



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, September 4, 2020

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## **Tri-State Transportation Campaign Statement on Trump Administration Pulling Funds for Transit Cleaning**

*This week, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) snuck in a rules change to say that the operations of public facilities are no longer considered “emergency protective measures eligible for reimbursement.” At a time when we are still fighting a global pandemic and to keep transit riders and workers safe, the new rules disqualify city and state governments from receiving reimbursements for sanitizing buses and subway cars. In response, Tri-State Transportation Campaign released the following statement:*

“New York City and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) are facing an unprecedented fiscal crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic has blown a hole through the MTA’s budget and Congress is the only body of government that can step in to save the system from collapsing entirely. But instead of investing in the public transit system that keeps New York City--and the nation’s economy--functioning, the Trump Administration is actively implementing policies designed to destroy it.

“The New York metropolitan area generates a gross metropolitan product (GMP) of over \$1.55 trillion a year with a population of more than 23 million people. To put this in perspective, that is roughly equivalent to South Korea’s gross domestic product (GDP) with only half the population. By a very wide margin, New York’s economy is the largest in the nation, anchored by Midtown and Lower Manhattan, two of the world’s largest central business districts.

“The survival and success of New York, however, is heavily dependent on an extensive subway, bus, and commuter rail network that moves millions of daily commuters across the city and region. Public fear of coronavirus transmission on public transit, combined with the shutdown of all non-essential businesses, has evaporated virtually all of the MTA’s funding streams. Transit ridership is still down 75 percent while traffic congestion on the region’s roads is back up to 90 percent of pre-pandemic levels and growing quickly. Without \$12 billion in federal aid, by this November, the MTA could be forced to raise fares and make drastic service cuts: 40 percent for the city’s buses and subways, and 50 percent for the commuter rails. Public transit in New York as we know it will be dead. In this scenario, economic recovery from the pandemic will be significantly stifled, for the city, region, and the country.



“This is a devastating shot to our nation’s economy, not to mention a slap in the face to thousands of frontline workers who rely on transit and risked their lives to save us from the worst pandemic in over a century. Let’s pull no punches: this is a battle over the survival of New York.”

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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.*