



**For immediate release - July 17, 2014**

**Contact:**

Veronica Vanterpool  
Tri-State Transportation Campaign  
212-268-7474

**Statement of Tri-State Transportation Campaign Executive Director Veronica Vanterpool on Public Authorities Control Board approval of loan for bridge construction:**

"During yesterday's vote, the Public Authorities Control Board unanimously rubber-stamped the first installment of \$511 million in low-interest loans from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund – a fund traditionally used to upgrade municipal wastewater infrastructure across the state. This sets a terrible precedent for this state, and this nation, as this vote of approval now opens the door for future borrowing from the fund for other non-wastewater projects.

Complete financial details for the rebuilding of the Tappan Zee Bridge, including the toll structure and the repayment plans for the loans, are still a mystery. The PACB had a legal responsibility to obtain this information before approving this loan, and the voting members of that board—State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, State Senator John DeFrancisco and State Budget Director Robert Megna—failed to uphold the law. Additionally, the public was given the most minimal opportunity for formal input. These members of the PACB sanctioned a failed process instead of championing the concerns of their constituencies.

While the new bridge project must be paid for, raiding money reserved for struggling municipalities to meet their water infrastructure needs hardly demonstrates the sound and sustainable financial mechanisms the public expects for one of the most significant infrastructure projects in the nation."

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