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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Commissioners, Camden Mayor, and Assembly Majority Leader announce allocation of \$2 million to continue Camden Loop**

(Camden, NJ) – On Tuesday, the Board of Commissioners joined Mayor Victor Carstarphen, several elected officials and the Camden Community Partnership (CCP) to celebrate the two-year anniversary of the Camden Loop and to announce the allocation of \$2 million from the state to keep the transformative initiative going.

The Camden Loop is an on-demand micro-transit service for the city of Camden that uses software to fill critical transportation access gaps and expand upon the city’s existing public transit options. The initiative operates like other ride sharing programs with cost effective pricing \$2 per ride and \$1 for each additional passenger - for trips throughout the city and other key locations.

“This service has provided a lifeline for thousands of Camden residents over the last two years,” said Commissioner Director Louis Cappelli Jr. “Whether it is taking people to work to doctors’ appointments, or to the grocery store, the Camden Loop has provided residents with one of the most critical needs in our modern society – easy access to transportation. We are thrilled that the state sees the value in investing into this service because it is so needed in this community.”

The demand for the service has risen significantly and in the last two years, the fleet has grown from five to eight vehicles. Since its inception additional drivers have been hired and hours of service have been extended.

“The Camden Loop has done more than move people, it has connected communities, supported economic activity, and made daily life more convenient for thousands,” said Mayor Victor Carstarphen. “We are proud of how far we have come and excited for what’s next. I hear it directly from our residents and they constantly tell me that they love the ‘Loop.’ From the

affordable fares to the exceptional customer service, it's clear that this initiative is making a real difference in people's lives."

The \$2 million in state funds, which were secured thanks to the advocacy of Assembly Majority Leader Louis Greenwald, Asw. Melinda Kane, Sen. Nilsa Cruz Perez and Assemblymen Bill Moen and Bill Spearman, will allow the Loop to continue its expansion to meet the needs of more Camden residents.

"The Camden Loop is proof that investing in public transit transforms lives," said Majority Leader Louis Greenwald. "I was proud to help secure the initial funding that launched this innovative micro-transit program, which has quickly become a lifeline for Camden residents. In just two years, the Camden Loop has helped break down long-standing transportation barriers to healthcare, education, jobs, and fresh food, ensuring more equitable access to the services and opportunities that every community deserves."

Assemblyman Bill Moen discussed how the Loop has had a positive impact on those who call Camden home.

"In two years, the Camden Loop has made a profound impact in the City of Camden. This innovative service connects residents to essential locations, including doctor offices and NJ Transit and PATCO stations," Assemblyman Bill Moen said. "From the moment they book their trip to their arrival, Camden Loop riders can expect an affordable and convenient experience. This \$2 million allocation will help the Camden Loop support its growing ridership base. I thank Camden Community Partnership and Via for facilitating this excellent service, and my colleagues in the Legislature for their support in securing this \$2 million allocation."

Assemblyman Bill Spearman discussed how the funding will help the Loop continue its mission of delivering reliable, affordable transportation to residents.

"I'm proud to have helped secure \$2 million in the FY2026 New Jersey State Budget for the Camden Loop," said Assemblyman William Spearman. "This funding ensures that affordable, reliable transportation continues to connect people across our city to the services and employment they need to thrive."

Assemblywoman Melinda Kane discussed how the Loop supports the growth of the Camden community in several aspects.

"Affordable, convenient transportation is the backbone of a thriving community," Kane said. "The Camden Loop has reshaped how people move through the city, giving residents more freedom to reach jobs, services, and neighboring areas with ease. That kind of connectivity strengthens the economy and supports long-term regional growth."

According to CCP, since launching the Camden Loop in July 2023, the service has garnered 100,000 rides and currently has more than 15,000 active riders, which is approximately 14% of

the city's population. The Loop fills a major gap in the city, where approximately 59% of households own just one or no vehicles and public transportation is limited or unreliable.

Over the course of the last two years, the Loop has helped residents access the most important services. According to CCP, 18% of riders have used the service to get to medical appointments or the grocery store, 16% for transportation connections, and 15% for education.

“I want to extend my deepest appreciation to Assembly Majority Leader Lou Greenwald, Senator Nilsa Cruz-Perez, and Assemblymen William Spearman and William Moen for their continued support and belief in what the Camden Loop means to our community,” said Dana L. Redd, President and CEO of Camden Community Partnership. “This funding is more than just an investment in transportation; it’s an investment in people. Every day, residents use the Loop to get to work, attend school, buy groceries, visit the doctor, and stay connected with their city. For many, the Camden Loop is more than a ride, it’s a necessity. Thanks to this \$2 million grant, we can keep the Loop running strong, and possibly even expand our services. We’re truly grateful to our legislative partners for standing with Camden and helping us continue to move our city forward.”

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