



## *New Jersey Council On Special Transportation*

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# PRESS RELEASE

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## **State Advocacy Association Issues New Warnings about Community Transportation Funding Crisis**

*New Jersey Council on Special Transportation says counties are preparing for another multi-million dollar funding decrease in 2010. Cuts in transportation services for senior citizens and persons with disabilities are expected.*

(Manville, NJ) The New Jersey Council on Special Transportation (NJ COST), a statewide advocacy association that for over 28 years has provided information and support for community-based transit services, has announced that New Jersey's transportation services for senior citizens, persons with disabilities and the economically disadvantaged continues to face a financial crisis.

Most of New Jersey's designated 21-county coordinated systems heavily rely on transportation funding from the Casino Revenue's 'Senior Citizens and Disabled Residents Transportation Assistance Program'. However, with the continuance of a poor economy, the Atlantic City casinos are not maintaining the revenue levels of recent years. The 21 County transportation systems experienced a 10% Casino Revenue funding reduction in 2009 and will experience another 10% cut beginning January 2010. Another 12.5% funding loss is also expected in 2011. In two years (2009 and 2010), the counties lost over \$7 million in Casino Revenue funding and no relief is in sight.

Michael Vieira, NJ COST President re-stated his warning which was first issued last year:

*"New Jersey's Human Services Community Transportation is in a serious financial crisis which is affecting every county, municipality and social service agency in the State. This crisis negatively impacts New Jersey's older adult population, persons with disabilities, economically disadvantaged, veterans and other transportation dependent persons."*

“Previously, letters have been written to Governor Corzine, Senate President Richard Codey and Assembly Speaker Joseph Roberts asking them to set up a bi-partisan committee to review long-term and short-term solutions but, went unanswered.” According to Vieira. “The New Jersey Council on Special Transportation cannot solve this problem alone. We are all in this together and we must act now before this gets worse and it will get worse if we do nothing” he said.

“There is a short-term solution,” Vieira said. Currently in the legislature there is Assembly Bill 2046 and its companion, Senate Bill 1830. These bills will change the funding formula for the Casino Revenue’s ‘Senior Citizens and Disabled Residents Transportation Assistance Program’ from a 7.5% share to an 8.5% share. “This additional 1% should amount to an additional \$3 million per year,” Vieira stated.

Vieira noted “If these legislative bills are not passed within the next few weeks by the current legislative members, these bills will die in this legislative session”. The 2008-2009 Legislature ends on January 12, 2010.

Vieira continued, “Right now the 21 counties and other transportation agencies across New Jersey are continuing to plan on how to deal with service cuts because less money means fewer drivers and fewer rides.” New Jersey’s community transportation and paratransit services may include, but are not limited to, non-emergency medical appointments, kidney dialysis, physical and mental therapies, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, non-competitive workshops, employment, nutrition sites, meals on wheels, food shopping, veterans services, recreational activities and much more.

According to Vieira, “To raise awareness and to get legislative support for the funding bills, last year the NJ Council on Special Transportation distributed 20,000 full color petitions with the message ‘Please Help Save My Ride’. Within 3 weeks, more than 22,000 color and black and white copies were signed by paratransit riders throughout the state.”

In the final few weeks left to get the bills passed, the NJ Council on Special Transportation is distributing to every county transportation program, 15,000 ‘L.E.T.’s Help Save My Ride’ literature. Starting on Monday, November 9, 2009, NJ COST is asking riders and supporters of New Jersey’s paratransit and community transportation to “L” write letters, “E” send emails and “T” make telephone calls to their legislators asking them to support the bills. Vieira said “Our riders need to tell their legislators how important transportation is to them and if it is cut, how will they get to their doctors appointments, dialysis treatments, food shopping and other life sustaining services.”

“The state needs to be prepared for some of the possible results due to less transportation being available. Senior citizens who may have stopped driving may again get behind the wheel and possibly risk their lives and the lives of others. Senior citizens and persons with physical disabilities who at one time used community transportation services that allowed them to remain independent may end up in nursing homes or assisted living facilities. The mentally disabled who have been fighting to live independently may not be able to do so and return to facilities that assist them. There will be less transportation for food shopping and nutrition sites. There will be waiting lists for medical appointments, dialysis, chemotherapy and radiation. There is a community transportation funding crisis happening and help is needed,” Vieira said.

“Today, many of the community transportation systems are experiencing waiting lists for services, especially kidney dialysis. Dialysis transportation is becoming a major concern not only for the 21 county transportation systems but also for the numerous municipalities and social service agencies throughout the state. A generation ago, people on dialysis received a reserved seat in the community transportation system. Today there is such a growing demand that having a guaranteed seat is not possible,” Vieira said.

In addition to dialysis services, the New Jersey senior population is increasing dramatically. People are living longer and are much more independent. People with mental and physical disabilities are also winning their battles to live independently. They all have one thing in common – to succeed on their own they must rely on paratransit and community transportation services.

The New Jersey Council on Special Transportation membership consists of transportation representatives from New Jersey’s 21 counties as well as a variety of other agencies, including municipal, state, not-for-profit and private, who specialize in providing transportation services to senior citizens, persons with disabilities, the economically disadvantaged and in some cases the general public where conventional fixed route transit is not available. Most services are provided on a door-to-door or curb-to-curb basis.

# #

# L.E.T.'s *Save* My Ride



**L**etters  
Write Letters

**E**mails  
Send Emails

**T**elephone  
Make Phone Calls

See Back of  
Card for Details

Write Letters - Send Emails - Make Telephone Calls

## Make your VOICE count

Your transportation system is counting on you to help. Funding is being reduced at state levels. Less transportation services will be available. It's time to tell your legislators that they need to support Senate Bill S-1830 and Assembly Bill A-2046.

When passed, these bills will allow transportation services to maintain current levels.

\* \* \* \* \*

LET senior citizens and persons with disabilities remain independent. Essential transportation services must continue!  
Pass S-1830 and A-2046 NOW!!!

LET your legislators and the Governor respond to you personally regarding their support of Senate Bill S-1830 and Assembly Bill A-2046.

LET S-1830 and A-2046 pass which would allow transportation funding to increase for senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

LET Senate President Richard Codley and Assembly Speaker Joseph Roberts know how important these Bills are to your transportation services.

LET your legislators know how important transportation for seniors and disabled is to you and those that need transportation to remain independent!

LET the county transportation systems continue to provide services to meet the increasing demand for transportation for essential life supporting medical, home and community support, and kidney dialysis services.

**Make your VOICE Heard**

# SAMPLE

## MERCER COUNTY

# SAMPLE

**Make your Phone Calls, Send your Emails and Write your Letters between  
November 9, 2009 to November 20, 2009**

Your Mercer County Transportation System (TRADE) needs your help. State funding used to provide transportation services is decreasing. This could possibly mean less transportation being provided.

There are two legislative bills pending that would increase funding for transportation. These bills need to **PASS NOW**. Senate Bill S-1830 and Assembly Bill A-2046 will help allow your transportation system to maintain current services.

Please call Senator Codey and Assemblyman Roberts and **TELL THEM** to post S-1830 and A-2046.

Call your county legislative representatives and **TELL THEM** how important the Mercer County Transportation System (TRADE) is to you. **TELL THEM** to support S-1830 and A-2046.

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am calling (writing or emailing) to let you how important the Mercer County Transportation System is to me. More funding is needed to save my transportation rides. Please support pending Senate Bill S-1830 and Assembly Bill A-2046. I cannot afford to lose my transportation services.

**Senate President Richard J. Codey**  
449 Mount Pleasant Ave., West Orange, NJ 07052  
**Tel: 973-731-6770**  
E-mail: [sencodey@njleg.org](mailto:sencodey@njleg.org)

**Speaker of Assembly Joseph J. Roberts, Jr.**  
Brooklawn Shopping Plaza  
Route 130 & Browning Rd., Brooklawn, NJ 08030  
**Tel: 856-742-7600**  
E-mail: [asmroberts@njleg.org](mailto:asmroberts@njleg.org)

### **YOUR LEGISLATORS - District 12**

(For Residents of East Windsor Township, Hightstown Borough ONLY)

**Senator [JENNIFER BECK](#)** **Tel: (732) 933-1591** Email: [SenBeck@njleg.org](mailto:SenBeck@njleg.org)  
32 Monmouth St., 3rd Floor, Red Bank, NJ 07701

**Assemblyman [CAROLINE CASAGRANDE](#)** **Tel: (732) 866-1695** Email: [AswCasagrande@njleg.org](mailto:AswCasagrande@njleg.org)  
71 West Main St., Suite 101, Freehold, NJ 07728

**Assemblyman [DECLAN J. O'SCANLON, JR.](#)** **Tel: (732) 933-1591** Email: [AsmOScanlon@njleg.org](mailto:AsmOScanlon@njleg.org)  
32 Monmouth St., 3rd Floor, Red Bank, NJ 07701

**Other Side for More**

### **YOUR LEGISLATORS - District 14**

(For Residents of Hamilton Township, West Windsor Township ONLY)

**Senator** [BILL BARONI](#) **Tel: (609) 631-9988** Email: [SenBaroni@njleg.org](mailto:SenBaroni@njleg.org)

Mailing Address: 3691A Nottingham Way, Hamilton Square, NJ 08690

**Assemblyman** [WAYNE P. DEANGELO](#) **Tel: (609) 631-7501** Email: [AsmDeAngelo@njleg.org](mailto:AsmDeAngelo@njleg.org)

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**Assemblywoman** [LINDA R. GREENSTEIN](#) **Tel: (609) 395-9911** Email: [AswGreenstein@njleg.org](mailto:AswGreenstein@njleg.org)

Mailing Address: 7 Centre Dr., Suite 2, Monroe, NJ 08831-1565

### **YOUR LEGISLATORS - District 15**

(For Residents of Ewing Township, Hopewell Borough, Hopewell Township, Lawrence Township, Pennington Borough, Princeton Borough, Princeton Township, Trenton City)

**Senator** [SHIRLEY K. TURNER](#) **Tel: (609) 530-3277** Email: [SenTurner@njleg.org](mailto:SenTurner@njleg.org)

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**Assemblyman** [REED GUSCIORA](#) **Tel: (609) 292-0500** Email: [AsmGusciora@njleg.org](mailto:AsmGusciora@njleg.org)

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### **YOUR LEGISLATORS - District 30** (For Residents of Robbinsville ONLY)

**Senator** [ROBERT W. SINGER](#) **Tel: (732) 901-0702** Email: [SenSinger@njleg.org](mailto:SenSinger@njleg.org)

Mailing Address: 2110 West. County Line Road, Jackson, NJ 08527

**Assemblyman** [RONALD S. DANCER](#) **Tel: (732) 901-0702** Email: [AsmDancer@njleg.org](mailto:AsmDancer@njleg.org)

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**Assemblyman** [JOSEPH R. MALONE, III](#) **Tel: (609) 298-6250** Email: [AsmMalone@njleg.org](mailto:AsmMalone@njleg.org)

Mailing Address: 311 Farnsworth Avenue, Bordentown, NJ 08505

**Casino Revenue's Senior Citizens and Disabled Residents Transportation Assistance Program Funding**

	<b>FY 2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>Difference</b>
	<b>Allocation</b>	<b>Allocation</b>	<b>FY 08 vs FY 09</b>	<b>Allocation</b>	<b>FY 09 vs FY 10</b>
<b>ATLANTIC</b>	\$ 967,700.00	\$ 864,411.00	\$ 103,289.00	\$ 791,500.00	\$ 72,911.00
<b>BERGEN</b>	\$2,805,060.00	\$ 2,509,038.00	\$ 296,022.00	\$ 2,297,406.00	\$ 211,632.00
<b>BURLINGTON</b>	\$1,512,844.00	\$ 1,349,941.00	\$ 162,903.00	\$ 1,236,076.00	\$ 113,865.00
<b>CAMDEN</b>	\$1,776,243.00	\$ 1,585,690.00	\$ 190,553.00	\$ 1,451,940.00	\$ 133,750.00
<b>CAPE MAY</b>	\$ 627,776.00	\$ 566,919.00	\$ 60,857.00	\$ 519,101.00	\$ 47,819.00
<b>CUMBERLAND</b>	\$ 627,776.00	\$ 566,919.00	\$ 60,857.00	\$ 519,101.00	\$ 47,819.00
<b>ESSEX</b>	\$2,702,149.00	\$ 2,410,809.00	\$ 291,340.00	\$ 2,207,462.00	\$ 203,346.00
<b>GLOUCESTER</b>	\$ 841,283.00	\$ 752,150.00	\$ 89,133.00	\$ 688,708.00	\$ 63,442.00
<b>HUDSON</b>	\$1,992,966.00	\$ 1,779,340.00	\$ 213,626.00	\$ 1,629,256.00	\$ 150,084.00
<b>HUNTERDON</b>	\$ 627,776.00	\$ 566,919.00	\$ 60,857.00	\$ 519,101.00	\$ 47,819.00
<b>MERCER</b>	\$1,233,669.00	\$ 1,100,160.00	\$ 133,509.00	\$ 1,007,364.00	\$ 92,797.00
<b>MIDDLESEX</b>	\$2,591,703.00	\$2,312,581.00	\$ 279,122.00	\$ 2,117,519.00	\$ 195,062.00
<b>MONMOUTH</b>	\$2,171,828.00	\$1,939,312.00	\$ 232,516.00	\$1,775,735.00	\$ 163,577.00
<b>MORRIS</b>	\$1,597,662.00	\$ 1,425,717.00	\$ 171,945.00	\$ 1,305,461.00	\$ 120,256.00
<b>OCEAN</b>	\$2,805,060.00	\$ 2,509,038.00	\$ 296,022.00	\$ 2,297,406.00	\$ 211,632.00
<b>PASSAIC</b>	\$1,669,708.00	\$ 1,490,267.00	\$ 179,441.00	\$ 1,364,566.00	\$ 125,701.00
<b>SALEM</b>	\$ 627,776.00	\$ 566,919.00	\$ 60,857.00	\$ 519,101.00	\$ 47,819.00
<b>SOMERSET</b>	\$ 957,068.00	\$ 853,185.00	\$ 103,883.00	\$ 781,221.00	\$ 71,965.00
<b>SUSSEX</b>	\$ 627,776.00	\$ 566,919.00	\$ 60,857.00	\$ 519,101.00	\$ 47,819.00
<b>UNION</b>	\$1,997,201.00	\$ 1,782,147.00	\$ 215,054.00	\$ 1,631,826.00	\$ 150,321.00
<b>WARREN</b>	\$ 627,776.00	\$ 566,919.00	\$ 60,857.00	\$ 519,101.00	\$ 47,819.00
NJ TRANSIT Administrative	\$5,539,200.00	\$ 4,952,700.00	\$ 586,500.00	\$ 4,534,950.00	\$ 417,750.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$36,928,000.00</b>	<b>\$33,018,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,910,000.00</b>	<b>\$30,233,000.00</b>	<b>\$2,785,000.00</b>

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

## ASSEMBLY, No. 2046

## SENATE, No. 1830

### SYNOPSIS

Increases funding of Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Program.

1        **AN ACT** concerning the funding of “The Senior Citizen and  
2        Disabled Resident Transportation Assistance Program” and  
3        amending P.L.1983, c.578.

4  
5        **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6        of New Jersey:

7  
8        1. Section 4 of P.L.1983, c.578 (C.27:25-28) is amended to  
9        read as follows:

10       4. a. The board shall establish and administer a program to be  
11       known as "The Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation  
12       Assistance Program" for the following purposes:

13       [a.](1) To assist counties [(1)] to develop and provide  
14       accessible feeder transportation service to accessible fixed-route  
15       transportation services where such services are available, and  
16       accessible local transit service to senior citizens and the disabled,  
17       which may include but not be limited to door-to-door service, fixed  
18       route service, local fare subsidy, and user-side subsidy, which may  
19       include [by] but not be limited to private ride or taxi fare subsidy;  
20       and [(2)] to coordinate the activities of the various participants in  
21       this program in providing the services to be rendered at the county  
22       level and between counties[.]and;

23       [b.](2) To enable the corporation [(1)] to develop, provide and  
24       maintain capital improvements that afford accessibility to fixed  
25       route and other transit services in order to make rail cars, rail  
26       stations, bus shelters and other bus equipment accessible to senior  
27       citizens and the disabled; [(2)] to render technical information and  
28       assistance to counties eligible for assistance under this act; and  
29       [(3)] to coordinate the program within and among counties.

30       b. In the State fiscal year beginning July 1 following the  
31       effective date of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
32       Legislature as this bill) and in each fiscal year thereafter, there shall  
33       be appropriated to the corporation from the revenues deposited in  
34       the Casino Revenue Fund established pursuant to section 145 of  
35       P.L.1977, c.110 (C.5:12-145) a sum equal to 8.5% of the revenues  
36       deposited in the fund during the preceding fiscal year, as  
37       determined by the State Treasurer, to effectuate the purposes and  
38       provisions of P.L. 1983, c.578 (C.27:25-25 et seq.).  
39       (cf: P.L.1983, c.578, s.4)

40  
41       2. Section 7 of P.L.1983, c.578 (C.27:25-31) is amended to  
42       read as follows:

43       7. a. Moneys under this program shall be allocated by the  
44       corporation in the following manner:

1 (1) 85% shall be available to be allocated 1 to eligible counties for  
2 the purposes specified under paragraph (1) of subsection a. of  
3 section 4 of this act.

4 (2) 15% shall be available for use by the corporation for the  
5 purposes specified under paragraph (2) of subsection [b.]a. of  
6 section 4 of this act and for the general administration of the  
7 program, but no more than 10% of the total moneys allocated under  
8 this program shall be used for the general administration of the  
9 program.

10 b. The amount of money which each eligible county may  
11 receive shall be based upon the number of persons resident in that  
12 county of 60 years of age or older expressed as a percentage of the  
13 whole number of persons resident in this State of 60 years or older,  
14 as provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. As similar data  
15 become available for the disabled population, such data shall be  
16 used in conjunction with the senior citizen data to determine the  
17 county allocation formula. No eligible county shall receive less  
18 than \$150,000.00 during a fiscal year under this program, except  
19 that during the first fiscal year no county shall receive less than  
20 \$50,000.00 nor more than \$150,000.00.

21 c. The governing body of an eligible county, or a group or  
22 groups designated as an applicant or as applicants by the county  
23 after a public hearing in which senior citizens and the disabled shall  
24 have the opportunity to comment on the appropriateness of such  
25 designation, may make application to the board for moneys  
26 available under subsection b. of this section. The application shall  
27 be in the form of a proposal to the board for transportation  
28 assistance and shall specify the degree to which the proposal meets  
29 the purposes of the program under paragraph (1) of subsection a. of  
30 section 4 of this act and the implementation criteria under the  
31 program guidelines and the proposal shall have been considered at a  
32 public hearing. The board shall allocate moneys based upon a  
33 review of the merits of the proposals in meeting the purposes of the  
34 program, and the implementation criteria, under the program  
35 guidelines. The governing body of an eligible county shall schedule  
36 a public hearing annually for interested parties to provide the  
37 governing body with any facts, materials, or recommendations that  
38 would be of assistance regarding the efficacy of the program  
39 established under paragraph (1) of subsection a. of section 4 of this  
40 act.

41 (cf: P.L.1995, c.350, s.1)

42  
43 3. Section 11 of P.L.1983, c.578 is amended to read as follows:  
44 11. There is appropriated to the New Jersey Transit Corporation  
45 from the revenues deposited in the Casino Revenue Fund  
46 established pursuant to section 145 of P.L.1977, c.110 (C.5:12-145)  
47 the sum of \$3,000,000.00 to effectuate the purposes and provisions  
48 of this act during the first fiscal year in which this legislation is

1 enacted. In the fiscal year following t 1 he effective date of this  
2 legislation there shall be appropriated to the New Jersey Transit  
3 Corporation from the Casino Revenue Fund to effectuate the  
4 purposes and provisions of this act a sum of \$10,000,000.00[, and  
5 in each subsequent fiscal year there shall be appropriated to the  
6 corporation from the Casino Revenue Fund a sum equal to 7.5% of  
7 the revenues deposited in the Casino Revenue Fund during the  
8 preceding fiscal year, as determined by the State Treasurer].  
9

10 4. This act shall take effect immediately.  
11

12

13

#### 14 STATEMENT

15

16 This bill increases the annual appropriation requirement for “The  
17 Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Program”  
18 from 7.5% to 8.5% of the revenues deposited in the Casino Revenue  
19 Fund. Section 2 of the bill revises references to the program to  
20 reflect the amendments in section 1 of the bill.

21

22 The language providing for the annual appropriation level of  
23 7.5% for the program is contained in a section of the “Senior  
24 Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Assistance Act,”  
25 P.L.1983, c.578 (C.27:25-25 et seq.), which was not codified. This  
26 bill removes the annual appropriation language from the uncodified  
27 section and places it, at the increased level, in a section of the act  
which is codified in order to make the annual appropriation  
language easier to locate.