



Metro-North 125th St. Station, NY.  
Photo by David Wilson/Flickr



*"Lonnie, I can't thank you enough, for you guys all the way back in February endorsing me. I promise you: I will not let you down. **You're the people who keep this ENGINE RUNNING.** Wall Street didn't build America; **you built America.**"*

----Joe Biden, to the IBEW's 2020 Campaign Kick-Off, 7/8/20

## JOE BIDEN SUPPORTS COMMUTER RAILROAD WORKERS

- Sponsored a bill that enabled widows of railroad workers to receive their spouse's full Tier II Railroad Retirement pension benefits<sup>1</sup>
- Ensured that stimulus funding after the 2008 economic collapse went to rebuilding passenger railroad infrastructure<sup>2</sup>
- **Stood with rail labor over his career**<sup>3</sup>
  - Advocated for robust federal infrastructure investments
  - Fought for strong labor protections
  - Promoted Buy America provisions

## JOE BIDEN SUPPORTS COMMUTER RAILROAD INVESTMENTS

His **Clean Energy Plan** will create good union jobs by:<sup>4</sup>

- Building and upgrading a **cleaner, safer, stronger infrastructure**, including municipal commuter railroad networks in rural and urban areas
- Providing **high-quality, public transportation options** with flexible federal investments and strong labor protections
- Funding the state-of-good-repair needs and capital infrastructure projects on existing commuter railroad and transit lines

## JOE BIDEN FIGHTS FOR UNIONS

- **Will check the abuse of corporate power over labor** and hold corporate executives personally accountable for violations of labor laws<sup>5</sup>
- **Promotes collective bargaining for workers** under the Railway Labor Act and commits to a high standard for intervening in strikes<sup>6</sup>
- Guarantees that transportation investments meet commuter labor protections so that **new jobs are good-paying jobs** with family sustaining benefits<sup>7</sup>
- Supports the passing of an **OSHA Emergency Temporary Standard**, which require protections for frontline workers, and priority access to personal protective equipment and testing<sup>8</sup>

*"Why as a country are we so boneheaded to not understand the **essential value of a rail system that's modern** throughout the whole country?"*

--Joe Biden, 8/26/16<sup>9</sup>

**IBEWVOTES2020.ORG**

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.congress.gov/bill/107th-congress/house-bill/10/cosponsors?searchResultViewType=expanded>

<sup>2</sup> <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/vice-president-biden-railroad-administrator-members-congress-announce-funding-amtra>

<sup>3</sup> <https://ttd.org/blog/joe-biden-is-the-best-candidate-for-transportation-workers-and-their-families/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://joebiden.com/clean-energy/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://joebiden.com/empowerworkers/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://joebiden.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/UNITY-TASK-FORCE-RECOMMENDATIONS.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://joebiden.com/clean-energy/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://joebiden.com/joe-bidens-4-point-plan-for-our-essential-workers/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/2016/08/26/wilmington-biden-announces-245-billion-amtrak/89399730/>



NJ Transit, Hoboken, NJ. Photo by Aaron van Dorn/Flickr

*"Joe Biden recognizes **the necessity of a skilled, professional workforce** that will help revitalize the railroad sector as a critical component of rebuilding America's infrastructure."*

--Lonnie R. Stephenson, IBEW International President

## TRUMP HAS FAILED COMMUTER RAILROAD WORKERS

- **Put workers and riders at risk of COVID-19** by failing to enact mandatory cleaning, PPE and social distancing that would protect passengers and frontline workers<sup>1</sup>

This administration's:

### Federal Railroad Administration

- **Granted excessive safety waivers** during COVID-19 response, offering oversight only after rail labor pressure<sup>2</sup>

### Federal Transit Administration

- Refused to issue a rule that would mitigate the increasing assault cases on U.S. public transportation workers<sup>2</sup>
- Proposed a rule change that would eliminate Davis-Bacon, 13(c) transit employee labor protections and Buy America on federal projects<sup>3</sup>

## TRUMP'S ACTIONS HURT COMMUTER RAILROAD WORKERS

The President's budgets **slash funding** for public transportation

- FY2019 cuts USDOT funding by \$1.7B<sup>4</sup>
- FY2020 Trump proposed cutting Capital Improvement Transit Grants by \$1B<sup>5</sup>
- **This administration's Department of Transportation withheld billions of dollars of funding for major commuter railroad projects**, even though a bipartisan bill already passed that allocated the funding<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-airlines/white-house-opposes-requirement-for-passengers-to-wear-masks-on-planes-trains-idUSKCN24V3NC>

<sup>2</sup>[https://www.progressiverailroading.com/federal\\_legislation\\_regulation/news/Unions-to-FRA-Railroads-must-recall-furloughed-workers-before-seeking-safety-waivers-60197](https://www.progressiverailroading.com/federal_legislation_regulation/news/Unions-to-FRA-Railroads-must-recall-furloughed-workers-before-seeking-safety-waivers-60197)

<sup>3</sup><https://ttd.org/news-and-media/fta-fails-to-protect-transit-workers-from-violent-assaults/>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2018-07-16/pdf/2018-14989.pdf>

<sup>5</sup><https://usa.streetsblog.org/2019/03/11/trump-proposes-massive-cuts-to-transit-amtrak/>

<sup>6</sup><https://usa.streetsblog.org/2019/03/11/trump-proposes-massive-cuts-to-transit-amtrak/>

<sup>7</sup><https://usa.streetsblog.org/2019/03/19/trump-administration-continues-funny-business-with-transit-funding/>