



Commentary/Op-Ed - February 2018

Op-Ed: The Transit Crisis Without a Rescue Plan

Even as the subways reach the breaking point, hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers face an additional commuting crisis: the lack of fast, reliable transit service in huge swaths of the boroughs outside Manhattan. No industry has felt the effects of these punishing commutes more than the city's healthcare sector.

by Jonathan Bowles and Matt A.V. Chaban

With a new transit chief and subway action plan, New York City may finally be on the way to fixing the trains—a critical first step in turning around a failing system. Yet transit will forever remain on life support unless New York tackles the poor service plaguing neighborhoods citywide. No one is more effected than the city's healthcare employees, who face the longest mass transit commutes of any private-sector workers citywide — more than 51 minutes. The workers who heal us are hurting the most.

In this *Gotham Gazette* op-ed, CUF Executive Director Jonathan Bowles and Policy Director and Fisher Fellow Matt A.V. Chaban argue that this transit crisis lacks a rescue plan. For our city to run smoothly and efficiently for all of its residents, New York City and State need to prioritize improving transit service in the boroughs outside of Manhattan.

[Read the op-ed here.](#)

This op-ed is a continuation of the Center for an Urban Future's research on the links between the city's infrastructure and economic opportunity, including *An Unhealthy Commute: The Transit Challenges Facing New York City's Healthcare Sector*, a major report assessing the transit crisis and its effects on the healthcare sector.

Photo Credit: [ArtisticOperations/Pixabay](#)

This research was made possible by **TransitCenter**.

General operating support for the Center for an Urban Future has been provided by the **Clark Foundation** and the **Bernard F. and Alva B. Gimbel Foundation**. CUF is also grateful for support from **Fisher Brothers** for the 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.

RELATED PRESS

[MTA'S Uber Plan To Give Late-Shift Workers a Lyft](#)

The City, by Jose Martinez and Trone Dowd, February 04, 2020



CENTER FOR AN URBAN FUTURE
120 Wall Street, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10005

cuf@nycfuture.org © All Rights Reserved.