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Senate of Pennsylvania

June 26, 2025

Robert Harvie, Chair
Bucks County Board of Commissioners
55 E. Court Street
Doylestown, PA 18901

Dear Commissioner Harvie,

Thank you for your letter of June 25, 2025 regarding funding for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA). I agree wholeheartedly.

I have long been a proponent of investment in public transportation and infrastructure. As a State House member, I voted for Act 89 of 2013, which provided an additional \$500 million annually for mass transit statewide. That investment laid a foundation for stronger, more reliable service in southeastern Pennsylvania and beyond. Since then, I have consistently supported both state and local transit funding and improvements.

Consistent with that approach, I support Governor Josh Shapiro's 2025–26 budget proposal, which includes \$292 million in new annual mass transit funding – translating to \$1.5 billion over five years – without raising taxes. The Pennsylvania House has now passed the Public Transportation Trust Fund Transfer Act – House Bill 1364 – by a bipartisan vote of 107–96. This legislation increases the sales-tax share dedicated to transit from 4.4% to 6.15%, delivering nearly \$300 million in additional support next year and bolstering both mass transit and infrastructure statewide.

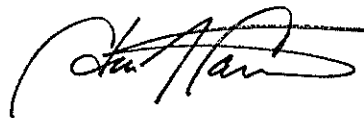
This initiative aligns with the Governor's commitment to not only protect but significantly expand transit funding – targeting SEPTA, Pittsburgh Regional Transit, and over 30 smaller systems across all 67 counties. The legislation is far-reaching: in addition to benefiting urban centers, it ensures critical support for suburban and rural services – from the Lehigh Valley to the waterways of Bucks County. This is especially vital for our seniors and Pennsylvanians with disabilities, many of whom rely daily on shared-ride and paratransit services that are on the verge of fare hikes and cutbacks.

This is about more than keeping trains and buses running. It is about ensuring economic opportunity, access to education, reducing traffic congestion, and improving quality of life for our region. Bucks County cannot afford to backslide, and I will not stand by while that happens.

I will continue to push vigorously during the Senate budget process to secure full funding in HB 1364, and to make sure Bucks County and our region receive the resources we deserve.

Thank you again for your letter and for your commitment to SEPTA and our county.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Santarsiero", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Steve Santarsiero
State Senator, 10th Senatorial District