

**TESTIMONY OF
CHRISTOPHER TRUCILLO, CHIEF OF POLICE
NJ TRANSIT
BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND
COMMUNICATIONS
OF THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY**

**Hearing entitled:
“Protecting our Passengers:
Perspectives on Securing Surface Transportation in New Jersey and New York”**

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SUBMITTED BY

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Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, I welcome this opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the challenges of securing passengers utilizing surface transportation in New Jersey and New York.

Before joining New Jersey Transit in July of 2010 as the Chief of Police for the New Jersey Transit Police Department, I served for five years as the Chief of Department for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police Department. During my 23 year career with the Port Authority I served as the Commanding Officer of Internal Affairs and Special Investigations, the Commanding Officer of the Port Authority Bus Terminal in Midtown Manhattan, as well as the Commanding Officer of Newark Liberty International Airport.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for inviting me to testify at this Hearing, which has been aptly entitled "Protecting our Passengers: Perspectives on Securing Surface Transportation in New Jersey and New York". We appreciate the important role of this Committee in matters relating to transportation security, and we look forward to working with you on these issues.

ABOUT NJ TRANSIT

NJ TRANSIT is the third largest transit system in the country and also the nation's largest statewide public transportation system serving an area encompassing 5,325 square miles. We provide more than 938,500 weekday trips on 257 bus routes, three light rail lines, 11 commuter rail lines and through Access Link, our paratransit service. We serve 166 rail stations, 62 light rail stations and more than 19,000 bus stops linking major points in New Jersey, New York and Philadelphia.

Mr. Chairman, the transportation services provided by NJ TRANSIT are vital to the economic wellbeing of our state and the region. We provide an essential service to the nearly 10 percent of all New Jersey commuters who use and depend on the NJ TRANSIT system.

OVERVIEW

Mr. Chairman, as you know, public transit agencies have unique security challenges due to the large numbers of people we serve in publicly

accessible facilities, traveling on advertised predictable schedules. Just a few days ago we saw the carnage inflicted in Orlando by a radicalized extremist on a crowd of people in a publicly accessible space, and earlier this year the attacks in Brussels reminded us once again how mass transit systems worldwide continue to be preferred targets of terrorists.

Our most important priority is keeping our customers and employees safe as we continue to provide our essential transportation services. Safety and security are the top priority for all of NJ TRANSIT and within the New Jersey Transit Police Department - counterterrorism is our primary mission, and we take that mission very seriously.

NJ TRANSIT utilizes a risk based approach to maximizing our security efforts to protect our trains, buses, light rail vehicles, and stations from all hazards and threats. The Police Department's Intelligence Section provides the agency with strategic level risk management tools in support of our counterterrorism efforts and coordinates intelligence collection, analysis, and production efforts, including the reporting and monitoring of suspicious activity and individuals, with the FBI's Newark, New York City, and Philadelphia Joint Terrorism Task Forces, the US Department of Homeland Security and the TSA, the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, the NYPD, the New Jersey state fusion center and other partners.

Almost all of our 11,000 employees have received security awareness training. From conductors to bus operators to office staff, our employees are “force multipliers”—extra eyes and ears for our police. We also work in cooperation with the thousands of businesses located near train stations to report suspicious activity.

In addition, we continue to work closely with first responding agencies at the municipal, county and state levels. To give you just an example, several times per year members of New Jersey Transit’s police, operations and administrative staff partner with local police, fire and EMS agencies in Incident Command Training at Texas A&M University. To date, more than 500 transit employees and an equal number of our partners have participated in these joint exercises.

NJ TRANSIT also promotes a campaign urging customers who see suspicious activity or unattended packages at stations, aboard trains or

buses, or near transit facilities to call the NJ TRANSIT security hotline at 1-888-TIPS-NJT, text us at NJTPD or notify a New Jersey Transit Police officer. The NJ TRANSIT mobile app for smartphones includes convenient one-touch access to call or text the New Jersey Transit Police Department directly. So, not only can customers purchase digital tickets by using the app, they can also easily say something if they see something. All calls are investigated, and all information is confidential.

Mr. Chairman, while we do not release details about police deployments or specific countermeasures, our uniformed police patrol officers remain vigilant in monitoring our system and they are supported by plain clothes detectives and anti-crime officers throughout the NJ TRANSIT system.

Our Special Operations Division provides enhanced capabilities to protect and respond to terrorism on our system. Random baggage screening performed by our Emergency Services Units provides us with the capability to detect and respond to incidents involving chemical, biological, radiological, and explosive materials. ESU along with our Train Patrol Units and Conditions Tactical Unit also provide a specialized tactical response capability with unique training and capabilities specific to the mass transit environment.

Our canine unit officers along with their explosive detection dogs perform perhaps some of our most important functions. These officers along with their canine partners do not just detect explosives throughout the NJ TRANSIT system but their presence provides an effective visible deterrent against our adversaries.

And to ensure that we are prepared for and are able to respond adequately to a terrorism incident, the NJTPD Office of Emergency Management conducts regular drills and exercises that ensures that our response to terrorism incidents is both effective and well coordinated with our local, state, regional, and federal partners.

Every member of the department is equipped with radiation pagers and we have tripled the number of officers trained in the use of long guns. We continue to work closely with the TSA's Office of Science and Technology to test the next generation of technology that will be utilized to secure surface transit.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Chairman, in light of our nation's heightened security needs, we believe that increased federal investment in public transportation security by Congress and DHS is critical. NJ TRANSIT has made great strides in transit security improvements in recent years, but much more needs to be done. We look forward to building on our cooperative working relationship with the Department of Homeland Security and Congress to further address these needs. On behalf of NJ TRANSIT and the New Jersey Transit Police Department, I again thank you and the Committee for allowing us to submit testimony on these critical issues, and look forward to working with you on safety and security issues.