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Albany Legislators Lay Politics Aside, Pass Vision Zero's Speed Limit Bill

Today, Albany legislators lay politics aside and passed one of the most significant safe streets bills to come before the legislature this year: S.7892/A10144, sponsored by Senate Co-Majority Leader Jeff Klein and Assemblymember Daniel O'Donnell. If signed by the governor, New York City will have the authority to lower the default speed limit throughout the five boroughs from the current 30 mph to 25 mph.

Lowering the speed limit by just 5 mph will have a significant impact on reducing the fatality rate of vulnerable users of the road, such as pedestrians and bicyclists, children and senior citizens. In New York City, vehicle collisions are the number one cause of injury-related death for children and the second leading cause of death for senior citizens. A pedestrian hit by a car going 25 mph has a 90 percent chance of surviving. It is estimated that passage of this bill will result in the prevention of 6,500 traffic injuries next year.

Nine million New York residents, and nearly 47 million annual visitors, will now be able to walk, bike and drive in a safer, more livable city. The state legislative sponsors of the bill — Senator Klein and Assemblymember O'Donnell — and Mayor Bill de Blasio are to be commended for their leadership and advocacy on this crucial element of the Vision Zero plan. We urge Governor Cuomo to waste no time signing this bill into law.

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The 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.

NY4AT is a coalition dedicated to achieving equitable funding for non-motorized transportation, including complete streets, community multi-use trails, and safer and increased levels of bicycling and walking in New York's cities, villages, and towns. The coalition is coordinated by Parks & Trails New York, the New York Bicycling Coalition, and Tri-State Transportation Campaign.