



July 1, 2016
For Immediate Release

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New Jersey Fails to Prevent Transportation Trust Fund Bankruptcy

Statement of Tri-State Transportation Campaign Executive Director Veronica Vanterpool on the inability of elected leaders to replenish the Transportation Trust Fund:

“We’re disappointed, but not surprised, to see that New Jersey’s elected leaders have failed to reach an agreement that could have prevented the Transportation Trust Fund’s bankruptcy. Despite many months of warning, they waited until the eleventh hour to take any serious action toward replenishing the Fund.

Governor Christie blamed the Senate for the failure to approve a transportation funding plan. And although Senate President Stephen Sweeney did not put gas tax legislation up for a vote yesterday, the fact remains that the governor, who sought a political win through tax cuts and side-stepped claims that a transportation funding crisis even existed, has been the biggest obstruction to finding a solution with his unmerited opposition to a gas tax increase.

The failure to adopt a long-overdue gas tax increase comes with a price that every New Jersey resident will pay in the form of vehicle repairs caused by poor road conditions, time spent in congestion, or delayed on transit -- not to mention the blow to New Jersey’s economy. The Transportation Trust Fund’s insolvency means repairs to the state’s structurally-deficient bridges will have to wait. Transit projects like the Camden-Glassboro Line will have to wait. Fixing the miles and miles of roads in poor condition will have to wait.

We urge the legislature to continue to work towards a comprehensive funding package that will address the state’s transportation infrastructure needs. The failure to solve the problem this week does not mean the conversation has ended. The crisis is real, and it will remain so until a solution is found.”

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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.