

# PUBLIC TRANSIT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Advanced Training Program

2025 - 2026



Offered by:  
New York Public Transit Association  
[www.nytransit.org](http://www.nytransit.org)

# PUBLIC TRANSIT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The New York Public Transit Association (NYPTA) Public Transit Leadership Institute (PTLI) is for graduates of NYPTA's Public Transit Leadership Introductory Program (PTLIP). This six-part, year-long series is an in-depth professional development opportunity for mid- to senior-level managers aspiring to advance their careers as senior and executive level public transit professionals.

The curriculum, under the instruction and mentoring of experienced transit industry executives and other leaders, provides training in core areas of transit and leadership for professional development and career expansion.

## Goals

- Develop the awareness, skills and insight necessary to excel as a leader in the public transit industry.
- Gain first-hand knowledge of the opportunities and challenges facing transit systems of all sizes.
- Grow a network of industry leaders poised to support one another in reaching professional goals.
- Challenge traditional ways of thinking and engage participants in broader conversations about public transportation, mobility and community revitalization.
- Participate in projects and group discussions that foster a broader understanding of diverse perspectives and attitudes.
- Personal identification of skills and areas of targeted professional growth.
- Connect participants with transit executives and leaders in the public transportation industry and build mentor relationships.
- Engage participants' active involvement in the New York Public Transit Association to foster learning, the ongoing exchange of information and innovation, and the introduction to pathways to leadership.

## • Program Highlights

- Review of Individual and Group Styles and Natural Attributes
- Johari Window – shrinking your blind spot
- Self-awareness - Static vs Dynamic
- Emotional vs Logical Decision Making
- Ingredients for progress in life and business
- Setting your organization/team up for success
- Separating cause and effect
- Strategic Perspective & Horizon
- Strategic Planning
- Setting your table – Preparing your mind for success
- Strategy and People Leadership
- Organizational DNA
- Motivation vs Inspiration
- Developing Generational & Cultural Awareness
- Strategic Change Leadership
- Creating Strategic Focus – Choice Management
- The Strategic Funnel
- Symptom Exclusion
- The Eisenhower Matrix
- The Value Quadrant

## Leadership Project

The PTLI class will complete a project which will demonstrate leadership skills, address issues in the field, and contribute to the transit industry. Projects guidelines are as follows:

- Identification of an opportunity or issue within public transit and acquisition of NYPTA approval to pursue the project
- Development of a strategy to define and analyze the opportunity or issue
- Engagement of internal and external resources to develop potential tactics
- Selection of a preferred course of action and submission to NYPTA
- Presentation of the project at the 2025 NYPTA Annual Conference

## Anticipated Outcomes

PTLI participants will gain the following outcomes:

- An inside look at five diverse transit authorities around New York State
- Self-awareness in terms of leadership strengths, weaknesses and capacity
- A greater network of transit professionals throughout New York State and beyond
- A deeper understanding of the business of transit, its future, strategic planning and asset management

## Curriculum Structure

Each session will contain the following elements:

- Fundamentals of Strategic Leadership
- Presentation from the local host
- Tour of the local host facility
- Invited Guest Speaker

## Graduation

Graduates will be recognized during the 2026 NYPTA Annual Conference for their completion of PTLI. They will be presented a plaque noting their commitment to the transit industry and their professional development. All graduates will be listed on the New York Public Transit Association website.

## Course Directors

We're proud to feature New York Transit Industry CEOs as PTLI's Course Directors:

**Frank Annicaro**, CEO, Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA)

**Tom George**, Vice President, Operations, for the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA)

**Miguel Velázquez**, CEO, Rochester Genesee Regional Transportation Authority (RTS)

**Christopher Tuff**, CEO, Central New York Regional Transportation Authority (Centro)

**Demetrius Chrichlow**, President of NYCT

## Faculty

PTLI faculty are recognized industry leaders and executive staff, senior management, and directors of local, state and national transit organizations who are distinguished professionals with notable achievements and successes in public transportation. The faculty serve as discussion leaders, presenters and mentors.

**Ray Melleady**, President of Ster Seating

**Chris Boylan**, Director Government & Strategic Partnerships, General Contractors Association

**John Lewis**, Principal Transpro Consulting

**Shannon Bailey**, Strategic Account Director, Global Traffic Technologies

**David Stackrow**, CDTA Board, Former APTA Chair

**Kimberly Slaughter**, Executive Consultant

**MJ Maynard**, Chief Executive Officer, RTC Las Vegas

## Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Location
October 2025	Personality and EQI Assessment	Annual Conference Hotel
January 2026	Strategy & Dynamic Self Awareness Creating a Playbook & SB	NYCT or Westchester
March 2026	Strategy & Human Capital	Albany, NY
May 2026	Strategy & Asset Management	Rochester, NY
July 2026	Strategy Advocacy & Finance	Syracuse, NY
September 2026	Strategy, Wellness & Life Balance	Buffalo, NY
October 2026	Capstone Presentations	Annual Conference

"Leadership is about pushing responsibility and authority into the front lines of an organization where people feel empowered to make a difference. "



## Eligibility

A candidate must be nominated for acceptance by a senior or executive level manager at his or her current place of employment, to whom he or she has reported. Self-nominations are accepted along with a letter of recommendation. **The class will be limited to 25 people.** The program seeks to have a diverse cross-section of participants. Candidates who's applications are not accepted may reapply.



## Tuition

Tuition for the PTLI is \$2,495 for NYPTA members and \$2,995 for non-members. Tuition includes all activities (including conference registration) and program materials, excluding travel expenses. Cancellations made prior to 10 business days before the start of the program will be refunded. A cancellation received within 10 business days of the start of the program, or after the program has begun, is not eligible for refund. *RTAP systems are encouraged to apply, as this program is eligible for RTAP reimbursement.*



## Application Process

Please complete the attached application form and submit it with all required supporting documents, including the letter of nomination and a \$50 application fee. To apply online, visit [www.nytransit.org](http://www.nytransit.org). Be sure to attach the supporting documents and remit the application fee. Nominations must be received by September 1, 2025, applicants notified by September 15, 2025.



## Tuition and Enrollment

Selected applications remit full tuition payment at the time of application. Checks should be mailed to 230 Washington Ave. Ext. Suite 101, Albany, NY 12203.

Questions? Please call 518.417.4020 or email [info@nytransit.org](mailto:info@nytransit.org).



## Commitment

Acceptance into PTLI requires a commitment to attend the activities, perform required assignments and actively participate in the designated opportunities. Participants who miss more than two sessions may apply to make it up in the following class year. Completion of the entire program is required for graduation.

# APPLICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

TRANSIT AGENCY \_\_\_\_\_

JOB TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

JOB TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN THE TRANSIT INDUSTRY \_\_\_\_\_

YEARS OF MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE IN TRANSIT \_\_\_\_\_

PTLI GRADUATION YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby nominate [applicant name] to participate in the 2023-2024 Public Transit Leadership Institute.

**CEO Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please attach a statement of interest (maximum 500 words) to support your application.**

Possible topics include:

- What you hope to gain from the program
- Your career goals in the transit industry
- Your five-year vision for your transit agency

**Applicant Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_