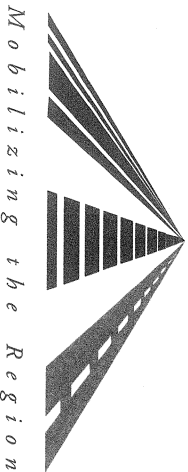


TRI-STATE TRANSPORTATION CAMPAIGN



November 22, 2010

The Honorable David Paterson

Governor

State of New York

State Capitol

Albany, NY 12224

Hon. Andrew Cuomo

Governor-Elect

Church Street Station

P.O. Box 683

New York, NY 10008

Dear Governor Paterson and Governor-Elect Cuomo:

The Tri-State Transportation Campaign board of directors, which is comprised of members representing the region's key planning, transportation advocacy, smart growth, and environmental groups, is very concerned about the potential diversion of dedicated transit funding to address further budget reductions for State Fiscal Year 2010-2011 of \$375 million or more.

We urge you to keep transit funding intact. Any additional raids on transit's dedicated taxes will likely result in either service cuts, layoffs, fare increases, and/or system disrepair.

In December 2009, the state legislature took \$143 million in dedicated transit taxes to help close the state's budget gap. This measure, which was unprecedented for this transit funding source, resulted in the elimination or shortening of 36 bus routes; the elimination of 570 bus stops; the elimination of two subway lines with service cuts to other lines; and layoffs of hundreds of station operators, cleaners, and workers. In September 2010, the state raided an additional \$17 million in dedicated transit funds.

The ensuing impacts of these cuts have impacted millions of city and suburban riders with greater commuting times, longer waits, overcrowded platforms and trains, and more difficult commutes. And, quite possibly, the end of an affordable and reliable bus system in Nassau County.

Our transit system is in serious financial jeopardy. The system needs more money, not less. Dedicated

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revenue sources that maintain the system are generating hundreds of millions less than anticipated. And, the state has reduced its aid to the MTA, including a \$20 million cut in supporting free or discounted transportation for 550,000 middle- and high-school student in New York City

The governor and state legislature have significant control over the outcome. We urge you to stop the diversion of dedicated transit funds for other uses and urge you to keep transit funding intact. Doing so ensures that transit can continue to deliver the economic, environmental, and social benefits that help make New York strong.

Sincerely,

The Board and executive staff of the Tri-State Transportation Campaign:

Rich Kassel (Board Chair)

Senior Attorney, Natural Resources Defense Council

Gene Russianoff

Staff Attorney, NYPPIRG/Straphangers Campaign

Eric Alexander

Executive Director, Vision Long Island

Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff

Former MTA Board Member and Chairman, Audubon New York

Marcia Bystryn

President, NY League of Conservation Voters

Kate Slevin

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Kevin Corbett

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