

June 18, 2024

Re: \$10B Billion in Federal Transit Funds Potentially at Risk Due to Congestion Pricing Delay

Chair and CEO Janno Lieber
MTA Headquarters
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Acting Administrator Veronica Vanterpool
Federal Transit Administration, East Building
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Chair Lieber and Acting Administrator Vanterpool:

Thank you for your strong support of public transit investment in the New York City metropolitan area. We write today as a unified group of environmental, transit, good government, and community-based organizations that have long supported a congestion pricing program for New York City. After five years of study and analysis, the program was intended to start at the end of this month, generating \$15 billion for public transit investment over five years. 100% of the revenues were to be dedicated to the MTA capital program. In addition to the significant economic benefits of the MTA and the projects that would come from congestion pricing, benefits of the program include improved air quality and a reduction in traffic that clogs our Central Business District.

Analyzing the 2023-2026 State Transportation Improvement Program, our groups find \$9.9 billion allocated from the Federal Transit Administration currently listed in the MTA region. Attached is a [list showing 95 projects](#) that are currently listed in the 2023-2026 State Transportation Improvement Program with federal funding, and, for which the MTA and/or its properties, is listed as the responsible agency. As stated, the federal funding for these projects totals nearly \$10 billion. The state contribution is \$14.7 billion. We write to ask how much of this is at risk with the congestion pricing delay.

We were deeply dismayed when the congestion pricing program was put on pause by Governor Hochul, and we worry that a delay will have significant, long-term impacts on the MTA's ability to pay for its current capital program and jeopardize future capital programs.

The Governor has not canceled the congestion pricing program altogether. Rather she has put the program on "pause." We remain hopeful it will begin at some point later this year, however, there is no information about the Governor's intentions.

As such, should congestion pricing implementation be delayed past this year, we write to request information from the Federal Transit Administration and MTA about which projects would be impacted and the level of those impacts.

Thank you for providing any information and other information you might be able to provide about the impact of this decision.

Sincerely,

Kate Slevin, Executive Vice President
Regional Plan Association

Julie Tighe, President
New York League of Conservation Voters

Jon Orcutt, Advocacy Director
Bike New York

John Kaehny, Executive Director
Reinvent Albany

Jaqi Cohen, Director of Climate and Equity Policy
Tri-State Transportation Campaign

Sara Lind, Co-Executive Director
Open Plans

Eric McClure, Executive Director
StreetsPac

Andy Darrell, Senior Advisor
Environmental Defense Fund

Christina Furlong, Founding Member & Advocate
Make Queens Safer

Betsy Plum, Executive Director
Riders Alliance

Jessica Murray, Organizer
Rise & Resist Elevator Action Group

Bria Donahue, Senior Government Affairs Manager
American Institute of Architects, New York

Jessica Ottney Mahar, New York Policy & Strategy Director
The Nature Conservancy

Samara Karasyk, President & CEO
Hudson Square BID

James Whelan, President
Real Estate Board of New York

Kevin Garcia, Senior Transportation Planner
NYC Environmental Justice Alliance

Christopher Schuyler, Managing Attorney
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

Alex Matthiessen, Director
Move NY

Carlo Scissura, President
New York Building Congress

Elizabeth Adams, Co Executive Director
Transportation Alternatives

CC:

NYS DOT Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez

MTA Board Member Jamey Barbas

MTA Board Member Haeda Mihaltses

MTA Board Member Lisa Sorin

MTA Board Member Samuel Chu

MTA Board Member John-Ross Rizzo

MTA Board Member David Jones

MTA Board Member and Deputy Mayor Meera Joshi

MTA Board Member and Director of NYCDOP Daniel Garodnick

MTA Board Member Blanca Lopez

MTA Board Member Gerard Bringmann

Director of State Operations Kathryn Garcia

NYS Assemblymember Ken Zebrowski

NYS Assemblymember William Magnarelli

NYS Assemblymember Helene Weinstein

NYS Senator Jeremy Cooney

NYS Senator Leroy Comrie

NYS Senator Andrew Gounardes

NYS Senator Liz Krueger

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer
U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
U.S. Representative Hakeem Jeffries
U.S. Representative Jamaal Bowman
U.S. Representative Yvette D. Clark
U.S. Representative Anthony D'Esposito
U.S. Representative Adriano Espaillat
U.S. Representative Andrew R. Garbarino
U.S. Representative Daniel Goldman
U.S. Representative Nick LaLota
U.S. Representative Nickolas Langworthy
U.S. Representative Michael Lawler
U.S. Representative Tim Kennedy
U.S. Representative Nicole Malliotakis
U.S. Representative Gregory Meeks
U.S. Representative Grace Meng
U.S. Representative Marc Molinaro
U.S. Representative Joseph Morelle
U.S. Representative Jerrold Nadler
U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
U.S. Representative Pat Ryan
U.S. Representative Elise M. Stefanik
U.S. Representative Tom Suozzi
U.S. Representative Claudia Tenney
U.S. Representative Paul D. Tonko
U.S. Representative Ritchie Torres
U.S. Representative Nydia Velazquez
U.S. Representative Brandon Williams