

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FUNDING NEEDS

TESTIMONY

To

**THE PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
And
POLICY COMMITTEES**

June 4, 2010

My name is Dave Trout and I am the Executive Director of Community Transit of Delaware County. I am here today representing the four Philadelphia suburban paratransit transportation agencies which include Community Transit of Delaware County, Transnet of Montgomery County, Bucks County Transport and Rover Transportation of Chester County. Our four agencies provide much needed transportation for the transportation disadvantaged people in our counties; the elderly, the poor and the disabled. Together we supply 2,184,000 trips per year to people who have no, or few, transportation options.

Almost on a daily basis we receive notes and letters from our riders thanking us for this service and I wish to share some of them with you.

My name is Caroline C. I ride your service to go to and from my Community Center daily. I really look forward to going to the center. The activities make my day and keep me from having to sit around all day doing nothing. I get to socialize with other elderly people my own age. Since moving up here from North Carolina 4 years ago to live with my daughter and her family your service has made it possible for me to get out and meet new friends. If I didn't have this service I don't know what I would do. It is very much needed. I am blessed to have a family that can help with my doctor appointments, but a lot of my friends depend on your service to get to and from appointments because they have no one else to help. I hope the lawmakers will continue to fund this much needed service if not it will be a terrible blow to a lot of elderly people who totally depend on this service. Even though it may not seem like a lot, but the ride I am provided daily makes a world of difference not only to me but to my family because they know I'm safe at the community center and not home alone. I hope my comment helps because it is sent from the heart.

Fran M.

"I would be lost without your service taking me to the supermarket every week. I have no other way of getting my weekly groceries."

Rube S.

Just a short note to let you know how much I appreciate your transportation services, I am wheelchair bound and have limited choices of getting to doctor visits, hospital appointments and my three times a week physical therapy sessions.

Please keep up your good work and for helping me live an independent life, rather than being forced to live in an assisted living facility.

Michelle D.

I ride your service as an escort with my mother. My mother is 80 years old and has trouble walking. I also have a mental disability and the medication I take prevents me from driving. You take my mother and me to doctor appointments and grocery shopping. your service is such a blessing. If you stopped your service, my mother and I would have to struggle.

Obviously, individual riders benefit from our service, however there are many other beneficiaries of our transit services. These beneficiaries include human service agencies and facilities who rely on specialized transportation to get their participants to much needed programs and medical facilities. We also help to make streets and highways safer for all drivers by offering an alternative for elderly drivers whose driving skills have declined. The beneficiary from whom we hear most frequently is the caregiver. We allow caregivers to continue to work full time or maintain other responsibilities because we are available to take their parent to the adult day care center, medical appointment or volunteer activity, or to transport their child to a vocational workshop safely.

Funding for community transportation services cannot be a constant struggle, threatened by the lack of a stable funding source. People who depend on this service need to know that it will continue to be there for them. Without stable funding the future of this service to the frailest and most fragile of our citizens would be in jeopardy. We want to thank you for your leadership and pledge our assistance, if needed, in finding a solution to transportation funding.