

February 6, 2025

Hon Liz Krueger, Co-Chair
Hon Gary J. Pretlow, Co-Chair
NYS Joint Legislative Budget Committee

Dear Senator Krueger and Assemblymember Pretlow:

I am respectfully requesting that the Special Transportation Assistance (STOA) Program funding be increased by ten percent. The Governor's budget calls for a modest increase this year of less than two percent. We believe that with the increase in population in the Central and Western parts of the state, more transportation will be needed to meet the growth. Additionally, we have increasing wage inflation, surging fuel costs and growing insurance costs that put tremendous pressure on our operating costs.

The STOA program has, and continues to be, the best transportation funding program in that it brings to bear laser focused funding to meet the needs of those in the state that have limited mass transit options in a transparent and accountable manner. STOA funding also helps replace more cars on our roadways with buses, resulting in reduced environmental impact on the areas we traverse. STOA funding is essential to Coach USA which provides us with the ability to provide a service which brings tens of thousands of commuters to cities and elsewhere that are the lifeblood of the state's economic engine.

Since its inception with STOA funding, Coach USA has provided transportation to millions of New Yorkers thus allowing them to get to work, school and other destinations. We look forward to continuing to providing this vital essential service with your support.

Respectfully submitted.

Sincerely,



Dan Rodriguez
VP Public Affairs
Coach USA