

AMERICAN COMMUNITIES INSTITUTE AT DOWLING COLLEGE
EAST END TOURISM ALLIANCE
EAST HAMPTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
EMPIRE STATE FUTURE
FIVE TOWN RURAL TRANSIT
FLANDERS, RIVERSIDE AND NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
GURNEY'S INN SPA RESORT AND CONFERENCE CENTER
LONG ISLAND BUS RIDERS' UNION
LONG ISLAND FEDERATION OF LABOR, AFL/CIO
LONG ISLAND GREENWAYS AND HEALTHY TRAILS
LONG ISLAND JOBS WITH JUSTICE
MELVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
MONTAUK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PORTER-TREJO ACTION NETWORK, INC.
REGIONAL PLAN ASSOCIATION
RIVERHEAD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
SUSTAINABLE LONG ISLAND
TANGER OUTLET CENTER
THE HAMPTONS VISITORS COUNCIL
TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION, LOCAL 252
TRI-STATE TRANSPORTATION CAMPAIGN
VISION LONG ISLAND

February 25, 2013

Honorable Kenneth P. LaValle
28 North Country Road, Suite 203
Mount Sinai, NY 11766

Re: New York State Budget and Suffolk County Transit

Dear Senator LaValle,

Last fall, our groups wrote to urge you and your colleagues to find new state funding to support expanded Suffolk County Transit service to Sundays. We wrote that despite the fiscal uncertainties facing Suffolk County, the County continues to dedicate a consistent level of funding to support its bus system but additional state support would allow Suffolk County to expand Sunday service beyond its initial successful pilot program.

In his draft 2013 Executive Budget, Governor Andrew Cuomo committed \$2.01 million, or 9.16 percent, more in state transit operating assistance for Suffolk County Transit. We urge you to ensure these additional resources remain in the final budget passed by the state legislature, as well as make certain that Suffolk County uses this new funding to support expanded Sunday service. Sunday service expansion could initially be provided as outlined in the 2010 Suffolk County Department of Public Works Comprehensive Bus Route Analysis and Service Development Plan.

Thanks to your previous efforts, the 2012 New York State budget included an additional \$1.5 million in State Transportation Operating Assistance (STOA), due to a one year redistribution of the Long Lines and Transmission Tax, for Suffolk County. We had hoped that this additional subsidy, in tandem with the \$1 million in revenue generated from the May 2012 fare increases, could have offered Suffolk County an

opportunity to expand bus service to seven days a week on the majority of its routes, but unfortunately this money was repurposed elsewhere with little benefit to riders. With your help, and the continued redistribution of the Long Lines and Transmission Tax, this additional \$2.01 million in 2013 funding can be used by Suffolk County to finally build the seven day a week bus system that riders, businesses and all Suffolk County residents deserve.

Thank you for your time, and we look forward to meeting with you to discuss this issue further. Please feel free to contact Ryan Lynch at 631.742.7528 or rlynch@tstc.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Eric Alexander
Executive Director
Vision Long Island

Roger Clayman
Executive Director
Long Island Federation of Labor, AFL/CIO

Bryan DeLuca
President
East End Tourism Alliance

Amy Engle
Executive Director
Sustainable Long Island

Andrea Gurvitz
Executive Director
The Hamptons Visitors Council

Ryan Lynch
Associate Director
Tri-State Transportation Campaign

Janine Nebons
General Manager
Tanger Outlet Center

Dr. Nathalia Rogers
Director
American Communities Institute at Dowling College

Pat Bowden
President
Transport Workers Union, Local 252

Kathleen Cunningham
President
Five Town Rural Transit

Michael DeLuise
President
Melville Chamber of Commerce

Peter Fleischer
Executive Director
Empire State Future

Chris Jones
Vice President for Research
Regional Plan Association

Paul Monte
CEO
Gurney's Inn
President
Montauk Chamber of Commerce

Charlene Obernauer
Executive Director
Long Island Jobs with Justice

Stephanie Sapiie
Member-Organizer
Long Island Bus Riders' Union

Vincent Taldone
Vice President

Flanders, Riverside and Northampton Community Association

Marina Van
Executive Director

East Hampton Chamber of Commerce

Michael Vitti
President

Long Island Greenways and Healthy Trails (LIGHT)

Bazeel Walters
Co-Chair

Porter-Trejo Action Network, Inc.

Board of Directors

Riverhead Chamber of Commerce

Cc. Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone
Suffolk County Presiding Officer William J. Lindsay
Suffolk County Legislator Al Krupski
Suffolk County Legislator Jay H. Schneiderman
Suffolk County Legislator Kate Browning
Suffolk County Legislator Tom Muratore
Suffolk County Legislator Kara Hahn
Suffolk County Legislator Sarah S. Anker
Suffolk County Legislator Rob Calarco
Suffolk County Legislator Ricardo Montano
Suffolk County Legislator Tom Cilmi
Suffolk County Legislator Thomas F. Barraga
Suffolk County Legislator John M. Kennedy Jr.
Suffolk County Legislator Lynne C. Nowick
Suffolk County Legislator Wayne R. Horsley
Suffolk County Legislator DuWayne Gregory
Suffolk County Legislator Steve Stern
Suffolk County Legislator Lou D'Amato
Suffolk County Legislator William Spencer