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414 River View Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey 08611-3420 • Phone: 609.393.7799 • Fax: 609.393.9891 • www.njpsi.com

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Christie Names Transit Officials

Governor-elect Christopher Christie today named James Simpson to serve as Commissioner of the Department of Transportation and James Weinstein to serve as Executive Director of New Jersey Transit.

Simpson served as Federal Transit Administrator under President George W. Bush from 2006 - 2009. In 1995, New York Governor George E. Pataki appointed Simpson as a Commissioner of the New York State Metropolitan Transportation Authority where he served for 10 years on the Finance Committee, the New York City Transit Committee and the Governance Committee. Additionally, Simpson was Chairman of the Real Estate & Planning Committee and the Safety and Security Committee. Immediately following 9/11, he was designated the primary MTA Board liaison to the Governor's and Mayor's Offices in coordinating transit activities at the World Trade Center site.

Weinstein, whose appointment is controlled by the NJ Transit board, served as Commissioner of the Department of Transportation from 1998-2002. Weinstein's experience in state government also includes serving in the Department of Transportation as Executive Assistant to the Commissioner and Director of Communications from 1983 to 1986. He also served under former Governor Tom Kean as Director of the Governor's Authorities Unit from 1986 through 1989.

At the press conference announcing the appointments Christie said his administration would work to fund transportation without increasing the gas tax.