



**Watchdog Group: Gov. Malloy and State Legislators Must Maintain Investment in Rail and Bus Service**

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*In response to spending cuts announced by Gov. Malloy on Wednesday, Tri-State Transportation Campaign Executive Director Veronica Vanterpool released the following statement:*

“As Governor Malloy and the Connecticut General Assembly weigh spending cuts to plug the state’s deficit, the operating budgets for rail and bus transit should be spared. With ridership on Metro-North reaching record levels in 2011 and over 38 million annual rides on CTTransit, now is the time to invest in transit, not cut it. Transit makes the economy of Connecticut strong, keeps the environment cleaner, and makes Connecticut’s towns and cities attractive to live and visit.

Superstorm Sandy showed us how important the state’s transit system is to the state’s economy. With the New Haven Line down in the days after the storm, tens of thousands of Connecticut riders couldn’t get to work and many New Yorkers couldn’t get to jobs in Connecticut. Filling the budget gap by taking from transit will only cost the state more in the future.”

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*Tri-State Transportation Campaign is a non-profit organization working toward a more balanced, transit-friendly, and equitable transportation system in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.*