

Commentary/Op-Ed - November 2017

Op-Ed: NYC's Infrastructure Woes Run Deeper than the Subway

If the ongoing subway crisis should remind New York City of anything, it is the dangers of neglecting infrastructure. The city faces at least $47 billion in unmet infrastructure needs just to reach a state of good repair, and any major expansions or sweeping modernizations would cost billions more. With infrastructure in crisis everywhere, officials need to direct sustained funding to these critical needs.

by Matt A.V. Chaban

Each passing day seems to bring some new indignity to New Yorkers' commutes. Last week, even Mayor de Blasio and Senator Bernie Sanders were stuck waiting for a delayed A train. Yet if the ongoing subway crisis reminds the city of anything, it is the dangers of neglecting infrastructure. And transit is just the tip of the shovel.

In this *Crain's New York Business* op-ed, Matt A.V. Chaban, CUF's policy director and Fisher Fellow, argues that it's time for an infrastructure rescue plan for New York City. The city faces at least $47 billion in unmet infrastructure needs just to reach a state of good repair, according to the Center for an Urban Future. Any major expansions or sweeping modernizations would cost billions more. While such staggering sums might seem insurmountable, they will only grow the longer the city and state wait. With infrastructure in crisis everywhere, officials need to direct sustained funding to these critical needs.

Read the op-ed here.

This op-ed is a continuation of the Center for an Urban Future's extensive research on New York City's infrastructure, including the groundbreaking studies *Slow Build*, *Freight Foward: Boosting NYC's Sagging Air Cargo Sector Should be Part of NYC's Good Job Strategy*, and *Caution Ahead*.

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General operating support for the Center for an Urban Future is provided by **The Clark Foundation** and the **Bernard F. and Alva B. Gimbel Foundation**. We are also grateful for support from **Fisher Brothers** and **Winston C. Fisher** for the Center for an Urban Future's Middle Class Jobs Project.

Center for an Urban Future (CUF) is an independent, nonprofit think tank that generates innovative policies to create jobs, reduce inequality, and help lower income New Yorkers climb into the middle class. For 20 years, CUF has published accessible, data-driven reports on ways to grow and diversify the economy and expand opportunity that are anchored in rigorous research, not preconceived notions about outcome. Our work has been a powerful catalyst for policy change in New York City and serves as an invaluable resource for government officials, community groups, nonprofit practitioners and business leaders as they advocate for and implement policies to address some of New York's biggest challenges and opportunities.

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