

May 20, 2004

### **REGIONAL BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP HONORS MARTIN ROBINS WITH MERIT AWARD IN TRANSPORTATION**

**NEWARK, N.J.** – The Regional Business Partnership (RBP) today honored Martin E. Robins, the director of the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University, with a merit award in transportation in recognition of his career achievements, including most recently his work with the Blue Ribbon Transportation Commission.

For the past 15 years, RBP, which has over 500 business and organization members, has honored leaders in the transportation industry in recognition of the significant role transportation plays in sustaining the economic vitality of the region.

RBP singled out Robins' contributions to the Blue Ribbon Transportation Commission, which last year produced a report that recommended a 12.5-cent per gallon gas tax increase and significant institutional reforms to save the state's Transportation Trust Fund, said Barbara E. Kauffman, RBP's executive vice president.

"We're recognizing Martin for his ground-breaking research on transportation finance in New Jersey and in particular for contributing significantly to such a well-reasoned, insightful report," Kauffman said. "We thought this was one of the best state reports we have ever seen."

Robins has directed the policy function of the Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC) since 1998, following 25-year career in transportation policy and planning in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area. He became the director of the Center in 2003. From 1994 to 1998, he served as project director of Access to the Region's Core, the three-agency planning partnership examining the need for a new passenger rail tunnel under the Hudson River; prior to that, he directed

NJ TRANSIT's Waterfront Transportation Office, which planned the Hudson-Bergen light rail line. Robins served also as the Port Authority's planning and development director, and Deputy Executive Director of NJ TRANSIT.

One of 13 research centers at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, VTC has become a national leader in the research and development of innovative transportation policy. It also houses the National Transit Institute.

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