



March 26, 2010
Statement from Paul Boudreau
President
Morris County Chamber of Commerce
25 Lindsley Drive
Morristown, NJ 07960

Thank you for holding this hearing to give the citizens of Morris County an opportunity to express concerns about transit fare increases and curtailment of service.

Our Chamber is comprised of close to 800 business and non profit organizations across the County. We also work closely with county government and our legislative delegation and we understand the financial challenges faced by the state and New Jersey Transit.

I participated in a dialogue earlier in the week with many in this room and the Morris County Board of Transportation.

Director Weinstein has received a letter from the Board laying out many of the concerns of the county, the business community and others here tonight. We are here to support the Boards recommendations that NJ Transit continue to provide bus service for Morris County Metro 1, 2 and 3 and Wheels 966 routes.

The 966 provides critical shuttle service to major employers in the county with 180 daily boardings. The other routes are also very important to many small businesses, social service organizations and our marginally employed.

In addition, transit reductions hurt our ability to realize the full potential of the development that has taken place in the Morristown area in recent years. The private sector has invested tens of millions of dollars to develop shopping and housing around our mass transit locations. Service reductions will make it a little more difficult and inconvenient for people to access these resources.

We want these investments to be successful and we want to have a robust transportation system that makes our communities attractive for those who would consider allocating their future investment dollars into our local economy.

We recognize that the times we are in require some reductions and the County has accepted that reality in its communication I referenced above to NJ Transit. Our Chamber welcomes the opportunity to continue a dialogue with you and other stakeholders on these critical issues in the days ahead.

Thank you.