



June 30th, 2026

Stephen F. Dougherty
Executive Director
South Jersey Transportation Authority
512 Lakeland Road
Blackwood, NJ 08012

RE: Recommended Modifications to the SJ Connector Micro-Busing Route to Improve Educational Access and Workforce Connectivity

Dear Stephen:

On behalf of the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce, Atlantic Cape Community College, Stockton University, Cooper University Health Care, AtlantiCare, and our regional workforce development partners, we respectfully request consideration of modifications to the current South Jersey Connector Micro-Busing Route to better serve the educational and workforce needs of Cape May County residents.

The SJ Connector has proven to be an innovative transportation solution that provides residents with access to employment, healthcare, and educational opportunities. We believe a modest adjustment to the existing route could significantly increase utilization while creating a seamless transportation connection between Cape May County and major educational institutions in Atlantic County.

Specifically, we recommend that the route be modified to include:

- Cape May Court House (existing service area)
- Atlantic Cape Community College – Mays Landing Campus
- Atlantic Cape Community College – Atlantic City Campus
- Stockton University Atlantic City Campus and Academic Center
- AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center, Atlantic City
- Existing Atlantic City transportation hubs and connections
- Coordination with existing transit routes serving educational, healthcare, and workforce destinations

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Mission: To stimulate the growth and prosperity of members and communities in Cape May County through advocacy, services, education, collaboration, and leadership.

This modification creates a true regional educational network rather than simply a route extension.

The proposed route enhancement would create a seamless educational and workforce transportation corridor connecting Cape May County with Atlantic Cape Community College's two primary campuses and Stockton University's Atlantic City facilities along with AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center.

By incorporating a stop at Atlantic Cape's Mays Landing Campus, students would have access to the college's largest campus, where most academic programs, workforce development offerings, student support services, and administrative functions are located. The addition of the Atlantic City Campus and Stockton University would further provide access to specialized academic programs, AtlantiCare Medical Center would provide healthcare training opportunities, internships, and employment pathways.

This enhanced route would benefit:

- Students traveling between Atlantic Cape's Cape May County Center, Mays Landing Campus, and Atlantic City Campus.
- Stockton University students residing in Cape May County.
- Faculty and staff who travel between campuses.
- Cooper University Health Care and AtlantiCare employees and healthcare trainees.
- Workforce development participants and adult learners.
- Employers seeking to expand access to education and training opportunities for current and future employees.

In addition, we recommend creating an "Education and Workforce Corridor" within the route design that would connect Cape May County residents directly to Atlantic Cape Community College, Stockton University, Cooper University Health Care and AtlantiCare training and employment opportunities, and related workforce development resources throughout Atlantic City. This coordinated approach would strengthen regional educational partnerships while providing a practical transportation solution for students, educators, healthcare professionals, and workforce trainees.

This addition is especially compelling because Atlantic Cape Community College is an institution with multiple campuses. NJ Transit and SJTA can justify the route as improving access within

the college system while also creating a connection to Stockton University and regional employers.

The proposed route enhancement would allow students, faculty, and staff from Cape May County to travel efficiently from Cape May Courthouse to Atlantic Cape's Atlantic City Campus and Stockton University's Atlantic City facilities without requiring multiple transfers or personal transportation.

The need for this connection has become increasingly important as educational institutions continue to expand collaborative programs, dual-enrollment opportunities, workforce development initiatives, and healthcare training partnerships throughout the region. Students often take courses at multiple campuses, participate in internships, clinical placements, and workforce training programs that require reliable transportation between Cape May County and Atlantic City.

The benefits of this modification include:

- Increased access to higher education opportunities for Cape May County residents.
- Improved workforce development and job training accessibility.
- Enhanced connectivity between Atlantic Cape Community College campuses.
- Greater access to Stockton University's academic and student support services.
- Expanded access to Cooper University Health Care educational, clinical, and employment opportunities.
- Reduced transportation barriers for individuals without access to private vehicles.
- Increased ridership and utilization of the SJ Connector service.
- Strengthened regional partnerships among educational institutions, healthcare providers, employers, and transportation agencies.

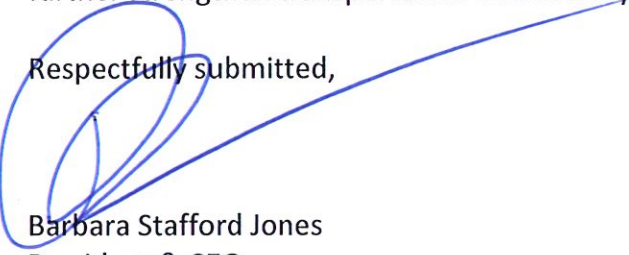
Cape May County businesses continue to identify workforce recruitment and retention as one of their greatest challenges. Transportation remains a significant barrier to educational attainment and workforce participation. By connecting residents to educational institutions and workforce training opportunities, this route enhancement directly supports the economic development goals of both Atlantic and Cape May Counties.

Furthermore, this proposal aligns with broader regional efforts to strengthen pathways from education to employment. By providing reliable transportation between educational campuses, healthcare institutions, and employment centers, the SJ Connector can serve as a model for regional collaboration and workforce mobility throughout South Jersey.

We appreciate the leadership of the South Jersey Transportation Authority and New Jersey Transit in developing innovative transportation solutions for our region. We believe this proposed adjustment represents a practical and cost-effective opportunity to maximize the value of the SJ Connector while addressing a critical transportation need identified by educational institutions, employers, and community stakeholders.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working collaboratively with NJ Transit, the South Jersey Transportation Authority, Atlantic Cape Community College, Stockton University, Cooper University Health Care, AtlantiCare, and our regional partners to further strengthen transportation connectivity throughout South Jersey.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara Stafford Jones
President & CEO
Cape May County Chamber of Commerce

cc: Kris Kolluri, President, NJ Transit
cc: Senator Michael Testa, Jr.
cc: Assemblyman Antwan McClellan
cc: Assemblyman Erik Simonsen
cc: Dr. Jason Abreu, President, ACCC
cc : Dr. Joe Bertolino, President, Stockton University
cc: Kevin Lare, County Administrator, County of Cape May
cc: Ron Simone, Assistant County Administrator, County of Cape May
cc: Jim Rutala, Chair, Transportation Sub-Committee, CMCCC
cc: Matthew Levinson, AtlantiCare
cc: Marica McCulley, AtlantiCare
cc: Dr. Christine Winn, Senior VP & Chief Regional Officer, Cooper University Health System
cc: Elias Massood, Chair, Cape May County Chamber of Commerce
cc: Danielle Norcross, President, Greater Atlantic City Chamber
cc: Barbara DeMarco, Chair, Greater Atlantic City Chamber