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*Statement of Tri-State Transportation Campaign Executive Director Veronica Vanterpool, in response to a rise in reported traffic fatalities in New York City during the 2012 fiscal year.*

This week's release of the Mayor's Management Report, which shows that traffic fatalities were up 23% in the 2012 fiscal year, is disappointing news. These fatalities are preventable. They are often attributable to poor driver behavior: speeding, running red lights or stop signs, or drunk driving. Despite the measurable successes of the Bloomberg administration's efforts to improve the safety of our streets, another complementary approach is needed, this time from Albany legislators.

For years, the city has asked Albany for authorization to implement a speed camera demonstration program that would catch violators in the act. Yet, legislators continue to ignore the life-saving benefits of speed cameras. Studies have shown that cameras reduce speeding by 71% at sites where cameras are installed. This is good news, especially for the city's most vulnerable. If a driver strikes a child at 40 mph there is a 70% chance the child will be *killed*, but if the driver strikes a child at 30 mph (New York City's speed limit) there is an 80% chance the child will *survive*.

According to a study by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, over 7 in 10 drivers thought photo enforcement devices were a good idea to help curb poor driver behavior.

It is time for Albany to act. Simple technologies can help to assure that everyone—including cyclists, pedestrians, motorists, and their passengers—have the numbers on their side. New York City needs better tools to achieve better numbers.

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*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.*