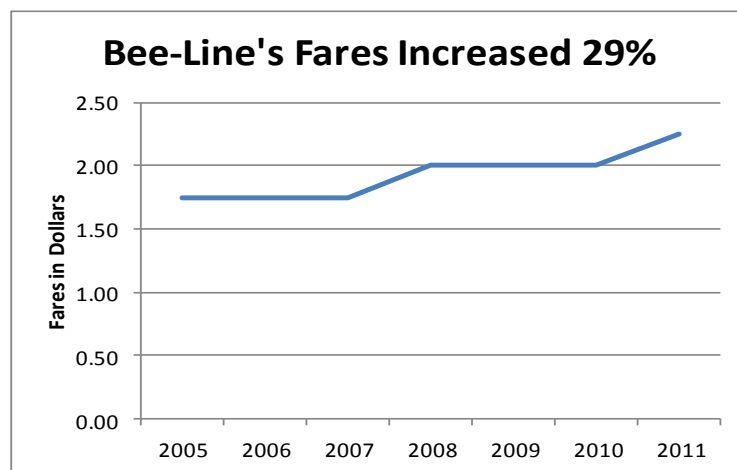
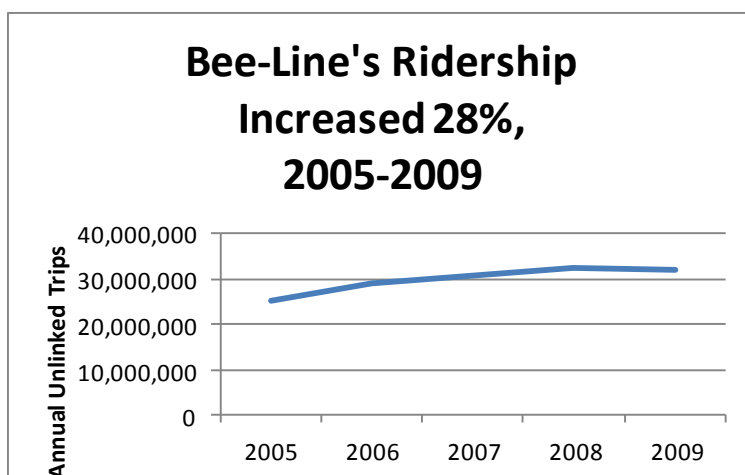


Stuck at Home: How Cuts to Public Transit Disproportionately Hurt Seniors and Low-Income New Yorkers

Snapshot: Effects on Westchester's Bee-Line Bus

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. Westchester'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. *The recession clearly impacted Bee-Line ridership: a 2010 Bee-Line rider survey showed a significant increase in riders earning less than \$10,000 (jumping from 23% of total riders in 2007 to 32% of riders in 2010); 62% of riders said they did not have access to a car.* 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	28%
% Fare Increase since 2005	29%
% Decrease in Service from Peak Levels*	-4.33%
% Westchester Households without a Car in 2010	15%



Sources:
National Transit Database, 2010 American Community Survey, NYSDOT, New York Public Transit Association, and 2010 Bee-Line Rider Survey.

*Annual Vehicle Revenue Miles