



For Immediate Release

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Governor Christie Denies the Existence of a Transportation Trust Fund Crisis

Statement of Tri-State Transportation Campaign Executive Director Veronica Vanterpool on Governor Christie's comments regarding New Jersey transportation being "funded pretty well now."

"Governor Christie's assertion that New Jersey's Transportation Trust Fund is "funded pretty well now" shows that the Governor is completely out of touch with the transportation needs of New Jersey and the dire fiscal reality of the state. New Jersey is the fourth most indebted state in the nation; how could transportation be pretty well funded now? In just five months, all of the state's collected transportation revenue will go toward paying the debts of past or current projects. This is because the Transportation Trust Fund will go broke on July 1, 2015, which means there will be no more money to fix potholes, to reinforce steel bridge beams, or to replace diesel trains with greener ones.

Instead of addressing the looming transportation crisis five years ago, the Governor took a politically expedient detour away from a solution. Governor Christie's fiscal gimmicks spare no sector: transportation, education, pensions, nor climate. For transportation, increased bonding authority to allow more debt, fund transfers and one-shots are the mechanisms used to cover up the financial crisis.

Now, New Jersey's transportation network is characterized by:

- Increased delays and cancellations on NJTransit into Penn Station and the Port Authority Bus Terminal with no relief in sight given the cancellation of the Access to the Region's Core tunnel
- One in three bridges rated structurally deficient or functionally obsolete
- Poor roadway conditions which cost drivers nearly \$2,000 a year
- A rate of pedestrian injuries and fatalities more than double the national average
- Stalled mass transit expansions due to lack of funding
- Scandals like Bridgegate, which made national headlines

Governor Christie now proposes fare increases and service cuts for transit riders, even though such an increase would place a significant burden on users who have limited incomes, are disabled, or car-less. Yet, the Governor refuses to budge on increasing the gas tax. Why is it acceptable for the Governor to justify the first fare increase for transit riders since 2010 but not the first gas tax increase for motorists since 1988?

When will New Jersey residents hold Governor Christie accountable for the financial ruin his unsustainable funding policies are delivering to the state?"

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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.