Subject: Urgent Support for Pittsburgh Regional Transit Funding

Dear [Recipient's Name],

We are writing to express our strong support for Pittsburgh Regional Transit (PRT) and the urgent need for increased, sustainable transit funding in Pennsylvania.

Public transportation is essential to the daily lives of hundreds of thousands of residents in Allegheny County, ensuring that people can get to work, school, medical appointments, and other critical destinations. But even those of us who do not take public transit personally rely on it every single day—because our region depends on the people who do.

Public transit is what gets our healthcare workers to hospitals, our teachers to schools, our service industry employees to restaurants and shops, and so many others to the jobs that keep our economy moving. It enables seniors and individuals with disabilities to maintain independence, students to access education, and workers to access better job opportunities. It allows businesses to thrive by ensuring they have a reliable workforce and a steady stream of customers. When public transit is cut, these essential workers—who are already facing challenges with wages, schedules, and affordability—will struggle to get where they need to go. And when that happens, our entire region feels the impact.

PRT served 37 million trips last year and operates 95 bus routes, three light-rail lines, and the historic Monongahela Incline, while maintaining critical infrastructure, including 79 bridges and eight tunnels. This is a system that has been built and maintained to serve the people of Allegheny County—yet it is now facing a financial crisis that threatens its ability to function.

The expiration of Act 89, the long-term effects of the global pandemic, and increasing costs have left a significant funding gap, and without new investment, PRT will be forced to implement devastating service cuts and fare increases. Governor Shapiro’s proposed increase in the public transit share of the Sales and Use Tax would provide much-needed relief, but it falls short of what is necessary to maintain current service levels. Without additional funding, PRT projects a $100 million budget deficit in FY 2026, leading to:

* A 35% reduction in service, including the elimination of 40 bus routes and the Silver Line.
* Longer wait times and decreased frequency on 53 bus routes and the Red Line.
* Complete loss of transit access to 19 municipalities and three Pittsburgh neighborhoods.
* No service after 11 p.m., leaving workers, students, and ACCESS riders without transportation options.
* Fare hikes, raising the base fare to $3—one of the highest in the nation.
* A 20% fare increase for ACCESS paratransit, placing a heavier burden on seniors and riders with fixed incomes.
* ACCESS ADA paratransit services will be severely limited in 62% of Allegheny County, cutting vital mobility for people with disabilities.

We recognize that many industries and interests throughout the Commonwealth are competing for the same pot of funding. That is why it is so important to establish a dedicated and reliable funding stream for public transit—one that ensures long-term stability and protects the essential services that so many people depend on. Without it, our region risks losing the economic, social, and environmental benefits that a strong public transit system provides.

These cuts would have devastating consequences—not just for the people who ride PRT, but for all of us across our county. A weakened public transit system means more workers struggling to get to their jobs, more students losing access to educational opportunities, and more patients missing critical medical appointments. It means local businesses will struggle to retain staff and attract customers. It means increased traffic congestion, longer commutes, and higher transportation costs for everyone.

**To prevent these catastrophic impacts, PRT requires an additional $117 million a year in state funding beginning in FY 2026 to sustain operations and invest in the future of our transit system over the next decade. Without action, our communities, economy, and quality of life will suffer.**

We urge you to support legislative action in Harrisburg that provides long-term, sustainable transit funding to keep PRT running at full capacity. Public transit is not a luxury—it is a necessity for a thriving, equitable, and economically strong region.

Thank you for your time and attention to this urgent matter. We sincerely appreciate your leadership in ensuring a strong and reliable public transit system for Allegheny County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Title/Organization (if applicable)]

[Your Contact Information]