



February 11, 2022

RE: Joint Legislative Public Hearing on 2022 Executive Budget Proposal: Topic Transportation

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments that support progress towards cutting emissions in the transportation sector. ElectrifyNY is a statewide coalition of advocates for environmental justice, public transportation, social justice, and good jobs fighting for clean, equitable electric transportation for New York.

Electric School Buses

ElectrifyNY commends Governor Hochul's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and minimizing the public health impact from New York State's transportation sector with her pledge to transition the state's school buses to zero-emission vehicles fully by 2035. This is an ambitious, but achievable deadline that will bring the way we transport our children into the 21st century while significantly curbing carbon and toxic air emissions across New York State.

While the Governor's mandate is ambitious, it falls short of a full commitment to prioritize equity for communities that would stand to benefit the most from school bus electrification. We fear that without specific funding earmarked in the budget, the plan to fully electrify New York's school buses will not meet the state's own deadline.

In order to fully benefit New York's communities, the transition to electric school buses must also center the needs of manufacturing, electrical, and school bus workers. The state should adopt a state centralized best-value procurement process for school buses and school bus services that will lower bus prices, increase quality, and ensure high-quality training for drivers & technicians. As we fight for a clean energy future, New York State has a unique opportunity to create good, family-sustaining manufacturing jobs in the communities that need them most.

Green Transit Green Jobs [Green Transit ([S3535/A3090](#)), Green Jobs ([S3405/A2083](#))]

please note this bill package is being reworked into a singular bill and will have an updated number for the 2022 legislative session

With the Climate Action Council's draft Scoping Plan released and recent major transportation commitments from Governor Hochul, the transition of our buses to electric is already underway. The Green Transit Green Jobs bill can codify these health-improving emission reductions while also ensuring economic benefits for New York's workers.

The Green Transit bill will phase in battery-electric buses and paratransit vehicles across our state, requiring all agencies to make the switch fully by 2029, a policy that will have a myriad of public health benefits -- particularly for bus drivers, depot workers, environmental justice

communities, and riders. The Green Jobs aspect of the bill has a simple premise: every public dollar we invest in clean transit infrastructure for the future should also contribute to good job creation in communities. Communities hit hardest by the pandemic, climate change, and disinvestment will benefit from both the elimination of tailpipe pollution from highly-polluting diesel buses and from potential job growth throughout the state.

The Green Transit Bill and The Green Jobs Bill organically dovetail -- we simply can't have a just transition to renewable energy without supporting in-state, well-paying green jobs and we can't mitigate climate change without dramatically reducing emissions from the transportation sector.

Respectfully submitted,

On behalf of ElectrifyNY