

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, July 20, 2020

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Tri-State Transportation Campaign Statement on Restoring 24/7 Subway Service

New York State Senator Brad Hoylman and Assembly Member Robert Carroll introduced [Bill S8328/A10445](#), requiring New York City transit systems to provide twenty-four hour service unless a declared state of emergency is in effect. In response, Tri-State Transportation Campaign released the following statement:

“At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, little was known about how the virus was transmitted between people. Initially, experts believed that sterilizing high-contact surfaces was crucial in the fight against the virus, leading Governor Cuomo to take the unprecedented action of closing New York City’s subway system nightly between 1am and 5am for regular station and equipment cleanings.

“Now, months later, we know that COVID-19 primarily spreads through droplets released through the air by breathing, talking, coughing, and sneezing, with potential airborne spread as well. In our recent report, “[Back on Board: A Guide to Safe\(r\) Transit in the Era of COVID-19](#),” our review of the scientific literature and interviews with subject matter experts indicate that the most effective tools in reducing virus transmission are wearing proper face masks, ventilation, and social distancing. Cleaning the subway is still helpful, but it is now clear that fomite transmission is less common than previously understood.

“As long as riders comply with mask-wearing and social distancing guidelines, the MTA can resume overnight subway service. Such an effort would bring relief to many late night workers, many of whom are essential workers, who rely on transit during off-peak hours. We commend Senator Hoylman and Assembly Member Carroll for introducing this legislation as we continue fighting COVID-19 and simultaneously improve New York City’s public transit system. It is critical, though, that the State Legislature ensure the MTA has the funding it needs to run high-level service, and any demands on the MTA should come hand-in-hand with state support to ensure it can meet the many demands it faces during an unprecedented fiscal crisis.”

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Tri-State Transportation Campaign is a 27-year old advocacy organization that fights for an equitable, safe, multi-modal transportation network that provides options and supports the

economies of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. TSTC works to fix our commutes, meet our climate goals, stop traffic deaths, and make transportation fair.