



**Statement from Regional Plan Association on  
Nassau County Cuts to Long Island Bus**  
October 19, 2009

Regional Plan Association urges the Nassau County legislature to reject proposed cuts to Long Island Bus in the FY 2010 budget. The dramatic cuts, which eliminate a quarter of the county's contribution to the bus system will place service in jeopardy and threaten fare increases to those who can afford it least. LI Bus needs more funding, not less.

While we support a regional bus system that fully integrates services with the MTA, we do not believe the county should offload its financial responsibility. Rather, a clearer and more transparent funding plan must be negotiated between the MTA and the State. Doing so will end the yearly budget battles, create a more sustainable funding system and allow LI Bus to expand and address the needs of riders and the future of Nassau County's economy.

This is especially important if the County Executive intends to pursue his 'New Suburbia' and 'Cool Downtowns' vision. While we applaud this vision, it will not be realized without a robust transit system to get people to and from these destinations. Even now, suburban bus service and equipment has not been able to keep pace with its urban counterparts, harming the economic and environmental health of Nassau.

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