



## **New York State Senate and Assembly Joint Budget Hearing: Transportation**

### **Public Testimony: The 2020-2021 Executive Budget**

*ElectrifyNY Coalition*

Thank you, Chairpersons Weinstein and Krueger, for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding the Transportation section of the 2020-2021 New York State Budget. We are members of [Electrify New York](#), a statewide coalition of advocates for environmental justice, public transportation, social justice, and good jobs fighting for a clean, equitable electric transportation future for New York.

Our advocacy focuses on electrifying vehicles in New York, particularly public transit buses for all New Yorkers. We were pleased to see the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's commitment to full bus fleet electrification by 2040 and are looking forward to seeing Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, Rochester-Genesee Regional Transportation Authority, Capital District Transportation Authority, Suffolk County Transit, and the Bee-Line Bus System meet their electrification goals by 2035. Electric buses are an excellent transition the state can invest in to improve the air quality in communities most affected by transportation pollution, including those that live near highways and bus depots. Using these zero-emission vehicles means fewer greenhouse gases and air pollutants to alleviate asthma rates and premature deaths in these communities.

Additionally, the economic benefit to electrifying quickly is significant. The electric bus industry in the United States is still nascent and has room to grow. By setting this example, New York has shown that our state is open to bus companies investing in our communities to support this new market for their products and create good green energy jobs. Benchmarks including this statewide electrification target and emissions reductions goals allow the electric bus industry to plan and expand capacity to ensure the transportation authorities can ramp up in enough time to meet their goals.

If we get the policy right, New York State's transition to electric buses also has the potential to create thousands of good manufacturing jobs while advancing equity at the community level. By applying a good jobs and equity policy like the [U.S. Employment Plan](#) to the procurement of electric buses, New York State can ensure that the public dollars we collectively invest in building our state's clean transportation network also create job opportunities in the bus

manufacturing sector, as well as training and apprenticeship programs for disadvantaged workers and people historically left out of the manufacturing sector, including women, people of color, returning citizens, and veterans.

While there is state funding in the budget to support these agencies' transitions, we want to encourage practical funding opportunities for them to not only purchase electric buses but also the infrastructure, grid upgrades, and personnel training they need to be successful. This transition creates an overhaul of many existing practices and will require a thorough look at New York's funding and oversight of our public transportation. We look forward to the Legislature having an active role in this.

ElectrifyNY is excited to see these important steps forward to electrify our bus fleets. We see this as the first round of projects to implement the Community Leadership and Protection Act and create the fair green economy New York needs to combat climate change and advance equity. We encourage this to be just the first step, and look to also electrify all public transportation, electrify municipal fleets, provide more charging infrastructure for personal electric vehicles, and support electrification of trucks and other heavy-duty vehicles in the state. Thank you.