



Transportation Job Corps Act Would Help Economy Recover (Rep. Jerrold Nadler)

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This week I reintroduced the *Transportation Job Corps Act*, a bill that would, among other things, establish a career-ladder grant program within the Federal Transit Administration. This would enable existing workers to advance their careers and remain in the transit industry. In addition to retaining workers already on the job, my bill would also recruit and prepare young adults from across the nation for jobs in the transit sector.

In the depths of this recession, it is essential that we invest in our transit workforce. Since the time of the New Deal, federal investment in public works has been a proven method of boosting a troubled economy, stimulating mass job-creation and, of course, developing and improving transportation and infrastructure projects. The *Transportation Job Corps Act* will serve a vital economic function while also securing stable and meaningful work for traditionally underrepresented segments of the population.

This bill specifically targets our nation's "disconnected youth" — those aged 16-24 who are not in school and have been out of work for at least six months. Experts estimate there are about 5 million "disconnected youth" nationwide. The *Transportation Job Corps Act of 2009* would provide "disconnected youth" with basic skills training and pre-apprenticeship programs for jobs in the transit industry. By making smart investments now, we can train our nation's youth for tomorrow's jobs.

This bill proves that we can develop our nation's critical infrastructure while also protecting jobs and growing our economy. I am pleased that the bill has already earned the support of many groups and unions, including the AFL-CIO's Transportation Trades Department, the Amalgamated Transit Union, the Community Service Society of New York, and the Corps Network. With their support, I look forward to the prompt passage of the *Transportation Job Corps Act of 2009*.

By N.Y. Dem. Rep. Jerrold Nadler

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