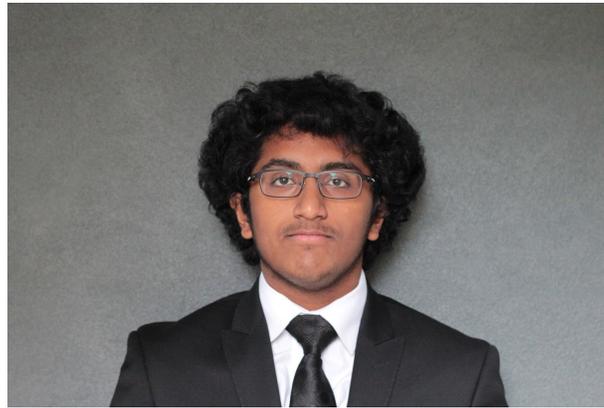




THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY
 YOUTH GOVERNOR WILLIAM HUANG
COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION:
VENKAT SRINIVAS

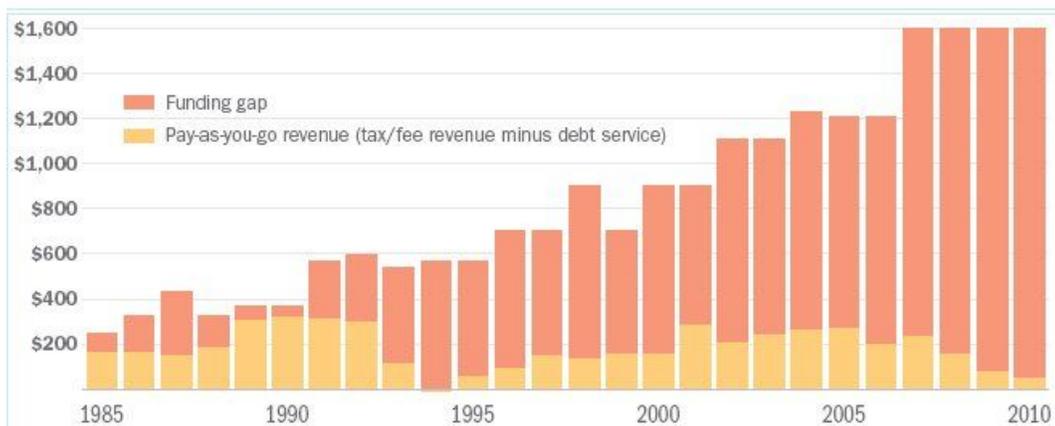


Dear Delegates,

In the past, New Jersey has held one of the most prominent and extensive public transportation systems in the United States. However, facing a lack of funding as well as operational issues, and extreme infrastructural problems, New Jersey public transportation’s overall reputation is being questioned. As public transportation is a crucial way through which people all over New Jersey commute from place to place -- almost 500,000 individuals in New Jersey commute which roughly translates to ~11.6% of the workforce -- it is very important that we clearly address the problems it experiences.

First of all, the primary factors contributing to the diminishing quality of the public transportation system are the infrastructural issues combined with the lack of funding in New Jersey transit system. New Jersey's trains are currently reported to break down roughly every 85,000 miles, more frequently than the 120,000 miles from 2015. Although this may not seem to be that significant in the grand scheme of things, other railroads such as the Long Island Rail Road have more than twice the number of miles between breakdowns.

New bond issuance – not tax revenue – is funding the Trust Fund’s contribution to the Transportation Capital Plan (\$ million).



Furthermore, railroads in New Jersey are often structurally outdated and desperately need additional funding. Just recently, in Hoboken, N.J. a woman was killed in a train crash which injured 108 people, due to operational issues such as crew workers forgetting perform required brake tests, and infrastructural issues, such as a failure to equip the train with the necessary emergency equipment. Combined with the inability to fix outdated infrastructure, New Jersey government is facing difficulties in allocating funds in the budget to public transportation - in fact, the state's subsidy for the New Jersey Transit has declined by 90% in the past few years. As you can see in the chart, the funding gap directed towards public transportation in New Jersey is constant increasing - funds once used for transportation are now being used to cover overall debts in New Jersey. This is our state today. So the question really becomes, how can we reform our public transportation and institute legislation to correct the obvious safety concerns and logistical issues with the overall funding?

The Governor's Cabinet looks forward to hearing legislation pertaining specifically to reform the public transportation in New Jersey, specifically addressing the funding situation as well as the obvious safety concerns. Since public transportation is so heavily relied on, these problems have become more important and require more of our time and attention. We truly can't wait to see how you try to reform this crisis for New Jersey!

Sincerely,



Venkat Srinivas
Commissioner of Transportation

Sources:

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<https://patch.com/new-jersey/hoboken/hoboken-train-crash-family-killed-woman-plans-sue-nj-transit>

Safety Concerns (Statistics):

http://www.nj.com/traffic/index.ssf/2016/03/nj_transit_trains_and_buses_are_breaking_down_more_ofte_n_stats_show.html

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