



Empire State Passengers Association

P.O. Box 434

Syracuse, New York 13209

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Contact: Bruce Becker (716) 741-6384

ESPA Officers Decide NOT To Support Transportation Bond Act

Drafters of Bond Act MOU Shun Intercity Passenger Rail Projects

The Officers and Coordinators of the Empire State Passengers Association (ESPA), at an October meeting, reviewed all of the relevant facts regarding the “Rebuild and Renew New York Transportation Bond Act of 2005,” and then voted to NOT support its passage this November. Bruce Becker, the President of ESPA stated “ESPA CANNOT support the passage of the ‘Rebuild and Renew New York Transportation Bond Act of 2005,’ because of the lack of intercity passenger rail projects identified in the Bond Act MOU and the extremely low level of committed funding (less than ½ of 1% of the total funds in the Bond Act) for such improvements.”

Mr. Becker continued “It is ESPA’s view that in light of the current high fuel prices and the uncertainty over long-term oil supplies, the need for a sensible statewide public transportation plan is becoming increasingly more important to New York’s long term economic well-being. ESPA considers the development of a highly efficient statewide intercity passenger rail system to be a vital component of such plan and we look forward to working in the future with our elected representatives on a public transportation plan that makes sense for all of New York’s travelers and taxpayers...A plan that will help ensure the economic vitality of New York State for generations to come.”

The Empire State Passengers Association (ESPA), which is comprised of over 1,400 members located throughout New York State, is a “grass-roots” advocacy organization dedicated to improving passenger rail service, supporting seamless interconnectivity between public transportation modes, and promoting governmental policies that encourage balanced transportation systems.