

# Op-Ed: SEPTA Is Not Just a Philly Issue — All of Pennsylvania Has a Stake in Mass Transit Too

By Laura Manion / President & CEO, Chester County Chamber of Business & Industry  
Mike Grigalonis / President & COO, Chester County Economic Development Council

PENNSYLVANIA - In the debate over how to fund Pennsylvania's roads, bridges and transit systems, one counterproductive misconception persists: that mass transit, and specifically SEPTA, is a "Philadelphia problem." Nothing could be further from the truth.

From Pike County to Erie County, Westmoreland County to Lehigh County, Pennsylvania's businesses rely on a robust network of roads, bridges and transit systems to bring employees to work and attract customers. What every Pennsylvania county shares is public transportation that connects people and communities to work, school and essential services.

Here in Chester County, and the Greater Philadelphia region, our economic growth has been undergirded by this system, with SEPTA mass transit at its foundation.

SEPTA is an essential cog in the economic engine of Southeastern Pennsylvania — an engine that generates billions in economic output and tax revenue for the entire state. A weakened SEPTA means a weakened regional economy, and that ripples out to the rest of Pennsylvania in real dollars. The income, business, and sales taxes generated here help fund state programs and services that benefit all 67 counties. When our region suffers due to impaired transit, the state's ability to reinvest equitably across Pennsylvania suffers too.

Counties across Pennsylvania also benefit directly from SEPTA's operations every day — not just through travel, but through jobs, procurement, and commerce. Over the past five years, SEPTA has awarded over \$1.14 billion in contracts to Pennsylvania-based companies in 39 counties, with an average annual investment of \$228 million. That's not just rail cars and bus routes in the south-

east — that's steel, rubber, electronics, parts, safety equipment, and professional services supporting jobs across the Commonwealth.

If SEPTA is forced to cut service or delay infrastructure upgrades due to unstable state funding, it's not just riders in the southeast who are directly impacted. It's those employers and

the Pennsylvanians they employ who will also feel the impact. SEPTA is one of the largest transit systems in the country and one of Pennsylvania's largest purchasers of goods and services — and when funding cannot fully support operations, that economic activity across the entire Commonwealth is also reduced.

This is proof of a fundamental truth: mass transit is regional infrastructure with statewide economic impact.

We fully support statewide transit funding to address SEPTA's shortfall this year to avoid devastating cuts. But we also recognize the need for a long-term, sustainable solution that ensures our public transit systems — not just in Philadelphia, but across the state — are viable for the future. We are not suggesting a blank check or permanent patchwork. We are advocating for a smart, stable, and transparent approach that recognizes the shared value of a functioning, modern transit system.

**Now is not the time to retreat. With major global events like America 250, the FIFA World Cup, the MLB All-Star Game, the PGA Championship and the NFL Draft all coming to Pennsylvania in the next year, our transit infrastructure must be ready to move tens of millions of visitors efficiently and safely. Without it, the region — and the state — will miss out on untold economic opportunity and global visibility.**

Pennsylvania must now rise to meet this moment — and not just to "save" transit, but to invest in what it already delivers: regional economic impact, workforce access, and job creation.

This isn't about urban vs. rural or east vs. west. It's about building a statewide economy that moves — powered by a mass transit system that serves millions of Pennsylvanians in all 67 counties.

If you're a business owner or policymaker outside of southeastern Pennsylvania, don't think of SEPTA as someone else's concern. Think of it as your next contract, your next job posting, your next opportunity. It's time we fund transit operations across all of Pennsylvania like the statewide




**POCONO MOUNTAINS FLIGHT FEST** ★ ★ ★

**FOOD TRUCKS**

**KIDS RIDES**

**PLANE & HELICOPTER RIDES**

*Plus* **LIVE DJ**  
**TOUCH-A-TRUCK**  
**AIRPLANE & ANTIQUE CARS**  
**CANDY DROP**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 9**  
**11:00 am 5:00 pm**  
RAIN OR SHINE  
\$10 Parking Fee

**POCONO MOUNTAINS REGIONAL AIRPORT**  
**PoconoFlightFest.com 570-839-7161**



**WASTE MANAGEMENT**

<b>200+ Jobs</b> 		<b>\$7.1 Million</b> Annual Tax Revenue Benefiting Plainfield Township, Northampton County, Commonwealth of PA and Pen Argyl Area School District over the life of the expansion
<b>Waste to Energy provides power to 5,000 homes</b> 	<b>\$101 Million</b> in Host & Neighboring Benefits for life of Expansion	<b>20 Annual Environmental Education Programs</b> 
	<b>\$78 Million</b> Northampton County Annual Economic Impact	
<b>24/7 CNG Public Fueling Station &amp; Free Recycling Drop Off</b> 		<b>300+ Acres</b> Habitat Conservation & Open Space 
	<b>Providing 20 Years</b> of additional Disposal Service 	 <b>70-Truck</b> CNG Fleet Reducing GHG Emissions by <b>15%</b>





# Quarry Bites & Brews 2025

**Thursday, July 3rd**  
5pm -9pm

**Live Music 6pm-9pm by**  
**BLUE JEAN TRIO**

**Food: COASTAL CRAVINGS**  
**HEN AND HAW HOT CHICKEN**

**Sweets: THE LOCAL SCOOP**

**Wine: TOLINO**

**Craft Beverages: HARDBALL CIDER**

**Food, Beer, and Wine Open at 5pm**  
**45 Broadway, Bangor PA, 18013**  
info: quarrybitesandbrews@gmail.com





# Quarry Bites & Brews

**Thursdays 5-9pm, Music starts at 6pm**  
**45 Broadway, Bangor Pa 18013**

## 2025 Season Music Line-Up

**June 5th- Sarah Lainer and Carl Palmeri**  
**June 12th-Tweed and the Sugar Daddies-150th Bangor Celebration Night and Car Cruise**  
**June 19th-Regina Sayles**  
**June 26th-Zac Lawless**  
**July 3th-Blue Jean Trio**  
**July 10th-Sam Houseal Trio**  
**July 17th-Steel Creek**  
**July 25th-NO QBB EVENT**  
**July 31st-Cody Templeton**

**August 7th-Steve McDaniel-First Responder Appreciation Night**  
**August 14th-A Girl and A Guy Trio**  
**August 21nd-Hannah Lefurgy**  
**August 28th-Steel Creek Band**  
**September 4th-Mike Metzgar**  
**September 11th-Joey Lannigan Due**  
**September 18th-Sarah Lanier**  
**September 25th-Bobby Ventura-Liquid Smoke Duo**  
**October 2nd-Len Mooney**

**SENATOR ROSEMARY BROWN**  
Pennsylvania's 40th District  
Serving Lackawanna, Monroe, and Wayne Counties

## The Beat Will Go On: Senate Approves Brown's AED Safety Bill

By Senator Rosemary Brown

This week, the Senate passed legislation I've championed to help schools across Pennsylvania prevent tragic deaths from sudden cardiac arrest among student athletes.

Senate Bill 375 would require schools to have automated external defibrillators (AEDs) available at all PIAA-sanctioned athletic events and practices. It also calls for schools to develop and rehearse emergency response plans for cardiac incidents.

Sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death in young athletes, and we know that access to an AED can increase survival rates by up to 70%. This vote brings us one step closer to making AEDs and emergency planning standard, not optional, in our schools.

This bill was initiated to honor the life of Greg Moyer, who tragically passed away from sudden cardiac arrest during a high school basketball game. His story is a heartbreaking reminder of why preparedness matters.

Greg's mother, Rachel Moyer, has long advocated for AED access in schools and offered heartfelt thanks for the bill's passage:

"This bill honors my son Greg, and all the children lost to sudden cardiac arrest. For every parent who has faced this unimaginable loss, this is for you. The beat will go on."

Senate Bill 375 now heads to the House of Representatives for consideration.

## Mark Your Calendar: Senior Expo Returns in One Month

By Senator Rosemary Brown

I'm excited to share that we're just one month away from my annual Senior Expo, and I hope you'll join us for this great community event. This year's expo will be held at Swiftwater Elementary School, and as always, it's free and open to the public.

The Senior Expo brings together local organizations, government agencies, and health providers to connect older Pennsylvanians with important information, services, and resources. Attendees can expect free health screenings, helpful materials, raffle prizes, and refreshments, along with the chance to speak one-on-one with representatives from a wide range of programs.

Whether you're looking for information on state services, health and wellness support, or ways to stay active and engaged in our community, this event has something for everyone.



**SENATOR ROSEMARY M. BROWN**  
INVITES YOU TO THE

# 2025 SENIOR EXPO

**TUESDAY | JULY 22, 2025**  
**9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**Swiftwater Elementary School**  
135 Academic Dr., Swiftwater

*The event promises something for everyone - **FREE ADMISSION**, door prizes and health screenings, too! Exhibitors from government agencies and non-profit organizations will be on hand.*

*Rosemary M. Brown*  
Senator Rosemary M. Brown | 40th District

[www.SenatorBrown40.com](http://www.SenatorBrown40.com)

