

Sens. Wayne Langerholc, Marty Flynn, and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee
127 Irvis Office Building
PO Box 202174
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2174

Re: *Optimizing Pennsylvania's Multimodal Transportation System*

Dear Senators Langerholc, Flynn, and members of the Transportation Committee of the Pennsylvania State Senate,

"We cannot stress enough the importance for a consistent, sustainable source of transit funding for SEPTA, PRT, and the dozens of other transit agencies across our commonwealth." said 5th Square Chair Steph Davis. "Here in Philadelphia, SEPTA is facing a \$240 million annual budget deficit and has an immediate plan to increase fares for certain riders. Without funding, our transit agency will be forced to cut service and further raise fares.

"Without proper funding, such measures would bring our transit agency to a death spiral of ridership loss – accelerating congestion, worsening air quality, and hampering Pennsylvania's growth.

"Today, we are seeing an incredible rebound in the number of people choosing to live and work in Philadelphia – bringing more jobs and tax revenue to support our commonwealth. Without proper funding, we are not only leaving SEPTA's 700,000 daily riders stranded, we will be hampering the largest economic engine for Pennsylvania.

"Every county in this commonwealth has riders who rely on public transportation – and SEPTA's capital spending program supports manufacturing jobs across the state. Now it is time for our state legislature to work together on a bipartisan, sustainable solution to our transit funding crisis."

5th Square is Philly's urbanist political action committee. We are committed to policy change in the areas of transportation, land use, and public space, and to advance a vision for a more accessible, sustainable, equitable Philadelphia for all residents. We represent over 400 subscribing members, 2,000 volunteers, and 15,000 newsletter subscribers.

Sincerely,



Steph Davis
Chair, 5th Square