

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Thursday, July 29, 2021

CONTACT Liam Blank, Policy & Communications Manager <u>liam@tstc.org</u>

Senate GOP Reaches Deal with Democrats on Infrastructure, Worst Deal for Transit Since Nixon Administration

Senate Republicans reached a deal with Democrats on Wednesday over major outstanding issues in a \$1 trillion infrastructure package, a key part of President Joe Biden's agenda. The bipartisan package includes about \$550 billion in new spending on highways, bridges, transit, broadband, water systems and other public works projects. The following is a statement from **Renae Reynolds, Executive Director of Tri-State Transportation Campaign**, on the Senate infrastructure deal:

"Since the 1980s, funding for highways and transit has been split 80-20, with transit receiving one dollar for every four that highways get. Despite the country already facing a devastating climate emergency, the Senate has just agreed to a new funding split (82-18), increasing highway funding and reducing transit funding. This is the worst ratio for transit funding since the Nixon Administration, and it's a suicide mission that prioritizes cars and highways over more equitable and sustainable forms of transportation.

"We're thrilled, however, that this bill represents an increase in actual dollars spent on transit. In the short term, that is good for the region and good for the nation. But, if we are going to meaningfully tackle the climate crisis and the backwards infrastructure policies that got us here, we need to do a lot more. During the reconciliation process, we urge Senator Schumer and our congressional delegation to rise again to the challenge of creating a 21st Century infrastructure package that truly addresses equity, secures good paying jobs, and is impactful in solving the climate crisis."

###

<u>Tri-State Transportation Campaign</u> 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.