



## The Council of The City of New York

Patrick J. Foye  
Chairman and CEO, Metropolitan Transit Authority  
2 Broadway  
New York, NY 10004

August 29, 2019

Dear Chairman Foye,

New Yorkers know all too well that our City's transit network is in a state of shambles. Years of disinvestment and a mounting backlog of capital needs have led to a subway and bus system that is insufficient for the millions of riders who rely upon public transportation each day. We applaud the MTA's leadership and New York City Transit President Andy Byford for creating the Fast Forward Plan, and ongoing discussions of new funding sources to pay for system modernization give us hope that the existing transit system will be transformed in the coming years. However, as we work to improve our subway and bus systems, we must also explore innovative ways to supplement our current transit network.

New infrastructure projects would improve quality of life for current residents and ensure that New York City is resilient in the long-term. These infrastructure projects should prioritize communities that most need them. Transit deserts in the outer boroughs continue to add strain to commuters, limit the potential for new economic hubs, and reduce access to opportunity for outer borough residents.

More outer borough options are vital to bring equity into our City's transit system. As elected representatives, we join Regional Plan Association in requesting that the MTA evaluate the Triboro Line proposal by including funding in the upcoming capital plan for a formal study. The Triboro would take advantage of an existing freight right-of-way. This line, which runs 24 miles from Co-op City in the Bronx south to Bay Ridge in Brooklyn, would provide a critical north-south transit solution to improve the transit network, reduce commuting times for residents, and build-up outer borough residents' quality of life.

RPA's preliminary research conservatively estimates that the line would initially serve 100,000 daily riders with a price tag of between \$1 and \$2 billion. A formal study would serve to determine the opportunities, challenges, and feasibility of the Triboro Line. The study should also take into account the need to expand freight capacity in the region and how best to co-mingle services without reducing freight movement or limiting freight expansion goals. We are calling on the MTA to initiate such a study, and are willing to support in any way we can.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to enacting a sustainable and equitable transit system for the communities that we serve. We look forward to working together in bringing New Yorkers the type of transit system that they deserve.

Sincerely,



Council Member Antonio Reynoso



City Council Speaker Corey Johnson



Council Member Justin Brannan



Council Member Margaret Chin



Council Member Andrew Cohen



Council Majority Leader Laurie A. Cumbo



Council Member Barry Grodenchik



Council Member Robert Holden



Council Member Peter Koo



Council Member Carlos Menchaca



Council Member Donovan Richards