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## **Governor Cuomo Signs Red Light Traffic Safety Measure for Eight Communities Across New York State**

*Statement of Tri-State Transportation Campaign Executive Director Veronica Vanterpool on Governor Andrew Cuomo's signing of red light camera legislation:*

"Today, Governor Cuomo made it safer for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists in eight communities around the state by signing legislation that reauthorizes red light camera legislation in Nassau County, Suffolk County, Yonkers, Rochester and New York City, and expands the use of red light camera technology to New Rochelle, Mount Vernon and Albany. Red light cameras are a powerful deterrent to red-light running: In New York State, Nassau County has seen a 40 percent reduction in total crashes, and a 46 percent reduction in Rochester as a result of red light camera programs. They will prevent many more deaths and severe injuries for all road users in intersections where they are placed.

Red-light running crashes are particularly dangerous because they tend to combine speed and right-angle or "T-Bone" impacts, which lead to a high number of injuries and deaths. According to the Federal Highway Administration, an estimated 165,000 people are injured annually by red-light runners, and in 2008, red-light running crashes caused 762 deaths. Public costs of these crashes exceed \$14 billion per year. Nearly two-thirds of the deaths in red-light running crashes are innocent victims—passengers, other motorists and pedestrians. These are preventable deaths, and by signing this legislation, Governor Cuomo is working towards preventing as many needless deaths as possible.

Governor Cuomo's action today gives local leaders one more tool from a toolkit of measures to improve the safety of their communities."

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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.*