The Transportation & Climate Initiative
of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States

THE TRANSPORTATION AND CLIMATE INITIATIVE

AN AGENDA FOR PROGRESS

Declaration of Intent

Today, we the Principals of environment, transportation and energy agencies in 11 Mid-Atlantic and Northeast states and the District of Columbia affirm our intent to work collaboratively in reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector. Working within our respective federal and state authorities, we hereby commence the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, minimize our transportation system's reliance on high-carbon fuels, promote sustainable growth, address the challenges of vehicle-miles traveled and help build the clean energy economy.

We recognize the need for a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by mid-century in order to prevent major impacts of climate change globally. We further recognize that the transportation sector contributes approximately 30 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern Regions of the United States.

Most participating jurisdictions have adopted or are in the process of developing legislative or executive commitments that call for targeted reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Most of our jurisdictions also have corresponding state climate action plans that outline economy-wide policies, including policies in both the mobile and non-mobile sectors, to achieve the statewide targets.

As environment, energy and transportation officials representing our respective agencies, we agree to launch a plan to explore and develop policies and programs that can result in greater energy efficiency of regional transportation systems and yield reductions of regional greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector. We agree to provide any available in-kind resources to the initiative through establishment of a Transportation, Energy and Environment (TEE) Staff Working Group and to have that group develop a three-year TCI work plan for our review and consideration of approval at our next meeting in the fall of 2010. Furthermore, we expect the TEE Staff Working

Group to develop initial project proposals for our consideration and to seek funding from federal agencies, private foundations and other appropriate sources to support our efforts and initial projects.

As Agency Heads we recognize the efficiency and value of partnering with one another across our region as well as with federal and local agencies to achieve our goal of significantly reducing greenhouse gases from the transportation sector. The TCI will build upon ongoing federal, state and regional collaborations, including the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and the recently announced initiative to develop a framework for a Low Carbon Fuel Standard.

At a time when countries around the world are engaged in a race to build the clean energy economy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, U.S. states in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions are once again poised to lead the way.

The Transportation and Climate Initiative provides our states with the opportunity to expand safe and reliable transportation options, attract federal investment, lower transportation costs, improve overall air quality and public health, and mitigate the transportation sector's impact on climate change. Additionally, the TCI provides our states with the opportunity to further our collaboration on the research and development of advanced transportation technologies.

We further believe that this collaboration will aid our current efforts to:

- Reduce traffic congestion;
- Encourage job growth and accommodate the flow of goods and services while contributing to statewide greenhouse gas reduction targets;
- Develop state and local land use strategies that encourage increased commercial and residential housing density and encourage transit-friendly design;
- Improve the performance of existing highway, transit and other transportation modes while enhancing neighborhoods and urban centers; and
- Promote mixed-use development that supports viable alternatives to driving.

We understand that the future of transportation and job growth in our states requires forward thinking, the early adoption and deployment of clean energy technologies and a regional approach to clean transportation. We also understand that talking about the future is not enough. We must act.

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