



For immediate release: July 19, 2012

Contact: Veronica Vanterpool, Tri-State Transportation Campaign, 917-957-9748

Statement of Tri-State Transportation Campaign Executive Director Veronica Vanterpool in response to the MTA's announcement of service restorations

The MTA's announcement of \$29 million in service restorations is welcome news to the millions of daily bus, subway, and commuter rail riders who were unduly burdened by service cuts made in 2010. Tri-State Transportation Campaign applauds MTA Chairman Joe Lhota and the MTA Board, in particular Mitch Pally, Allen Cappelli, and Andrew Albert, for identifying cost efficiencies and reinvesting recent financial gains into service restorations, benefitting many transit riders, especially those using buses.

Transit ridership nationwide continues to surge. Metro-North had a banner year in 2011, and subway and bus ridership will continue to grow as the economy rebounds.

Unfortunately, next year's looming fare increases cast a shadow over the good news. Transit riders will be forced to shoulder the financial burden of a system that benefits the whole region and state. Meanwhile, legislators in Albany continue to attack dedicated MTA funding sources, like the payroll tax, and refuse to consider innovative revenue generating ideas, like congestion pricing. Until a new revenue source is identified, transit users will continue to bear the burden of financing a transit network that also benefits motorists while boosting the regional economy and reducing pollution.

In order to ensure that the country's largest transit system is in a state of good repair, is an attractive, reliable, and affordable transportation option for the region, and is funded in a fair and balanced manner, our elected officials must do more to support the region's economic lifeblood.

###

Tri-State Transportation Campaign is a non-profit organization working toward a more balanced, transit-friendly, and equitable transportation system in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.