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NY and NJ Show Commitment to Gateway Tunnel; Opportunity for Reform Should Not Be Wasted

Statement of Tri-State Transportation Campaign Executive Director Veronica Vanterpool on the Port Authority's commitment to fund one-half of the Gateway Tunnel:

“Today’s letter from Governors Cuomo and Christie for the Gateway Tunnel moves beyond empty rhetoric toward earnest commitment to investing in this critical piece of rail infrastructure. Without this project, our \$3 trillion regional economy will suffer, traffic congestion and safety will get worse and environmental gains from the region’s high transit ridership will be lost. The funding framework put forth, that the federal government pay for half of the project while New York, New Jersey and the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey develop a financing plan for the other half, makes sense. Given that only 3 percent of total U.S. spending is spent on transportation, it is no surprise that our region’s infrastructure needs are growing at an insurmountable pace. The federal government can begin to address this inequity by making this significant investment in the Gateway Tunnel. Without it, the tri-state region, and our country, cannot compete in the global economy.

This is also an opportunity for the New Jersey Legislature to pass, and for Governors Christie and Cuomo to sign, reform measures for the Port Authority to ensure that the agency is more fiscally transparent, that projects adhere to its original mission to keep the region moving, and that the Authority’s officers and leadership operate in the best interests of New York and New Jersey

residents, employees and businesses. This project is too important to get mired in scandal. Since Super Storm Sandy, there are near daily reminders that another tunnel is long overdue. Today's letter brings the project closer to a realistic timeline."

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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.