

**FIVE TOWN RURAL TRANSIT  
MELVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
LONG ISLAND BUS RIDERS' UNION  
LONG ISLAND FEDERATION OF LABOR, AFL/CIO**

**LONG ISLAND JOBS WITH JUSTICE  
TRI-STATE TRANSPORTATION CAMPAIGN  
VISION LONG ISLAND  
WELFARE TO WORK COMMISSION**

**For immediate release:** April 16, 2013

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### **ELECTED OFFICIALS, ADVOCATES CALL FOR SUNDAY BUS SERVICE IN SUFFOLK COUNTY**

HAUPPAUGE—Suffolk County Legislators joined a coalition of rider, transportation, business, labor, planning and faith-based groups to ensure \$2 million in new and additional state funding be used to expand bus service to Sundays.

In the past, fiscal uncertainties prevented SCT from being able to expand service beyond current levels. The 2013-2014 New York State budget, however, provides \$2.01 million in additional State Transit Operating Assistance (STOA) funds for Suffolk County.

The groups rallied in support of a resolution filed last week by Legislator Jay Schneiderman and co-sponsored by Legislator Al Krupski that, if adopted, would require the \$2.01 million windfall to be directed toward Suffolk County Transit (SCT) for a Sunday service expansion to core routes in the County's bus system. The resolution is expected to be taken up by the Public Works and Transportation Committee on April 23.

Currently, Sunday service only exists on two East End routes between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Advocates say a broader expansion of service on Sundays would be a boon for riders, businesses and local economic development in the County.

"The time for debate about the need for Sunday bus service is over, and we must not squander this opportunity to move Suffolk County's transit system toward a seven-day a week service," said Ryan Lynch, Associate Director for Tri-State Transportation Campaign. "Sunday service is popular on the East End, and would be a benefit for riders, businesses and the County's economy if expanded throughout the rest of Suffolk."

Advocates and Legislator Schneiderman have long called for expanding service to Sundays, holidays, and later into the evenings, and believe this opportunity could be a down payment on a more robust bus system in the County.

"Expanding Sunday service is a win-win for bus riders and the community at large, said Charlene Obernauer, founder of the Long Island Bus Riders' Union. "More bus service means more people shopping at local businesses, attending worship services and contributing to public life."

"Life on Long Island does not come to a halt on weekends. Neither should Suffolk County Transit. As we Long Islanders shop, pray, work and enjoy the many recreational treasures of our communities it makes perfect sense to include seven-day-a-week public transportation opportunities to the residents of Long Island," said Michael DeLuise, President of the Melville Chamber of Commerce.

"Sunday and holiday bus service is a fundamental component of a comprehensive public transportation system which will bolster our economy and respond to the needs of the transit dependent in our communities," said Kathleen Cunningham, President of Five Town Rural Transit. "Ensuring this state funding is directed to its intended purpose is essential for East End seasonal businesses to thrive and grow while offering recreational opportunities to the transit dependent."

Last year, an additional \$1.5 million subsidy from a one-year redistribution of the Long Lines and Transmission Tax (in tandem with \$1 million in added revenue generated from May 2012 fare increases) that advocates hoped would have been applied toward providing Sunday bus service, was instead repurposed elsewhere in Suffolk County's budget. The proposed resolution would be a means to avoid repeating last year's sweep of transit funds.

"In the end, the Commission believes that utilizing these additional STOA funds is a moral imperative for the County, helping to relieve in one specific way, the on-going insecurities, uncertainties and indignities faced daily by Suffolk's working-poor people," said Richard Koubek, PhD, Chair of the Welfare to Work Commission of the Suffolk County Legislature.

"Bus service needs to reflect the modern reality of working men and women in Suffolk County," said Eric Alexander, Executive Director for Vision Long Island. "Using additional STOA funding to expand service on Sunday not only makes sense for riders, but helps the small businesses throughout Suffolk who are open on Sunday and is an effective and appropriate use of this program."

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Tri-State Transportation Campaign is a non-profit organization working toward a more balanced, transit-friendly and equitable transportation system in Connecticut, New York and New Jersey.