



Electric Vehicles: Creating clean air & green jobs by transitioning public transit

ANDRÉ SAYEGH, Mayor, Paterson

When an array of interests find a collective voice for action on an issue, it's a sign we are onto something significant. In this way, I am proud to place Paterson as a focal point for this consensus about the health, and environmental and economic benefits of a transition to electric vehicles. I have committed my voice in support of key legislation (S2252/A4819) to develop incentives and infrastructure for electric transportation across New Jersey.

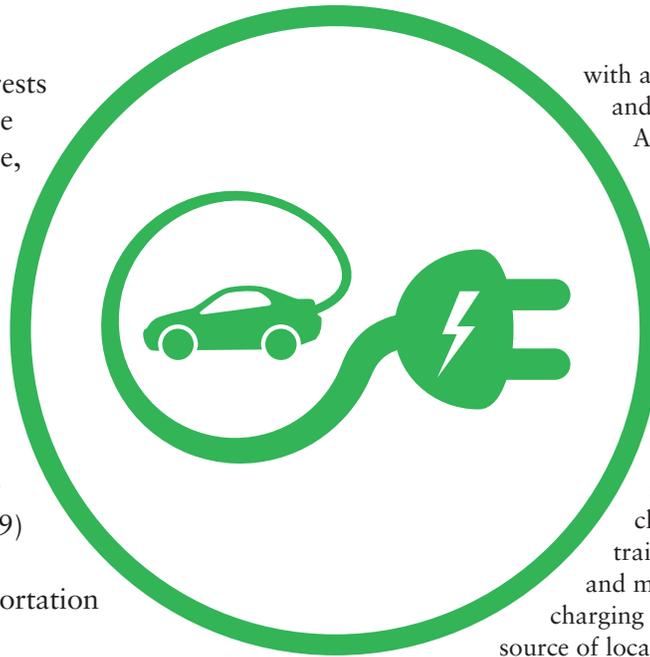
In February of this year, Paterson joined with Jersey Renewables and Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) in hosting New Jersey's commemoration of Transit Equity Day at City Hall, part of a national day of action by the Labor Network for Sustainability. ATU and a broad array of partners, including NJ Work Environment Council, Tri-State Transportation Campaign, Environment NJ, Working Families, and Clean Water Action called for accessible and affordable public transit that is run on clean and renewable energy to improve public health, create new jobs in the green energy sector, and mitigate climate change. I signed a proclamation in support of those goals, particularly for electrifying our city fleet, to benefit Paterson residents and to showcase a statewide model of what is possible working together.

Then in May, with Councilman Luis Velez and business leaders, I stood with a gathering of African American ministers representing Greenfaith at an Electric Vehicle Blessing Ceremony to call for passage of the EV bill (S2252/A4819). We were inspired with new possibilities in my city.

Lungs and labor

Why? It's about lungs and it's about labor. We want clean air and we want green jobs. Nearly 50% of greenhouse gas emissions in New Jersey come from the transportation sector. That's why the City of Paterson is taking transportation electrification seriously.

Air polluted from years of gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles is making our residents and transit workers sick—



with asthma, COPD, lung cancer, and other devastating conditions.

According to the American Lung Association 2019 State of the Air report (<http://bit.ly/2qzZL5R>), a majority of our counties failed for ozone pollution. Urbanites suffer disproportionately from New Jersey's dirty air as a result of proximity to ports and major thoroughfares.

New Jersey sits in the middle of one of the largest transportation markets in the country. And, the clean energy economy will demand trained talent, with the installation and maintenance of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, an important source of local jobs that cannot be outsourced.

In Paterson, we have begun to convene Passaic County Community College officials, local education leaders, and job training experts to take advantage of the tremendous opportunity to transition a workforce for the future, while we boost our economy. Acting collectively, NJ can attract those companies that will manufacture and produce the batteries, the software, and other components that will be required for these 21st century vehicles.

Both urban and suburban residents stand to benefit. It is estimated that each electric vehicle mile is about 70% cleaner than a gas-fueled one. With approximately 4 million registered cars on our roads, we need to begin aggressively replacing each car that belches toxic fumes into the air we all breathe. We need to replace the buses and trucks that drive through our neighborhoods and in our downtown areas with electric buses and trucks.

More options for transportation

What's more, electrifying transportation opens many more options to help us move around our state, particularly for those without cars. Electrically powered jitneys and buses are one set of solutions, but the sharing economy that can utilize electric car and ride sharing services is another emerging trend New Jersey should foster and encourage. These types of opportunities offer ways to get people to the places that public transit does not reach and can also solve that "last mile" problem wherein public transit gets you "almost there."

Cities, Towns, & Counties That Have Passed #Electrifynj EV Resolutions

Bloomington
Borough of Haledon
Camden
Carteret
Ewing Township
Fort Lee
Franklin
Garfield
Glassboro
Highland Park
Hopewell Township
Hudson County Board of Freeholders
Kearny
Jersey City
Mercer County Board of Freeholders
Plainfield
Plainsboro
Princeton
Stone Harbor Borough
Trenton
West Orange
Westwood

For copies of passed resolutions, visit:

Plainsboro: <http://bit.ly/PlainsboroEV>

Glassboro: <http://bit.ly/GlassboroEVrez>

The benefits for the millions of current drivers are also significant. Cost of electric charging is about one-third the cost of fueling with gas. This savings on domestically produced electricity can help a two-car household save about \$2,000 each year. Looking at projections through 2035, we have as much as \$8.4 billion dollars of savings pulsing through our state economy (www.chargevc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/ChargEVC-New-Jersey-Study.pdf). Additionally, plugging in all of the cars, trucks, and buses on our roadways brings the costs of electricity down for everyone. In the face of concerns about rising electric rates, here is an initiative that will send rates in the other direction—down.

I want Paterson to be at the forefront of this movement. But there is no virtue in going there alone. Join Paterson and

other New Jersey communities to galvanize your community in support of S2252/A4819 to address pollution from cars, trucks and buses. It will take a diverse chorus of support from mayors, labor unions, energy companies, car dealers, tech innovators, urban community leaders, and environmentalists.

The time for action is now. 🚗

At the Conference:

To continue the discussion on EVs, attend the session **Creating the Electric Vehicle Revolution** at the Annual League Conference on Thurs., Nov. 21 at 2 p.m. in Room 421.

Mayor Sayegh will be a panelist at the session **The Art of Collaboration: Opportunity Zones Success in Urban Centers** on Wed., Nov. 20 at 10:45 a.m. in Room 419.

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