

Stuck at Home: How Cuts to Public Transit Disproportionately Hurt Seniors and Low-Income New Yorkers

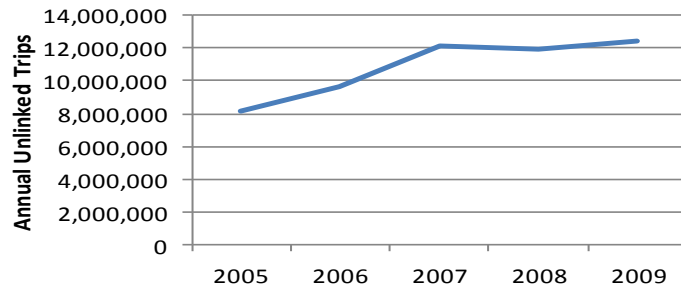
Snapshot: Effects on Syracuse's CNY-CENTRO Bus System

As New York faces an unprecedented economic crisis and transit ridership soars, dwindling state and local funding for transit systems has forced transit providers to make difficult choices—raising fares, cutting service, and dipping into reserve and capital funds to keep the system running. Shrinking dollars for transit means shrinking options for those who can least afford it, including low-income, senior, and other transit-dependent populations. Syracuse's seniors and low-income residents, many of whom are dependent on the bus to get to doctors appointments, jobs and social activities, are more likely to be stuck at home as their transportation options become more expensive and more difficult to access. *Centro's fare has increased 100% since 2008, the highest of any of the systems surveyed (inflation was 7.8% during that period), and 85% of CENTRO's riders had incomes below \$30,000 in 2005, according to the authority. NYS covers 47% of CENTRO'S operating budget, so it has a significant impact on the system. Unless NYS helps to fill the budget gap, the long-term social and economic costs of a faltering transit system will only get worse.*

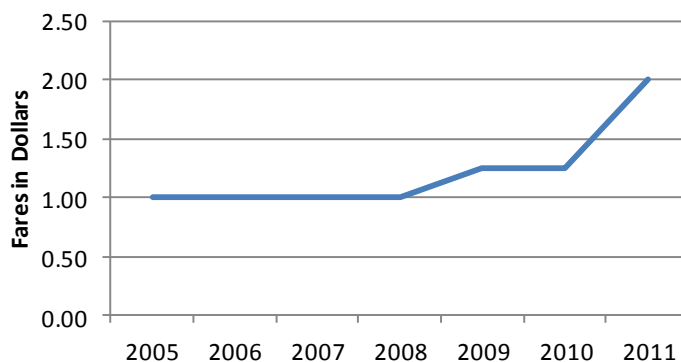
% Ridership Increase, 2005-2009	53%
% Fare Increase since 2005	100%
% Decrease in Service from Peak Levels*	-2.30%
% Syracuse Households without a Car in 2010	26%

* Annual Vehicle Revenue Miles

Centro Ridership Increased 53%, 2005-2009



Centro's Fares Increased 100%



Sources:

National Transit Database, 2010 American Community Survey, NYS-DOT and New York Public Transit Association.