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Statement on NYC Becoming America's Most Congested City

Today, INRIX published the <u>2020 Global Traffic Scorecard</u> that identified and ranked congestion and mobility trends in more than 1,000 cities, across 50 countries amid a year that brought unprecedented economic and social disruption due to the onset of COVID-19. In 2020, NYC climbed to the top of the list of most congested cities in the U.S. and ranked as the third most congested city in the world. In response, Tri-State Transportation Campaign released the following statement:

"Despite a year-long pandemic that is keeping millions of Americans home, New York City is experiencing a <u>fast rebound of traffic congestion</u>. While public transit ridership continues to lag significantly, traffic on the city's roads and highways is already on pace to exceed pre-pandemic levels, which is a major threat to the region's short and long-term recovery.

"Throughout the pandemic, essential workers relied heavily on the city's extensive bus system, and routes serving black, brown, and low-income neighborhoods are still moving hundreds of thousands of riders every day. Now, as more people get vaccinated and normal activities resume, the bus network that saved New York City is at risk of being crippling by traffic congestion. For many New Yorkers, this means losing access to jobs, affordable housing, education, and other critical services.

"Mayor de Blasio and the NYC Department of Transportation must accelerate plans to roll out bus lanes and automated camera enforcement to keep bus lanes unobstructed. The Federal government must also fast-track the approval of NYC's congestion pricing plan, which was delayed by the previous administration. Prioritizing these improvements will help balance the transportation network and ensure a fair and climate-resilient recovery from the pandemic. Equity can no longer be treated as an aspirational goal–it is now mission critical."

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<u>Tri-State Transportation Campaign</u> 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.