



**Transportation Advocates: With MTA in Need of Repair, CEO Replacement Must be Selected Swiftly**

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*Statement of Tri-State Transportation Campaign Executive Director Veronica Vanterpool in response to the resignation of MTA Chairman Joseph Lhota*

The MTA is on a path to recovery that is now interrupted by the resignation of MTA Chairman & CEO Joseph Lhota. The needs of the agency, which were not only exacerbated during recent storms but also highlighted to the general public as ongoing and dire, continue to grow. The repair, maintenance and expansion needs of the country's largest transit system are severely underfunded, even with the potential approval of federal emergency funds.

Dedicated funding sources, such as the payroll mobility tax, are consistently threatened. Future federal funding for transit is uncertain. And transit's share in the state budget is fragile.

MTA Chairman Joseph Lhota brought credibility to the agency with the public and the New York State legislature. He implemented \$750 million in recurring cost savings, restored some service cuts and responded quickly to Hurricane Sandy before and after the storm. Unfortunately, the fourth fare and toll increase in five years occurred during his tenure, further showing that this agency remains strapped for cash. This is a challenging time to leave the MTA. A new chairperson needs to be nominated by Governor Cuomo and appointed by the New York State Senate swiftly.

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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 Connecticut, New York and New Jersey.*