



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement from Tri-State Transportation Campaign on President-elect Biden's \$1.9 Trillion Stimulus Plan

Yesterday, President-elect Biden announced a new \$1.9 trillion stimulus plan to be rolled out to Congress following his inauguration next week. The plan includes \$20 billion for “the hardest hit public transit agencies” so they can avoid raising fares, cutting service, and laying off employees. Although transit agencies nation-wide received approximately \$14 billion in the December 2020 relief bill, the amount allocated for the tri-state region fell far short of the amount needed to keep NYC area transit systems afloat. In response, Tri-State Transportation Campaign released the following statement:

“Since the start of the pandemic, TSTC, our allies, and our regional congressional delegation advocated steadfastly to secure necessary federal relief funds to keep public transit systems operating. The outgoing Trump administration and Republican-controlled Senate were only willing to provide the bare minimum to transit, which had to be shared by all the country’s transit agencies based on national funding formulas that don’t adequately address our region’s unique needs. We applaud the Biden administration for taking bold steps out of the gate to protect public transit, the lifeline of our nation’s economy and workers. These funds are sorely needed to stave off catastrophic service cuts and to preserve our skilled workforce.

“With relief funds in sight, the MTA and NJ Transit can begin to breathe a sigh of relief after the near collapse of their budgets due to Covid-19. To have a president and Congress that understand the role of transit in connecting people with jobs and services, as well as creating good-paying jobs and stimulating manufacturing production nationwide, is a breath of fresh air.

“It is not enough to merely fund operations; we must also move quickly to modernize transit infrastructure, which will create new jobs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and expand our region’s ‘car-optional zone’ (where one can live and work without owning a car). The proposed funds will help our region’s transit agencies move ahead with important capital projects that will make public transit more reliable and accessible without taking on further crippling debt.



“Congress must pass this relief bill to save transit. We look forward to working with the Biden administration and our region’s transit agencies to ensure that the funds are being distributed appropriately and transparently.”

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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.