Re: Support for RPA’s Triboro Line for Joint Freight-Passenger service

Dear Chairman Foye,

Our existing transit system is in a state of disrepair and disinvestment. We applaud the MTA leadership for advancing an ambitious 2020-2024 Capital Program. The ongoing discussions of new funding sources to pay for the capital program and system modernization gives us hope that the existing transit system will be transformed in the coming years.

Providing transit riders a better system also requires looking ahead to the next generation of infrastructure projects to help New York continue to thrive. 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.

Transit is the great equalizer, and more outer borough transit is vital. As such, we request that the MTA start to evaluate the Triboro Line proposal advanced by the Regional Plan Association by funding 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 the quality of life for outer borough residents.

RPA has completed preliminary research, conservatively estimating that the line would initially serve 100,000 daily riders with a price tag of between $1 and $2 billion. A formal study now needs to be completed 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 all New Yorkers. We stand ready to assist you and together we can give New Yorkers the type of transit system that is worthy of our great city.

Sincerely,

Tom Wright
President & CEO

CC:  Midori Valdivia, Chief of Staff to the Chairman & CEO
     Janno Lieber, Chief Development Officer
     Andy Byford, President, MTA New York City Transit
Below, you will find a growing list of supporters who all believe this project will provide a critical new public transportation asset for New Yorkers:

State Senator Julia Salazar  
*District 18*

State Senator Zellnor Myrie  
*District 20*

State Senator Diane Savino  
*District 23*

State Senator Luis Sepulveda  
*District 32*

State Senator Gustavo Rivera  
*District 33*

State Senator Alessandra Biaggi  
*District 34*

State Senator Jamaal Bailey  
*District 36*

Assemblymember Robert Carroll  
*District 44*

Assemblymember Felix Ortiz, Assistant Speaker  
*District 51*

Assemblymember Latrice Walker  
*District 55*

Assemblymember Michael Benedetto  
*District 82*

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams

New York League of Conservation Voters

Tri-State Transportation Campaign

Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce

NYC Council Member Margaret Chin  
*District 1*

NYC Council Speaker Corey Johnson  
*District 3*

NYC Council Member Andrew Cohen  
*District 11*

NYC Council Member Peter Koo  
*District 20*

NYC Council Member Barry Grodenchik  
*District 23*

NYC Council Member Robert Holden  
*District 30*

NYC Council Member Donovan Richards  
*District 31*

NYC Council Member Antonio Reynoso  
*District 34*

NYC Council Majority Leader Laurie A. Cumbo  
*District 35*

NYC Council Member Carlos Menchaca  
*District 38*

NYC Council Member Justin Brannan  
*District 43*