

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest  
New York League of Conservation Voters • NYPIRG Straphangers Campaign  
Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee to the MTA (PCAC) • Regional Plan Association  
Reinvent Albany • Riders Alliance • TransitCenter • Transportation Alternatives  
Tri-State Transportation Campaign • StreetsPAC

**Via Email**

Patrick Foye  
CEO/Chairman  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
2 Broadway  
New York, NY 10004

May 20, 2019

Re: Upcoming decision over MTA reorganization is an opportunity to regain public trust.

Dear CEO/Chairman Foye,

We write today as Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) stakeholders to urge the MTA Board, Governor's Office and State Legislature to ensure that the upcoming discussion over the reorganization of the MTA is public, transparent and consultative.

Reorganizations can be costly and disruptive, which is a significant concern to transit riders weary of service problems. The MTA has been seeking to restore the public's trust. Ensuring the discussion over the pending reorganization is open and consultative will help show the public and our elected representatives that the MTA is truly acting in the public interest. The priority must continue to be on providing safe, reliable and consistent service at levels that serve the needs of the riding public.

The state budget requires the MTA's consultant, AlixPartners, to give its plan to the MTA Board by June 30, 2019. This plan should be made public at that date, including any accompanying analyses. AlixPartners is also conducting a "review" of waste, fraud, abuse, conflicts of interest, duplications of functions, etc, which is due to the MTA by July 31, 2019. Under law, the "review" is to be made public within 30 days of receipt by the MTA; ideally, this should be made public as soon as it is received by the MTA Board given the short window of time for adopting the reorganization plan. Within 90 days of receipt of this "review," the reorganization plan is to be updated by "the authority" to incorporate its findings.

It is our understanding that the MTA Board, acting as the authority, will vote on a final reorganization plan sometime before the end of October 2019. Well before a plan is released or voted on, we urge the MTA board and staff to energetically reach out to public stakeholders, including riders groups, unions, advocates, and elected representatives, and publicly consult with them about potential recommendations. This would be best done outside of the MTA Board meeting process, which limits public engagement to 2 minute presentations and does not allow a dialogue to occur.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Our groups are available to meet with you and/or AlixPartners to lend our expertise as you work develop the reorganization plan. Should you have any questions, please reach out to Rachael Fauss, Senior Research Analyst at Reinvent Albany at [rachael@reinventalbany.org](mailto:rachael@reinventalbany.org) or 518-859-5307.

Sincerely,

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Cc.  
Governor Andrew Cuomo  
Members of the MTA Board  
Temporary President and Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins  
Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie  
Senator Leroy Comrie; Chair, Corporations, Authorities and Commissions Committee  
Senator Tim Kennedy; Chair, Transportation Committee  
Senator Liz Krueger; Chair, Finance Committee  
Assemblymember Amy Paulin; Chair, Corporations, Authorities and Commissions Committee  
Assemblymember William Magnarelli; Chair, Transportation Committee  
Assemblymember Helene Weinstein; Chair, Finance Committee