



April 2, 2012

Honorable Peter Schmitt  
1550 Franklin Avenue  
Mineola, NY 11501

**Re: New York State Budget and NICE Bus Cuts**

Dear Presiding Officer Schmitt,

The Tri-State Transportation Campaign, a non-profit transportation policy watchdog working in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, writes to urge you to use new state funding support for transit operations to mitigate the proposed \$7.3 million in bus cuts to the Nassau Inter-County Express (NICE) system.

The recently adopted New York State budget includes an additional \$4 million in State Transportation Operating Assistance (STOA) for Nassau County's bus system. This additional subsidy, while insufficient to make up the \$7.3 million deficit, should be used to mitigate the most drastic cuts being proposed by Veolia Transportation, namely the elimination of all off peak service and Saturday service on certain routes like the N16, N21, N45 and N51 to name but a few.

In addition, the adopted New York State budget authorizes the expansion of red light camera usage in Nassau County. The county should use a portion of the new revenue generated, expected to be approximately \$17 million a year, to fill the remaining operating deficit. Doing so would serve to avoid the need for any service reductions.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Ryan Lynch  
Policy Director