



### ***PRT Seeks Approval to Use Capital Funds to Prevent Service Cuts, Fare Hikes***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** (September 11, 2025) - In an attempt to prevent drastic service cuts and fare increases for two years, Pittsburgh Regional Transit today sought PennDOT's approval to use capital assistance funds to support operating expenses.

If approved, the move would shift up to \$106.7 million in capital funds and allow PRT to use the money to plug a projected \$100 million operating budget deficit for the 2025-26 fiscal year. PRT would use the remaining balance - and a mix of local, federal, and reserve funds - to preserve service and avoid a fare increase for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

Although some capital projects could be delayed by this move, no safety-critical projects would be impacted.

"This is not an ideal solution, but it is our best option to protect our riders by avoiding catastrophic service cuts and fare increases," said PRT CEO Katharine Kelleman. "This also gives the Legislature additional time to come up with a sustainable long-term funding solution."

Absent additional state funding, PRT proposed cutting 35% of fixed-route service, significantly reducing paratransit service, and raising fares by 9% beginning in February 2026. The measures would severely restrict access to jobs, medical care, childcare, education, and other essential destinations across Allegheny County and neighboring communities.

"I appreciate the need for PRT to exercise this emergency option to avoid catastrophic cuts and keep our regional economy going. I look forward to working with the Governor and legislative leaders on a longer-term solution that allows PRT to serve the 1.2 million hard working people of Allegheny County," said County Executive Sara Innamorato.

If PennDOT approves PRT's request, PRT management would then present to its Board a resolution amending the agency's FY 2026 operating and capital budgets consistent with the waiver request.

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