



Tri-State: Prendergast Will Bring Credibility and Legitimacy to MTA Leadership

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Statement of Tri-State Transportation Campaign Executive Director Veronica Vanterpool in response to NY Governor Cuomo's selection of Tom Prendergast as MTA chairman and CEO:

Tri-State Transportation Campaign applauds Governor Cuomo's nomination of Thomas F. Prendergast as Chairman and CEO of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. Mr. Prendergast is at the top of a very short list of qualified and experienced individuals who can effectively lead the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. He has spent decades running buses and subways in the country's largest transit systems, which has provided him the knowledge that is critical to understanding the nuts, bolts and wires of the country's largest transit network. Additionally, under Mr. Prendergast's leadership, a successful partnership was developed with New York City Department of Transportation to implement Select Bus Service, resulting in the expansion of new and modern bus service to The Bronx, Staten Island and Manhattan.

Mr. Prendergast's long relationship with the agency might be the precursor needed to ensure the next Chairman and CEO remains in the role longer than two years. This is of critical importance given the anticipated massive funding gap of \$15 billion in the MTA's next capital rebuilding plan of 2015-2019, the pressures on the operating budget which disproportionately impact straphangers through fares and service, and the agency's mounting debt load.

Mr. Prendergast will bring credibility and legitimacy to both the capital and operating needs of the agency which should help build legislative support for new financing revenues to support the transit needs ahead. We urge the New York State Senate to swiftly approve his nomination.

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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.