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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EDITOR'S NOTE: ATTENTION POLITICAL EDITORS, Rutgers-Eagleton Poll Director David Redlawsk may be contacted at 319-400-1134, 732-932-9384, ext. 285, or redlawsk@rutgers.edu. Visit <http://eagletonpoll.blogspot.com> for more questions and tables.

NEW JERSEY VOTERS SUPPORT GOV. CHRISTIE'S CANCELLATION OF ARC TUNNEL PROJECT

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. – A majority of New Jerseyans support the cancellation of the Access to the Region's Core (ARC) tunnel project announced two weeks ago and reaffirmed this week by Gov. Chris Christie, a new Rutgers-Eagleton Poll finds. While believing the tunnel could be important to the state's economic development, 51 percent of Garden State voters think Christie was right to cancel the project, while 39 percent disagree with the decision, and 10 percent are unsure.

Support for canceling the tunnel varies by region. Northern New Jerseyans and commuters to Manhattan are more likely to disagree with the decision. A majority of commuters (52 percent) opposes Christie's decision. Support for the decision is split, 46 percent to 45 percent, for those living in northern New Jersey counties.

"Across the state, voters applaud the governor's decision," said David Redlawsk, director of the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll and professor of political science at Rutgers University. "While those who regularly travel to New York feel differently, much of the state agrees with Christie that the project is too expensive."

The poll of 885 registered voters was conducted October 21-27, with a +/- 3.3 percentage point margin of error.

Opinions on transportation spending split

While 40 percent of voters say "just the right amount" is being spent on transportation, nearly one-third (32 percent) believe the state needs to spend more, and about 12 percent say too much is being spent. Another 16 percent are not sure. Asked to prioritize spending, 58 percent believe funding should go toward roads and bridges rather than trains and buses while 32 percent would prioritize trains and buses. Eight percent don't know.

Two-thirds who say the state is spending the right amount favor investing first on roads and bridges. Responses are more mixed among those wanting additional spending: 48 percent prefer a focus on roads and bridges, while 44 percent make spending on trains and buses their priority.

Respondent-advocates of mass transit oppose Christie's decision to cancel the ARC tunnel, 48 percent to 41 percent; 11 percent are undecided. Those focused on spending for roads and bridges strongly favor cancellation, 57 percent to 36 percent, with 7 percent undecided.

"Clearly, support for Christie's decision depends on your belief in increased state spending for public transportation infrastructure," said Redlawsk. "Most New Jerseyans rely on their cars and would prefer spending focus on roads and bridges."

Garden Staters question value of ARC to economic development

Across the state, New Jerseyans are dubious about the economic value of the proposed tunnel. Only 28 percent say the tunnel is "very important" to the state's economic development, while 42 percent call it "somewhat important." Almost one-quarter consider it not at all important to the state's economy. Commuters and north Jersey residents are more likely to see the tunnel as important, with 38 percent of city commuters calling it very important, and 34 percent of all north Jersey residents agreeing.

Support for Christie's position has partisan undertones

Like nearly everything Christie does, the decision on the tunnel strikes Democrats very differently from Republicans. While 71 percent of Republicans support the governor's decision, only 32 percent of Democrats do so. However, a strong majority of independents (58 percent) side with Christie on canceling the tunnel.

While more supportive of the project, only 39 percent of Democrats say trains and buses should have priority in spending. Even fewer independents (29 percent) and Republicans (27 percent) feel the same. Thirty-nine percent of Democrats say too little is being spent on transportation generally compared to 30 percent of Republicans. Independents are least likely to think more needs to be spent, and only 26 percent say so.

"The fact that it is Christie canceling the tunnel is what seems to bother Democrats most," said Redlawsk. "While they are somewhat more likely to support public transportation and think more needs to be spent, their opposition to Christie's decision really goes beyond this, since many Democrats who want more roads and bridges and think spending levels are fine are also unhappy with the decision."

Questions and Tables follow on the Next Page

**Rutgers-Eagleton Poll October 21-27, 2010
Questions and Tables**

The questions covered in the release of October 29, 2010 are listed below. Column percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

[Questions on the Midterm elections preceded these questions. See Rutgers-Eagleton Poll releases of October 26 and October 28, 2010.]

Q. Now we're going to ask a few more questions on a variety of topics. I'm going to read you a list of items. Please tell me if you think New Jersey is spending too much, not enough, or just the right amount of money on the following items. First/ Next... [ROTATE ITEMS]

Transportation

Too much money	12%
Not enough money	32%
Just the right amount of money	40%
Don't Know	16%
N=	880

	Party			Employment			Region			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	FT	PT	Ret	Not Empl	North Jersey	Rest of State	NYC Comm
Too much	8%	15%	12%	13%	7%	6%	17%	14%	9%	13%
Not enough	39%	26%	30%	26%	22%	48%	31%	32%	32%	38%
Right amount	41%	41%	39%	47%	50%	29%	34%	40%	40%	35%
Don't Know	12%	18%	18%	14%	21%	17%	15%	14%	14%	14%
N=	308	337	203	386	95	198	203	467	412	58

Q. How important to economic development in New Jersey is the proposed Access to the Region's Core rail tunnel under the Hudson River to New York City? Is it very important, somewhat important, or not at all important?

Very Important	28%
Somewhat Important	42%
Not at all Important	23%
Don't Know	7%
N=	880

	Party			Employment			Region			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	FT	PT	Ret	Not Empl	North Jersey	Rest of State	NYC Comm
Very Important	39%	18%	25%	29%	30%	31%	20%	34%	21%	38%
Somewhat Important	43%	45%	39%	39%	40%	40%	53%	42%	43%	43%
Not at all Important	11%	30%	29%	26%	21%	20%	20%	18%	29%	17%
Don't Know	6%	7%	6%	6%	8%	8%	7%	6%	8%	2%
N=	309	338	202	385	95	198	203	468	412	58

*New Jersey ARC Tunnel – October 2010
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll*

	NJ Transportation Spending				Spending Preference		
	Too Much	Too Little	Right Amt	DK	Trains/ Buses	Roads/ Bridges	DK
Very Important	13%	42%	22%	24%	39%	22%	26%
Somewhat Important	49%	44%	40%	40%	41%	42%	50%
Not at all Important	33%	12%	30%	17%	13%	30%	11%
Don't Know	6%	2%	7%	18%	7%	6%	13%
N=	104	279	356	139	280	516	70

Q. If you could choose, would you prefer to see transportation spending go toward projects that benefit trains and buses or would you prefer the money be spent on roads and bridges?

Trains and Buses	32%
Roads and Bridges	58%
Neither/Don't Spend (Vol)	1%
Don't Know	8%
N=	880

	Party			Employment			Region			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	FT	PT	Ret	Not Empl	North Jersey	Rest of State	NYC Comm
Trains and Buses	39%	29%	27%	33%	32%	34%	27%	32%	31%	53%
Roads and Bridges	52%	60%	67%	61%	60%	52%	61%	56%	61%	36%
Neither/Don't Spend	0%	2%	1%	2%	0%	1%	1%	1%	2%	3%
Don't Know	7%	9%	5%	4%	8%	13%	10%	10%	6%	7%
N=	310	338	203	384	94	199	203	468	412	58

	NJ Transportation Spending			
	Too Much	Too Little	Right Amt	DK
Trains and Buses	24%	44%	27%	24%
Roads and Bridges	65%	48%	67%	57%
Neither/Don't Spend	5%	1%	1%	1%
Don't Know	6%	7%	5%	19%
N=	104	279	356	138

Q. Recently Governor Christie announced he will not fund the new rail tunnel to New York, saying it will cost too much and the state cannot afford it. Do you support or oppose Governor Christie's decision?

Support	51%
Oppose	39%
Don't Know	10%
N=	874

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	Party			Employment			Region			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	FT	PT	Ret	Not Empl	North Jersey	Rest of State	NYC Comm
Support	32%	58%	71%	53%	48%	55%	44%	46%	57%	31%
Oppose	59%	29%	23%	39%	37%	36%	41%	45%	31%	52%
Don't Know	9%	13%	6%	8%	15%	9%	14%	9%	12%	14%
N=	308	334	202	380	94	197	203	467	409	58

	NJ Transportation Spending				Spending Preference		
	Too Much	Too Little	Right Amt	DK	Trains/ Buses	Roads/ Bridges	DK
Support	69%	37%	57%	50%	41%	57%	44%
Oppose	22%	56%	36%	23%	48%	36%	24%
Don't Know	9%	6%	7%	27%	11%	7%	31%
N=	104	278	352	138	279	512	70

**Rutgers-Eagleton Poll October 23-24, 2010
New Jersey Statewide Poll**

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted from October 21-27, 2010 with a scientifically selected random sample of 885 registered voters from throughout the state of New Jersey, yielding 553 likely voters. Data are weighted to represent known parameters in the population, including gender, age, race, education, and Hispanic ethnicity. All results are reported with these weighted data. This telephone poll included 798 landline respondents acquired through random digit dialing, and 87 interviews of randomly selected cell phone households.

All surveys are subject to sampling error, which is the expected probable difference between interviewing everyone in a population versus a scientific sampling drawn from that population. The sampling error for a sample of 885 registered voters is +/-3.3 points, at a 95 percent confidence interval. For the likely voter sub sample of 553 respondents, the margin of error is +/-4.1 points. Thus if 50 percent of New Jersey registered voters favored a particular position, one would be 95 percent confident that the true figure would be between 46.7 and 53.3 percent (50 +/- 3.3) had all New Jersey registered voters been interviewed, rather than just a sample. Sampling error increases as the sample size decreases, so statements based on various population subgroups are subject to more error than are statements based on the total sample. Sampling error does not take into account other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording or context effects.

Data were collected by staff and students working with the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll and were analyzed by staff of the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll.

Weighted Sample Characteristics (N=885 Registered Voters)			
36% Dem	48% Male	16% 18-29	68% White
40% Independent	52% Female	36% 30-49	13% Black
24% Republican		24% 50-64	9% Hispanic
		25% 65+	7% Asian
			3% Other