

**Philip D. Murphy**, Governor  
**Sheila Y. Oliver**, Lieutenant Governor  
**Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti**, Commissioner  
**Kevin S. Corbett**, President & CEO



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May 12, 2020

Dear Members of the New Jersey Congressional Delegation,

Thank you again for your continued and tireless efforts to support NJ TRANSIT during the COVID-19 pandemic. Your leadership and advocacy have resulted in NJ TRANSIT receiving nearly \$1.5 billion in federal transit aid through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. On behalf of our customers and our more than 11,000 employees, we cannot thank you enough for making this critical emergency relief possible.

NJ TRANSIT is the largest statewide transit agency in the nation. As you are aware and expect, the dedicated men and women of NJ TRANSIT are continuing to provide the rail, bus, light rail and Access Link paratransit service across New Jersey that is vital for first responders, frontline workers and others with essential travel needs. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 crisis has significantly worsened since our last correspondence and the financial impact to NJ TRANSIT's budget and finances is now estimated to be nearly \$2.6 billion over the next 14 months, through the end of our 2021 fiscal year on June 30, 2021. Thus, I am writing to request that the next COVID-19 relief legislation include an additional \$1.2 billion to plug the looming gap in NJ TRANSIT's operating budget.

Since my last letter a little more than a month ago, ridership and associated revenue have continued to plummet across our multiple modes of transportation. Ridership has now declined 98 percent on rail and 93 percent on bus. Declines are approaching 90 percent on light rail and 75 percent on Access Link paratransit service. Based on current ridership, and forecasts of a very slow return to higher (but not pre-COVID-19) ridership levels, NJ TRANSIT expects fare revenue losses for the current state fiscal year alone (June 30, 2020) to total some \$268 million, and for that loss to rise to \$1.07 billion. Over the same period, we are now able to report losses for advertising, leases and other revenue will rise to nearly \$110 million. These revenue losses represent a staggering blow to NJ TRANSIT's ability to continue to deliver essential service, as well as to support the restarting of New Jersey's and the overall region's economy.

NJ TRANSIT also receives significant yearly financial support from the State of New Jersey. But the State's budget is facing its own unparalleled pressures due to the crisis. NJ TRANSIT's financial forecasts, and our request for additional federal emergency aid, reflect a fuller understanding of the serious risk of loss of crucial State transit funding.

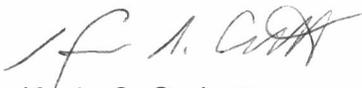
Additionally, NJ TRANSIT is incurring approximately \$10 million per month in additional operating expenses for COVID-19 increased safety precautions, including expanded equipment sanitizing and procurement of additional personal protective equipment, that are imperative to protecting our employees and customers. This includes the increased frequency of sanitizing our garages and maintenance facilities, stations, trains, light rail cars, buses, paratransit vehicles, and employee workspaces. This expense will increase as ridership returns.

Throughout this crisis and at this very moment, our front-line employees are at their posts providing a critical service to all who have essential travel needs. And like their first responder and other frontline worker counterparts, the COVID-19 virus is exacting a heavy toll on NJ TRANSIT's bus drivers, conductors, locomotive engineers and other employees. Tragically, I must report the passing of nine employees due to COVID-19, and more than 500 employees have so far tested positive for the virus. An unfortunate reality of this pandemic is that these numbers are likely to continue to grow.

It is the result of this unprecedented crisis and challenge that NJ TRANSIT is requesting additional aid totaling \$1.2 billion to maintain vital operations and support COVID-19 related expenses. The agency must be on sound fiscal footing and ready to restore full and robust service once the current COVID-19 crisis dissipates and New Jersey's, and the region's, travel and transportation needs return to pre-COVID-19 levels.

Thank you again for your commitment to and support of transportation and NJ TRANSIT as we work together to overcome this disaster and restore New Jersey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin S. Corbett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kevin" being the most prominent part.

Kevin S. Corbett  
President & CEO