



# Township of South Orange Village

Office of the Village President

Sheena C. Collum  
Village President  
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June 5, 2017

Steven H. Santoro  
Executive Director  
NJ TRANSIT Corporation  
One Penn Plaza East  
Newark, NJ 07105-2246

Mr. Santoro,

I'm writing you on behalf of the South Orange Board of Trustees and the 4,000+ commuters who use our train station daily, making us the busiest stop on the Morris & Essex line, servicing primarily South Orange, Livingston, and West Orange.

As the Executive Director of NJ Transit, you and your agency have taken "full responsibility" for the disruption in services that our riders will disproportionately experience this summer, as per your testimony before the joint hearing of the Senate Legislative Oversight Committee and Assembly Judiciary Committee last Wednesday.

You also directly heard from many mayors who testified demanding a meeting with you, which is yet to come to fruition. In fact, the opposite has occurred, you've cancelled/postponed two meetings—one which was scheduled for Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup> due to the "level of interest," and then Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup> due to "extenuating circumstances," which we found unacceptable. As you know, several mayors and elected officials including state representatives still showed up with the hope of collectively working together and improving upon your agency's proposed plan. You didn't even give the group the courtesy of coming downstairs, and instead treated this delegation of concerned elected officials representing thousands of your customers as if we were solicitors or trying to sell you candy. There are no words for that level of disrespect.

Throughout this series of non-responsiveness, deflection, and delay, your office confirmed a meeting would take place with all interested parties this Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. I sent a follow-up email this past Friday attempting to confirm the time and location. This has been met with radio silence and yet again shows the level of contempt you have for elected officials with no regard to our schedules. Please advise immediately whether or not you plan on hosting this meeting or if your plan is to simply hope we go away—which I can assure you will not be the case.

Sincerely,

Sheena C. Collum  
Village President