporting economic activity, environmental sustainability, and social equity.

Beginning in 2021, Federal pandemic relief funding subsidized a slower growth in state funding alongside fare losses from pandemic ridership decline, delaying the impacts of this funding deficit until now. During this time, PRT has continued to focus on maintaining cost savings and efficiencies to reduce expenses and optimize operations.

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What does PRT need?

PRT began tapping its reserves this year. Reserves are intended to support unexpected expenses and short-term funding gaps, but are not sustainable long-term. If new funding isn't secured, PRT will be forced to make painful choices—drastic service cuts, fare hikes, and layoffs. PRT is projecting a deficit in FY26 that grows each year thereafter.

PRT needs a \$117 million infusion of state funding beginning FY2026 – with compounding annual increases – to support current service levels for the next decade. This would allow PRT to cover expenses of current service and account for rising costs.

What is the cost of Inaction?

Absent new funding, the only way PRT is able to make meaningful changes to narrow the funding gap is to cut service and increase fares.

The impact of the proposed service cuts would be felt throughout Allegheny County as reliable options for everyday travel to school, work, medical appointments, and other critical destinations are greatly diminished. The cuts would impact thousands of workers – including healthcare professionals, educators, service industry employees, office workers, and more – who rely on transit to get to their jobs.

The regional economy would suffer with less access to jobs, educational opportunities, and would likely discourage businesses from locating in Pittsburgh. Moreover, service reductions could increase road congestion, leading to longer commutes and higher transportation costs for residents.

Essential services, including hospitals and other healthcare facilities, grocery stores, and schools would struggle to staff their operations. Seniors and people with disabilities could lose critical access to healthcare. Students could face new

challenges getting to school. And small businesses, major employers, and regional economic development would all suffer.

It would not stop there.

Beyond regular riders, PRT would be forced to cease providing any additional service to special events, including major sporting events, and service options would end at 11:00 p.m. leaving riders stranded all across our region.

Traffic congestion and lack of parking to support an influx of drivers forced to find other options would have an impact on our roadways and our ability to safely navigate through our communities.

Why is transit important?

Public transportation is more than a simple means of getting from point A to point B; it is a lifeline for hundreds of thousands of riders across the Commonwealth, in cities like Pittsburgh and smaller communities in every corner of the state. Transit is key to a thriving neighborhood, a healthy environment, and a robust, interconnected community.

Transit provides access to opportunity. Public transit enables Pennsylvanians from all walks of life to earn a living, receive an education, attend medical appointments, and participate in their communities. Transit access has also been linked to improved physical and mental health, and physical activity contributing to an improved quality of life.

PRT's impact extends far beyond transportation. By connecting people to jobs, businesses, and essential services, PRT helps drive economic growth and strengthen our region. Across Pennsylvania, 52 transit agencies serve all 67 counties, directly employing more than 40,000 people and supporting millions more.

The time to act is now.