

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

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**Statement on New Jersey Transit Federal Bailout from
Tri-State Transportation Campaign and Environment New
Jersey**

COVID-19 has turned our global economy upside down, bringing businesses and commuters to a grinding halt for an indefinite period of time. With employees working from home and restrictions being placed on movement, ridership on NJ Transit has plummeted more than 40% over the past week. In response, Tri-State Transportation Campaign and Environment New Jersey released the following statement:

"Businesses have already turned to the federal government for financial assistance, with the airline industry asking for a \$50 billion bailout despite record profits for the last several years. Now, transit agencies, facing significant operating shortfalls, are making their needs known as well, including yesterday's ask from the MTA for a \$4 billion federal bailout. It is time for NJ Transit to do the same.

"Even as demands for more sanitization of stations and trains grow, NJ Transit trains, buses, and stations are virtually empty. The result is a hard hit to passenger revenue and a potential monthly loss of \$80 million. And that's just the start for the agency that is trying to bounce back from chronic underfunding. For years, the agency has relied on an emergency stop-gap measure as an annual funding source as a way to cover budget shortfalls: annual transfers of hundreds of millions from its capital budget to its operating budget, growing to \$460 million last year. On top of that, because it lacks dedicated revenue streams, NJ Transit is far more dependent on passenger revenue than similar agencies--meaning declines in ridership place outsize strain on their budgets exactly when they're striving to get back on track.

"First and foremost, the State needs to step in to ensure that transit still runs during this crisis so that essential workers--especially those working in healthcare--can still commute. But even after the COVID-19 crisis ebbs, NJ Transit will continue to feel the effects: riders will be slow to return to work, and some may not come back at all. As commuters drive less, the state's Transportation Trust Fund will decline, further impacting transit revenues. Now more than ever, transit needs funding, and with state and local budgets similarly strained by the COVID-19 crisis, the federal government is the only answer in the short-term. Fortunately, we have strong

elected leadership committed to helping New Jersey residents during this difficult time. We look forward to NJ Transit and our elected leaders stepping up to make sure New Jersey gets the help we need.”

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Tri-State Transportation Campaign is a 25-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.

Environment New Jersey is a non-profit advocacy organization focused on protecting New Jersey's environment and providing the people of the Garden State with a voice in the environmental debate. We combine independent research with effective civic engagement to protect and restore New Jersey's environment. We work to protect our air, water and open spaces and fight climate change by transitioning to a clean energy economy.