

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Tri-State Transportation Campaign Statement on Black Lives Matter Protests**

*Recent protests throughout the country have painfully reminded us of the inequities in policing and use of public spaces. In response, Tri-State Transportation Campaign released the following statement:*

“The tragic deaths of George Floyd and countless other African Americans and people of color, as well as the resulting protests, speak to the institutionalized racism that continues to plague our country. As fighters for safe and equitable public spaces, we cannot be silent on this issue.

“First and foremost, we stand in solidarity with organizations focused on the most urgent work of achieving justice for the families of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and all those who have lost their lives to police brutality.

“At Tri-State Transportation Campaign we fight for the equitable distribution of tax and toll monies to promote transit and safe use of streets in our region. We recognize the historic role that city planning, including highways to suburbs, and street design has on perpetuating systemic racism ingrained in our communities.

“Highways and boulevards have carved up communities of color, subjecting them to disproportionate health burdens from air pollution, ultimately devaluing their property, homes, and lives. In addition, unequal access to jobs, disparate infrastructure and education investment, and over-policing all contribute to an environment that consistently puts Black lives in danger.

“We also recognize that good transit and safe public spaces have the power to unify a city and bring people together. Therefore we must all move forward with a real and practical plan to make our region safer, healthier, and more equitable. This means ensuring those who are most vulnerable are able to move throughout their communities without fear, safely, and conveniently--whether by car, public transit, bicycle, or on foot.

“While systemic racism and its solutions go way beyond transportation, in our role as advocates, we will contribute to this fight as best we can to call out the environmental and social inequities we see in our work. In the meantime, the killings must stop, the violence must end, and the system must change.”

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*Tri-State Transportation Campaign is a 27-year old advocacy organization that fights for an equitable, multi-modal transportation network that provides options and supports the economies of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. TSTC works to fix our commutes, meet our climate goals, stop traffic deaths, and make transportation fair.*