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Tri-State Transportation Campaign Statement on Congressional Republican's Unveiling of Relief Package

Today, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell unveiled the Republican Party's proposal for a second federal stimulus package aimed at mitigating economic damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In response, Tri-State Transportation Campaign released the following statement:

"As COVID-19 cases surge across the country, public transit agencies are facing what [The New York Times reports as a "death spiral."](#) and Congress is not acting fast enough to prevent a long-term fiscal disaster. The pandemic has proven that public transportation is a core public good and an essential service that keeps our economy afloat. These systems connect essential workers and millions more to their jobs, schools, and daycares; they reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and they are critical to building a more green and equitable economy.

"Public transit is one of our primary defenses against climate change. More cars on the road and fewer people using transit will be disastrous not only for the environment, but also for rebuilding our economy, especially in already congested cities like New York. If we don't keep transit running safely at full-service levels, we will see massive increases in traffic congestion and pollution, lost productivity, more fatal crashes on the road, and other cascading effects. Emissions from the transportation sector disproportionately [affect lower-income people of color, and poor air quality is linked to the severity of COVID cases.](#)

"Prior to the pandemic, traffic congestion in New York caused an estimated \$20 billion per year in lost economic productivity. Now, traffic on our region's highways and roads is on track to quickly exceed pre-pandemic levels and the MTA is facing a massive budget deficit that is expected to result in drastic service cuts at a time when safe and efficient transit is needed most. Congress must act quickly to prevent the worst possible public health and economic outcomes, which requires a more significant investment in our nation's transit systems."

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Tri-State Transportation Campaign is a 27-year old advocacy organization that fights for an equitable, safe, 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.