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Statement: Diversion of MTA Dedicated Funds Could Mean a Rough Ride for Transit Riders, Workers and Manufacturers

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Statement from a coalition of transit, labor, business, environmental, good government and rider advocacy groups on the proposed diversion of dedicated MTA transit funds in the New York State 2014-2015 Executive budget

Transit riders should be concerned. The 2014-2015 Executive Budget contains a troubling diversion of MTA dedicated funds that could mean a rough ride for bus and subway riders, workers, and manufacturers. In the Budget, \$40 million in dedicated transit funds, which pay for day-to-day operations, service and maintenance are being diverted into the General Service Debt Fund. With this action, Governor Cuomo reneges on an agreement the State made with the MTA in 2002 in which the State would pay for \$2.4 billion in MTA debt.

This proposal, which first occurred with a \$20 million diversion in the 2013-2014 NYS budget, is not only planned again this year, but in 2015, 2016 and beyond. In total, nearly \$350 million could be siphoned away from transit in future years.

New York's transit riders have endured a series of painful fare hikes and service cuts, and the MTA's finances remain precarious. In the absence of strong lockbox legislation, our organizations predicted this outcome. Although the NYS Legislature unanimously passed Lockbox legislation in 2011, and again in 2013—legislation that was supported by over 200 organizations across the state—the 2011 bill was nullified, and the 2013 bill was vetoed by the Governor. Our groups ask the Legislature to again uphold the protection of dedicated transit funds: reverse Governor Cuomo's proposed diversion of \$40 million in dedicated transit funds to the state's General Service Debt Fund and reject proposed future diversions of dedicated transit funds.

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**** Coalitions composed of the following groups:**

Empire State Future

Adirondack Council • American Farmland Trust • American Institute of Architects – New York Chapter American Institute of Architects – New York State • American Planning Association – New York Upstate Chapter Audubon – New York • Bike Walk Alliance of Westchester & Putnam • Binghamton Regional Sustainability Coalition • Building Performance Lab- CUNY • The Catskill Center • Centerstate Corporation for Economic Opportunity • East Coast Greenway Alliance • Environmental Advocates of New York • FXFowle Architects, PC • Green Options Buffalo • Green Village Consulting – Rochester • Hunt Engineers, Architects and Land Surveyors, PC. IBI Group • Jonathan Rose Companies • Landmark Society of Western New York • League of Women Voters of New York State • The Leyland Alliance • Local Initiative Support Corporation, Buffalo • Mid-Hudson Pattern for Progress • Natural Resources Defense Council • The Nature Conservancy – New York • NeighborWorks – Rochester • New York Bicycling Coalition • New York Civic • New York League of Conservation Voters • New York Planning Federation • New York State Association of County Health Officials • New York State Urban Council • Orange County Citizens' Foundation • Parks & Trails New York • Partners for a Livable Western New York • Partnership for the Public Good- Buffalo • Preservation League of New York State • Project For Public Spaces • Regional Plan Association • Rochester Regional Community Design Center • Scenic Hudson • Sierra Club – Atlantic Chapter • Smart Growth America • Sustainable Hudson Valley • Sustainable Long Island • Sustainable Saratoga • Sustainable South Bronx • Sustainable Tompkins • Syracuse First • The Stakeholders, Inc. • Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance • Tri-state Transportation Campaign • University Transportation Research Center, Region II (UTRC) Urban Land Institute – New York District Council • Vision Long Island • WE ACT for Environmental Justice • Wildlife Conservation Society • W X Y architecture + urban design

Long Island Lobby Coalition

AARP • American Communities Institute at Dowling College • American Planning Association—LI Chapter • Child Care Council of Nassau • Child Care Council of Suffolk • Citizens Campaign for the Environment • Citizens Campaign for the Environment • Concern for Independent Living • Concerned Citizens of the Plainview-Old Bethpage Community • Coram Civic Association • Cornerstone Church of God in Christ • Dowling College • Elmont Chamber of Commerce • Empire State Future • EmPower Solar • Friends of the Bay • Glen Cove Business Improvement District • Good Harvest Financial Group • Greater Smithtown Chamber of Commerce • Greenman-Pedersen Inc. • HIA-LI • Hicksville Chamber of Commerce • Huntington Township Chamber of Commerce • Laible and Fitzsimmons Inc. • Lake Ronkonkoma Civic Organization • Long Island Business Council • Long Island Federation of Labor • Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce • Long Island Housing Partnership • Long Island Minority AIDS Coalition • Long Island Software and Technology Network • Longwood Alliance • Mastic Beach Property Owners Association • Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library • Middle Island Civic Association • Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce • Neighborhood Network • New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health • New York League of Conservation Voters • Plainview/Old Bethpage Chamber of Commerce • Renaissance Downtowns • Roel Resources • Save the Forge River • Selden Civic Association • Signature Organization • South Yaphank Civic Association • Sustainability Institute at Molloy College • Them TV • Tri-State Transportation Campaign • Uniondale Community Council • US Green Building Council Long Island Chapter • Verizon • Vision Long Island • Wading River Civic Association • Workforce Development Group • Youth of Ethical Societies Long Island Chapter

New York State Transportation Equity Alliance

Abyssinian Development Corporation • Action Toward Independence Adirondack Council • Albany Bicycle Coalition • American Lung Assoc. in New York Arbor Hill Environmental Justice Asthma Free School Zone • ATU Local 1321 • ATU Local 726 • ATU Local 923 • BCID • Bedford Audubon Society • Belmont Housing Resources for WNY Beyond Oil NYC • Brooklyn Greenway Initiative • Capital Region Transit Advocates (CRTA) • CCCEH • Center for Disability Rights • Center for Working Families • Citizen Action NY • Citizens Regional Transit Corporation • City Council • Clean New York • Community League of the Heights • Community Voices Heard • East Coast Greenway Alliance • EDF • El Puente • Empire State Future • Environmental Advocates of New York • Environmental Justice Action Group of Western New York Fifth Ave Committee • For A Better Bronx(xx) • FXFOWLE Architects LLP • Good Jobs NY • Harlem Childrens Zone • Healthy Community Alliance • Highbridge Community Life Center • Hudson River Sloop Clearwater • League of Woman Voters New York State • Livable Streets Education • Long Island Progressive Coalition • Membership hopefuls • Metro Justice of Rochester • Metro New York Health Care for All • Mothers on the Move • Neighborhood Network • Neighbors Allied for Good Growth • NeighborWorks Rochester, Healthy Blocks Initiative • New York Academy of

Medicine • New York Bicycling Coalition • New York City Environmental Justice Alliance • New York Jobs with Justice • New York Lawyers for Public Interest • New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV) • New York Public Interest Research Group, The Straphangers Campaign New York State Apollo Alliance • Niagara Heritage Partnership • North Shore Waterfront Conservancy of Staten Island • Nos Quedamos CDC • NRDC • NY County Acad. of family Phys. • Project for Public Spaces • Public Health Solutions • PUSH Buffalo • Rail*Train*Ecology*Cycling • Reconnect Rochester • Recycle a Bicycle • Regional Plan Association • Resources for Children with Special Needs • RightRides • Rudin Center • Rudin Center • Scenic Hudson • Self Advocacy Assoc. of NYS • Sierra Club New York City Group • Sinergia • St. Alliance for Health • Sustainable Flatbush • Sustainable Hudson Valley • Sustainable Long Island • Sustainable South Bronx • Syracuse First • TEN • The Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York • The Morningside Heights/West Harlem Sanitation Coalition • The Partnership for Onondaga Creek • The Point CDC • The Pratt Center • The Westchester-Putnam Bike Walk Alliance • Transportation Alternatives • Tri-State Transportation Campaign • TWU Local 100 • UPROSE • Urban Agenda • Urban Design Lab, Earth Institute at Columbia University Vision Long Island • VOICE Buffalo • WE ACT for Environmental Justice • West Harlem Group Assistance • Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice