



Amalgamated Transit Union

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Office of the International President

September 12, 2012

Robert Castelli
Assembly Member
New York State Assembly
4 New King Street, Suite 125
White Plains, NY 10604

Dear Assembly Member Castelli:

As New York State advances its application for the federal Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) grant program for construction of the new Tappan Zee bridge, I strongly encourage you to join us in advancing plans for bus rapid transit on the bridge and throughout the I-287 corridor so that plans for such a system may be included in the TIFIA application.

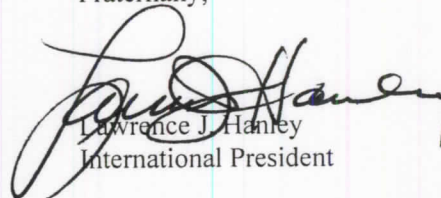
The creation of jobs has been a key argument in support of building the bridge now, focused primarily around the creation of 45,000+ jobs that construction of the project will generate. However, there has been very little mention of the transit jobs that would be created from the implementation of a bus rapid transit system throughout the I-287 corridor. Jobs in transit operation, maintenance, and manufacturing go beyond the life of bridge construction and are spread throughout the state. Manufacturers as far north as Clinton, New York in North Country and as far east as Bayport, Long Island in Suffolk County supply parts for transit systems throughout New York State.

According to the American Public Transit Association (FYI...page 5), every billion dollars of annual investment on transit capital and operations supports 36,000 jobs in one year, more than comparable investment in road or bridge construction. Yet, we hear very little public support from our elected officials for the need to create and support transit jobs. You can signal your support for transit jobs by calling on Governor Cuomo and the New York State Thruway Authority to commit now to a planning process for the long-term implementation of a bus rapid transit system. In the interim, you can urge the state to include short-term bus improvements, such as the creation of an exclusive bus lane on the bridge that extends into the corridor, in construction plans for the new bridge project as well as additional operating support to run more reliable bus service along the corridor.

Reliable, robust, affordable, and modern transit options across the Tappan Zee bridge will reduce traffic congestion while spurring economic growth in the Hudson Valley region. Supporting transit jobs is a key way to attain these goals.

We support the creation of a Regional Transit Task Force that is tasked with developing "a plan for short-term steps that can be considered for immediate commencement, as well as long-term plans for transit solutions." We hope you will work with us to ensure the Task Force's recommendations are adopted. As the largest transit union in the country representing 190,000 members, we urge you to make transit a priority.

Fraternally,



Lawrence J. Hanley
International President

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