



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

### CONTACT

Liam Blank, Policy & Communications Manager

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

Felicia Park-Rogers, Director of Regional Infrastructure Projects

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

## Tri-State Transportation Campaign Statement on NYC Council Hearing on 'The MTA in the Era of COVID-19'

*This morning, the NYC Council's Committee on Transportation held an oversight hearing on the MTA in the era of COVID-19. For 116 years, the New York City Subway operated 24/7 service every day of the year (barring emergencies and disasters) until May 6, 2020, when Governor Cuomo took the unprecedented step of closing the system from 1am to 5am for overnight cleanings to combat the spread of COVID-19. Patrick Foye, Chairman and CEO of the MTA, stated at the hearing that the subway will not reopen overnight service until Governor Cuomo's pandemic emergency order ends. In Response, Tri-State Transportation Campaign released the following statement:*

"It's been a year since the pandemic began and we know a lot more now about the transmission of COVID-19, which spreads primarily through water droplets released through the air by talking, breathing, coughing, and sneezing. In our 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 clear that fomite transmission is less common than previously understood.

"Since last spring, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [expanded its guidance](#) to clarify that the coronavirus 'spreads less commonly through contact with contaminated surfaces.' Further studies have shown that aerial spread is of most concern for transmission. Despite the facts, the subway remains shut down from 1am to 5am every night, withholding a critical service for thousands of working class New Yorkers, including third shift essential workers on the pandemic's frontline.

"As long as riders comply with mask-wearing and social distancing guidelines, the MTA can safely resume overnight subway service. It is critical, though, that the Biden administration and 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 federal and state support."



###

*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.*