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TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: KEVIN S. CORBETT 
DATE: MAY 12, 2021
SUBJECT: **PRESIDENT & CEO'S REPORT – MAY 2021**

We have promising pandemic-related trends to report this month. The number of NJ TRANSIT employees currently positive with COVID-19 has decreased considerably, and ridership is trending upwards. In addition, on May 19th, NJ TRANSIT will open seating availability at Secaucus, Hoboken, Newark Penn Station, Trenton, Metropark, the Walter Rand Transportation Center, and the Atlantic City Bus & Rail Terminals, in line with the recent announcement lifting indoor capacity limits on businesses. I was also proud to join Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti, Congressman Donald Payne, Jr., and executives from Novartis and Catalent at a press conference on May 4th to announce an exciting public-private partnership to deliver free travel on NJ TRANSIT to vaccination sites within New Jersey. Through the generous contributions of Novartis and Catalent, NJ TRANSIT is now offering up to two complimentary round-trip tickets for travel to and from vaccination sites within New Jersey for approximately 11,000 customers receiving their COVID-19 vaccine. These tickets are being offered for bus, rail, and light rail customers through our mobile app, and off-line by visiting one of our Customer Service Office locations or calling Customer Service. Tickets are also available for certified Access Link customers, online through the new Access Link Mobile App, and off-line by mentioning the program when calling to make an Access Link reservation.

We have significant updates to report in two of our three core focus areas this month – people and infrastructure. With regard to “people,” on April 22nd, Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti and I joined Governor Murphy at a ceremony to celebrate the full restoration of our ranks of locomotive engineers, through another class of graduating locomotive engineers. This class brings the total of active engineers to over 390, which is the number that constitutes a full roster, and is the first time in more than a decade the engineer ranks have been fully staffed. Moving forward, we are committed to maintaining a full pipeline of trainees, and regular classes. Another new class began training on February 10th, while three additional classes are projected to begin between now and November. A full roster of locomotive engineers will ultimately translate to a more reliable and predictable rail service for our customers.

Moving on to infrastructure, our Portal North Bridge Replacement Project continues to steadily advance, and we remain on track for a construction award by the end of the year. On May 19th, we will hold a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Outreach Conference for this project, where we will meet with DBE contractors in our region interested in contributing to this project of national significance. Our aggressive outreach to DBEs shows that we are not just looking at this project as a way to improve service, or to help our economy as we emerge from the pandemic. We are also looking at this project as an opportunity to develop a larger pool of qualified contractors who represent the diversity of the business community and the region we serve.

Also, on April 30th, Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti and local, county, and State officials joined Governor Murphy in Lyndhurst to celebrate the beginning of construction on a new rail station there. This \$31.5 million project was designed by our in-house team to evoke a classic aesthetic from the glory days of steam rail. The station will include new elevators at both station buildings, high-level raised platforms for easy boarding and deboarding, enlarged roof canopies, heated waiting areas, and state-of-the-art video and public announcement amenities.

Another major station overhaul advanced last month through the April 27th release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the design of a new facility to replace our Walter Rand Transportation Center in Camden, NJ. This RFP represents the first major step toward creating a new, modern, expansive Center – a \$250 million project – with the potential to transform not just Camden, but also South Jersey, while supporting this region's rapidly growing communities and local economies. It would also provide an opportunity for integration with zero-emissions buses, as part of our overall efforts to help fully realize Governor Murphy's Energy Master Plan.

There is plenty to be optimistic about when it comes to infrastructure. I had the honor of joining President Biden, Amtrak Chairman of the Board Tony Coscia, Amtrak President Stephen Gardner, Deputy FRA Administrator Amit Bose and New Jersey Congressman Donald Payne, Jr. in Philadelphia on April 30th to celebrate Amtrak's 50th Anniversary and to hear the President promote his American Jobs Plan. President Biden also made it clear that supporting mass transit infrastructure is a critical investment that will yield dividends for generations to come – and that is welcome news for NJ TRANSIT!