

21st Century Transportation for all New Yorkers

What is Transportation Equity?

Equitable transportation is people-centered, protects our health, prioritizes sustainable communities, gives everyone a voice in the planning process and is the underpinning of a vibrant economy.

Transportation affects us all, but some New Yorkers are disproportionately burdened by the inadequacies of our transportation system, particularly low-income residents, communities of color, the disabled, the elderly, and children.

Why do we need Transportation Equity?

Transportation options determine how we get to the places where we live, work and play. Unfortunately, the transportation system in New York is flawed due to imbalanced funding that favors cars over other modes of transportation. As a result, residents across the state are facing transit service cuts, increased travel costs, negative health impacts, environmental degradation, reduced access to jobs and risks linked to climate change.

Why now?

It is time to address the inadequacies of previous federal surface transportation legislation. The expiration of the existing federal law, SAFETEA-LU, on September 30, 2009 provides a key opportunity to re-shape transportation in New York now. Working together, we can create a system that prioritizes efficient and equitable mobility for all. New Yorkers deserve better!

What do we want?

The New York State Transportation Equity Alliance (NYSTEA) wants the next federal transportation bill to move from prioritizing highways toward building livable communities for all. To do this, the bill must:

- Re-prioritize highway funds toward public transit, in particular for the expansion of bus services, which have traditionally been under-funded.
- Include transit operating assistance, contingent on a local or state match, for the daily operations of our transit system.
- Transform the transportation planning process by:
 - Providing greater spending transparency and encouraging public participation.
 - Incorporating the principles of Smart Growth.
- Create green jobs that are local and provide training and employment opportunities for populations currently underrepresented in the labor force.
- Improve availability, access and safety of bike and pedestrian infrastructure in the most underserved communities.

The New York State Transportation Equity Alliance needs your help to lead this movement. Together we will move New York State toward a more equitable and prosperous future.

Who can help transform New York's transportation system?

We can. Building an equitable transportation system requires a diverse array of voices that represents communities from all corners of NY State. It will take a broad coalition of organizations from upstate and downstate including labor, civic, faith-based, environmental, community based, environmental and social justice groups, as well as planners, businesses, public health and elected officials to ensure that all New Yorkers are represented in the upcoming federal transportation legislation.

NYSTEA is coordinated by Empire State Future, Tri-State Transportation Campaign, UPROSE and WE ACT- combining regional land use planning, environmental justice and transportation policy experience.

How does the current transportation infrastructure affect our health, environment and economy?

Expenditures and access to opportunities

In the New York metropolitan region, residents spend 14.5% of their family budget on transportation, surpassed only by shelter and food. The poorest families devote nearly 40% of their take home pay to transportation.

Health

Motor vehicles are the primary source of air pollution in many urban areas. Studies have shown that living, working, going to school, or playing near major roadways increases the risk of asthma as well as other health conditions. Over-reliance on automobiles and a lack of biking and pedestrian infrastructure has decreased our physical activity and contributed to rising obesity rates.

Safety

Americans over the age of 65 are more likely to be killed when walking than their younger counterparts. Latinos and Non-whites represent 34% of the population, but 44% of all pedestrian fatalities. They have a pedestrian fatality rate of 2.02 per 100,000 people.

Economy

Building transit lines and fixing our existing roads and bridges creates more and greener jobs than building new roads. Investments in road and bridge repair create 9% more jobs per dollar than building new roads or bridges. According to an analysis of a 2004 United States Department of Transportation jobs creation model, an investment of 1 billion dollars in public transportation creates 19% more jobs than the same investment in building roads or highways.

Environment and Energy

The transportation sector in the U.S. produces 28% of greenhouse gases (mostly CO₂) contributing to global climate change. Passenger cars, light duty trucks, and motorcycles produce 63% of these emissions. Public transportation produces 95% less carbon monoxide (CO), 90% less volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and about half as much carbon dioxide (CO₂) and nitrogen oxide (NOx), per passenger mile, as private vehicles. Each year, public transportation use in the U.S. saves 1.4 billion gallons of gasoline. This represents almost 4 million gallons of gasoline per day.

NYSTEAE Steering Committee

Empire State Future



Empire State Future promotes an agenda of economic prosperity guided by Smart Growth principles for

New York State. We work to revitalize New York's older industrial cities and restore them to prosperity. We support efforts throughout the state that incorporate Smart Growth principles in land use and development decision-making.

www.empirestatefuture.org

Tri-State Transportation Campaign



The Tri-State Transportation Campaign is a non-profit

watchdog organization working to reduce car dependency by advocating for a more balanced, equitable, and environmentally-sound transportation network in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. Using data and legal analysis, research, coalition building, and media work, TSTC works to transform the way transportation decision making occurs at the local, state, and federal levels.

www.tstc.org
<http://blog.tstc.org>

UPROSE



UPROSE is dedicated to the empowerment of Southwest Brooklyn residents primarily through broad and converging environmental, sustainable development,

and youth justice campaigns. Founded in 1966, UPROSE is Brooklyn's oldest Latino community-based organization. We aim to ensure and heighten community awareness and involvement, develop participatory community planning practices, and promote sustainable development with justice and governmental accountability.

www.uprose.org

WE ACT for Environmental Justice



WE ACT for Environmental Justice is a non-profit, community-based,

environmental justice organization decated to building community power to fight environmental racism and improve environmental health, protection and policy in communities of color. WE ACT accomplishes this mission through community organizing, education and training, advocacy and research, and public policy development.

www.weact.org