SEPTA's operating and capital budgets are funded through subsidies from local, state and federal governments, the fare box and other revenues. SEPTA must meet a state legislatively mandated requirement to secure sufficient local funds to match state operating subsidies. SEPTA must secure state and local support to match federal capital funds. Since 2013, state funding has provided SEPTA with a financial foundation to tackle a growing backlog of deferred maintenance on capital assets. SEPTA is seven years into a 20-year program to build an equitable, sustainable system for the future.

SEPTA must secure state and local support to match federal capital funds.

SEPTA FUNDING AT A GLANCE

SEPTA’s operating and capital budgets are funded through subsidies from local, state and federal governments, the fare box and other revenues.

SEPTA’s operating budget is $640M, which supports 2,800 vehicles, 2,000 miles of rail, and 150 bus & trolley routes.

SEPTA’s capital budget is $1.5B, which supports 9,300 employees, 2,800 vehicles, 2,000 miles of rail, and 150 bus & trolley routes.

SEPTA's Sustainability Program

SEPTA’s Sustainability Program is a 20-year program to build an equitable, sustainable system for the future.

SEPTA is one of only five PA agencies that continues to certify firms as Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) and the directory has grown to more than 800 DBE firms. SEPTA applies federal DBE goals to all major procurements to provide greater opportunities for small, minority and women-owned businesses.

SEPTA follows federal, state and local guidelines and recommendations for mask requirements and vaccinations.

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SEPTA is partnering with stakeholders and organizations to accelerate COVID-19 recovery. Transit is fundamental to inclusive economic growth, and SEPTA is committed to ensuring that the Philadelphia region recovers as a more resilient, prosperous, and equitable community for everyone.

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For more on SEPTA’s Recovery Efforts and Strategic Plan, visit planning.septa.org.
Philadelphia's development patterns and employment growth over the past decade have been shaped by transit access. Multi-family development has clustered near high-frequency transit stops, while skyscrapers have been built with no parking. The fundamentals of the southeast region remain strong. A May 2021 analysis of SEPTA's impact affirms that NOW IS NOT THE TIME to pull back on the competitive advantages and critical infrastructure that have allowed the region to thrive and to serve as an economic driver for the Commonwealth.

While overall construction activity slowed in 2020 due to the pandemic, the influence of transit on development patterns remains as strong as ever, with 37% of construction permits located within one-quarter mile of a transit stop.

PERMITS CLUSTERED AROUND TRANSIT, EVEN DURING PANDEMIC: 2015-2020

SEPTA GENERATES MORE THAN $3 BILLION IN ANNUAL STATEWIDE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND HAS CATALYZED ADDITIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT ACROSS SOUTHEASTERN PA

In Fiscal Year 2019, SEPTA's 2,800 trains, trolleys, buses and Paratransit vehicles provided more than one million passenger trips across the region to work, school, appointments, and entertainment. Dedicated state funding ensures that SEPTA can keep the economy moving.

SEPTA PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES SUPPORTS JOBS AND ECONOMIES ACROSS PENNSYLVANIA

With funding from Act 89, SEPTA continues to invest in Pennsylvania businesses. Over the past six years (2015 – 2020), SEPTA has issued a total of $1.27 BILLION IN CONTRACTS to PA companies, an average annual value of $215 MILLION PER YEAR.

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY VALUE INCREASES BASED ON PROXIMITY TO SEPTA TRANSIT

Statistical models allow economists to isolate this value through the analysis of housing sales. Access to SEPTA service contributes a premium of $33 BILLION IN HOUSING VALUE, representing 53% of total housing value in southeastern PA. Even during the pandemic, TRANSIT ACCESS REPRESENTS 3% OF TOTAL HOUSING VALUE, representing the enduring value of living near transit.

SEPTA TRANSIT ACCESS REPRESENTED 8% OF TOTAL HOUSING VALUE, CONTRIBUTING TO THE REGION'S HOUSING MARKET HAS SHOWN STRENGTH, even during the pandemic, with average price gains in both Philadelphia and the surrounding area, and houses in proximity to high-quality transit service continuing to demand a premium.

In addition to the economic benefits, the region's public transportation system has become even more critical during the pandemic. With reduced capacity, social distancing measures, and increased cleaning protocols, SEPTA continues to serve as a safe and reliable option for those who need to travel.

SEPTA has also taken steps to ensure the safety of its riders and employees. Enhanced cleaning protocols, mandatory mask-wearing, and increased social distancing measures are in place to protect against the spread of COVID-19.

Despite the pandemic, THE REGION’S HOUSING MARKET HAS SHOWN STRENGTH, with average price gains in both Philadelphia and the surrounding area, and houses in proximity to high-quality transit service continuation to demand a premium.

Residential property value increases based on proximity to SEPTA transit are shown in the map, with different shades indicating the level of increase.

Learn more about SEPTA’s positive impact in your community at planning.septa.org/providing-benefits/