

**Mikie Sherrill, Governor**  
**Dr. Dale G. Caldwell, Lieutenant Governor**  
**Joseph D. Bertoni, Interim Commissioner**  
**Kris Kolluri, President & CEO**

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TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
FROM: KRIS KOLLURI  
DATE: MARCH 12, 2026  
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT & CEO'S REPORT – MARCH 2026

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kris Kolluri', with a horizontal line underneath.

Governor Sherrill's proposed FY 2027 State Budget reflects a strong commitment to NJ TRANSIT, prioritizing transit as an essential public service, and recognition of the role our system plays in New Jersey's economy and the daily lives of our State's residents. By including an 11 percent increase in State support for NJ TRANSIT, the budget proposal provides the resources we need to continue improving service reliability and the overall travel experience for NJ TRANSIT customers.

Earlier today, I joined Governor Sherrill, FRA Administrator David Fink, NJ TRANSIT Board Chair Priya Jain, Amtrak President Roger Harris, and a host of federal and state officials on a ceremonial train ride over the new Portal North Bridge as the project enters its final phase. The complex work to complete the first track cutover is on schedule, and the first passenger train will be operating over the new bridge on Monday, March 16. With the full bridge scheduled to open later this year after the second track cutover work is completed, we are getting ever closer to delivering a major reliability milestone for our customers and the region.

While the new Portal North Bridge will improve reliability for rail customers, we are equally focused on our light rail and bus systems. River LINE performance has improved significantly since NJ TRANSIT fully assumed oversight of the system on February 14. On-time performance was about 73 percent in January while the line was still operated by our previous contractor. From February 14 – March 11, on-time performance improved to more than 92 percent. The work to rehabilitate the current vehicles, including engine overhauls and vehicle interiors, is currently underway while we continue to develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) to replace the entire River LINE fleet.

For our bus customers, we have launched a digital bus stop sign pilot at eight locations in Hudson and Monmouth counties through our partnership with the Transit Tech Lab, which helps accelerate the deployment of new technologies. The solar-powered signs provide real-time arrival information, service alerts, and crowding information, along with text-to-speech capability and safety lighting. The technology also supports AI-driven analytics such as people counting and demand modeling. The pilot will run for one year, after which we will evaluate performance for possible expansion.

Finally, this evening I will recognize three individuals whose service has had a lasting impact on NJ TRANSIT. Fran O'Connor served as Chair of the NJ TRANSIT Board from February 2024 through January 2026, bringing a people-first perspective shaped by his career in transportation and leaving a lasting mark through his focus on safety and service. Mike Kilcoyne concluded nearly three decades at NJ TRANSIT after joining the agency in 1998, overseeing bus, light rail, and Access Link operations across 8,000 square miles while guiding the Surface Transit organization through many transformational achievements, including onboarding the agency's first electric buses and, most recently, the successful transition of the River LINE from the contractor. Finally, Bill Brooks stepped in as Senior Vice President of Capital Delivery during a critical period, strengthening discipline around project budgets and schedules and helping recalibrate NJ TRANSIT's five-year capital plan in a fiscally constrained environment.