

# Transportation – Public Transit

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## Introduction

During the recent Reality Check Workshops, topical experts and members of the public worked together in small groups to examine a particular topic in-depth. During the two-hour workshops they worked with a trained facilitator to complete the following exercises:

- 1) Review of Ideas. Participants reviewed all of the ideas related to their topic that were collected during the community Idea Gathering Sessions.
- 2) Critical Questions. Participants engaged in a discussion of two Critical Questions, which had been identified by the *Vision for Staten Island* Steering Committee. The facilitator recorded the results of the discussion on flipchart paper, and then helped the group summarize major areas of agreement and disagreement.
- 3) Implementation Recommendations. At the end of the discussion period, each participant wrote down two practical, specific strategies or implementation steps to help Staten Island achieve its vision for their topic.

The results from the Transportation – Public Transit group are provided below. Note that responses have been recorded verbatim, and some errors may remain due to handwriting legibility. Responses are numbered for reference purposes only; this does not indicate any sense of priority.

## Critical Question 1:

In what areas of Staten Island would transit improvements make the biggest impact? Write your ideas below and, if appropriate, use the map provided to indicate locations for specific suggestions.

1. Serve North Shore with exclusive guideway transit
2. Identify geographic, trip purpose and mobility needs
3. Study feasibility of connecting SI to other parts of NY (tunnels) – extension of existing project
4. Extend S.I.E. bus lane out as Richmond Ave to West Shore Expressway
5. Expand bus on South Shore to match North Shore (increase)
6. More service on reverse peak lines
7. Set a goal of way to get to city in 45 mins
8. More timely service on SI by alternative to existing modes
9. Access to Metropark to connect to Newark airport, etc.

## Critical Question 1 SUMMARY:

1. Study improvement of transportation outside of North Shore
2. Improved access to Manhattan
3. Extension of SI Expresslane
4. Increasing faster cross-island bus travel

**Critical Question 2:**

What short-term actions could be taken to improve transit on Staten Island?

1. Implement BRT in certain areas of SI (Bus Rapid Transit)
2. More S89 (weekend/midday service)
3. Shuttle bus (non-stop) to 59th Street and 4th Ave from South Beach Park and Ride
4. Give bus priority (right of way) over regular SI traffic
5. Express bus to Metropark
6. Better “synchronization” of lights
7. Have buses at St. George terminal wait for arriving ferries late at night

**Critical Question 2 SUMMARY:**

1. Faster, better bus service
2. Faster, better regional service to subway, Metropark

**Implementation Recommendations:**

Consider the draft vision statement, the ideas gathered from the public, and your group’s discussion of critical questions. Please recommend two practical, specific strategies or implementation steps that you would recommend to help Staten Island achieve its vision for your topic.

1. Short term: Implement express shuttle bus service to train hubs in Brooklyn and NJ
2. Long term: Build a subway tunnel from LIRR project to Grand Central to connect St. Goerge to Grand Central
3. Obama – bucks for BRT
4. Acts of civil disobedience until borough toll money is directed toward in-borough mass transit improvements
5. The North Shore and West Shore rail lines need to be a priority in SI’s near future. Bus service, especially during off- hours needs improvement. More (maybe smaller) more often (Train on VB or in Tunnel to St. George)
6. A train to train (SI-BK) shuttle bus should be put in place ASAP with capacity for bikes to cross the bridge
7. Implement bus/traffic signal priority in major bus corridors
8. Start/continue coordinating with NYCDOT on traffic signal/lanestriping curbside management at key locations
9. Measure the betterments of what already has been put in place for BRT – continue implementing what has had best success
10. Implement BRT service along with a campaign to get the public to leave SUVs at home
11. Implement regional transit options to go to points other than St. George/Manhattan
12. Investigate BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) components that could be implemented in the short term to speed current/existing bus service, i.e. timed/triggered lights, more extensive, limited stops, bus priority, etc.
13. Work with state DOT to accelerate extension of HOV lane on SIE to improve existing bus service
14. Complete North Shore alternative analysis/EIS. Fund West Shore alternative analysis/EIS. Present BRT – regional access ideas to Mayor’s Transportation Task Force
15. Lobby our elected officials for funding

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