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## **Governor Cuomo Signs Bill Authorizing NYC Speed Cameras; Safer Streets Ahead for Our Children**

*Statement of Tri-State Transportation Campaign Executive Director Veronica Vanterpool in response to the signing of the NYC Speed Camera Bill:*

Today, Governor Cuomo took an action that New Yorkers have been waiting for since 2001 — he signed a bill (S4459/A4327-A) that will help curb reckless drivers in New York City who needlessly threaten the lives of everyone on the street, especially our most vulnerable: children.

Speeding is a rampant problem in New York City. This law will authorize a pilot program that allows the New York City Department of Transportation to place cameras in close proximity to 20 schools across the City. Data released this spring by NYCDOT lists schools in each of the five boroughs where 75 to 100 percent of cars are speeding within 1/4 mile of a school.

Walking to school should not be the riskiest part of the school day because speeding cars are breaking the law. Speeding drivers are the number one cause of fatal crashes in NYC, and motor vehicles are the leading cause of death due to injury amongst children in NYC. Child pedestrians account for three quarters of these victims. In 2010, pedestrians accounted for 55 percent of traffic fatalities, and speeding claimed twice as many lives as distracted driving. Research shows that speed enforcement cameras reduce injuries and fatalities by 40-45 percent, and reduce speeding by 71 percent.

This technology is an important measure in a toolkit of enforcement actions. We applaud the sponsors, Senator Klein and Assemblywoman Glick, the legislature and the Governor for their leadership in making New York City's streets safer for all users.