



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, January 15, 2021

### CONTACT

Felicia Park-Rogers, Director of Regional Infrastructure Projects

[felicia@tstc.org](mailto:felicia@tstc.org)

Liam Blank, Policy & Communications Manager

[liam@tstc.org](mailto:liam@tstc.org)

## Tri-State Transportation Campaign Statement on MTA's New Overnight Subway Closure Policy

*Today, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) announced that beginning February 22, 2021, the authority will adjust the hours of overnight closure to only last two hours, from 2-4am. This will be a change from the current closure hours, which last from 1-5am and started May 6, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In response, **Felicia Park-Rogers, Director of Regional Infrastructure Projects for Tri-State Transportation Campaign**, released the following statement:*

"TSTC applauds the MTA's decision to reduce the overnight closure hours on our city's subway system. Third shift workers, many of whom are working on the frontline of the pandemic, rely on transit overnight and have been denied critically needed service. We look forward to the full return of 24-hour service as soon as possible and call on the MTA to provide a clear and comprehensive explanation of how they will achieve that goal.

"TSTC has repeatedly called publicly for a compromise of reducing the overnight closure from four hours to two hours. Many workers have shifts that end at midnight or begin at 6am and require a 1.5 hour commute to and from work. This meant they were unable to use the subway overnight to and from work. The new hours will allow many more workers to commute via the subway again instead of spending hours waiting for buses in the cold or spending money they don't have on vehicles for hire.

"Today's announcement is recognition of the vital role workers perform to keep our city moving. Early in the pandemic, the MTA closed the system overnight for four hours in order to provide time for additional cleaning and sanitation efforts in stations, on trains, and on platforms. Now that the scientific understanding of coronavirus transmission has evolved, as highlighted in TSTC's [Back on Board](#) report, re-prioritizing the needs of New York City's workforce is the right choice.



“Meanwhile, we continue to call on Congress to pass the American Rescue Plan in order to provide desperately needed relief funds for public transit, a critical component of saving the MTA and bolstering the nation’s economic recovery effort.”

###

*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.*