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March 22, 2017

**CONTACT:**

Tabitha Decker, TransitCenter | 646-706-7545 | [tdecker@transitcenter.org](mailto:tdecker@transitcenter.org)

Nick Sifuentes, Riders Alliance | 646-600-8329 | [nick@ridersny.org](mailto:nick@ridersny.org)

Jaqi Cohen, Straphangers Campaign | 914-393-0755 | [jcohen@nypirg.org](mailto:jcohen@nypirg.org)

**Statement: MTA, Bus Turnaround Coalition Agree: Key Fixes Can Improve Bus Service**

*NYCT Has Selected the Right Tools, But Needs an Ambitious Plan and Timeline to Turn Around Bus Decline*

*On Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, the MTA New York City Transit Chief of Operations Planning, Peter Cafiero, outlined the agency's approach to improving bus service in New York City in a presentation to the board. In response, the Bus Turnaround coalition released the following statement:*

The Bus Turnaround coalition applauds the MTA New York City Transit for its new analysis of New York City's bus ridership and performance decline and commitment to applying proven tools like bus only lanes, transit signal priority, route and network redesign, and speeding up the boarding process to improve local buses. These are the strategies required to reverse declines in service and attract riders back to the bus with faster, more reliable trips, and they are strategies we call for in our report, "Turnaround: Fixing New York City's Buses." As a next step, the agency should detail a specific plan and timeline for an ambitious rollout for these urgently needed reforms.

Transit signal priority, which can reduce bus trip times by 10-30%, is a tactic that we should expedite implementation of systemwide. We look forward to seeing it initiated this summer on the M60 and Q44, and call on the MTA NYCT and NYC DOT to bring this solution to at least 10 routes in 2017 and to complete system-wide implementation by the first quarter of 2018.

We are glad to see the agency agree that more bus lanes and more effective enforcement of those lanes are essential for reversing steadily declining bus speeds. In January, we released our recommendations for 10 high ridership routes where bus lanes and other street treatments should be implemented in 2017. Both the MTA and the NYCDOT should prioritize these routes in their planning. We're looking forward to learning what the NYCDOT has planned for bus lane implementation in 2017.

The new fare payment system offers a major opportunity to make bus trips faster, more reliable, and less stressful for riders and drivers alike by simplifying boarding by allowing people to enter through all doors. In NYC, all door boarding on 13 Select Service Bus routes has reduced the time buses spend at stops by up to 40%, helped to increase ridership, and resulted in decreased fare evasion. The MTA should ensure that all-door boarding is a key component of the forthcoming new fare payment system.

Ridership has been declining, but 2.5 million daily riders still rely on the bus—and if the MTA and NYCDOT take the right steps, New Yorkers will get back on the bus again. We applaud the agency's commitment to examine both specific bus routes and the overall network to meet the needs of New Yorkers today.

**About the Bus Turnaround Coalition:**

*The Bus Turnaround Coalition is a group of diverse New Yorkers working to turning around the poor bus service that's plaguing NYC's bus system and the 2.5 million rides that are taken on it daily. We're promoting practical strategies that can be implemented quickly to make bus trips faster and more reliable. See our recommended solutions here: [http://transitcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Turnaround\\_Fixing-NYCs-Buses-20July2016.pdf](http://transitcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Turnaround_Fixing-NYCs-Buses-20July2016.pdf)*

*Bus Turnaround Coalition Members:*

*TransitCenter ([www.transitcenter.org](http://www.transitcenter.org)) is a foundation committed to improving urban mobility through research, advocacy, and grantmaking that empowers communities, policymakers, and riders.*

*The Riders Alliance ([www.ridersny.org](http://www.ridersny.org)) is a grassroots organization of subway and bus riders, pushing for better service at affordable fares and a stronger public investment in mass transit.*

*The Straphangers Campaign ([www.straphangers.org](http://www.straphangers.org)) a project of the New York Public Interest Research Group, has advocated for New York's public transit system since 1979.*

*Tri-State Transportation Campaign ([www.tstc.org](http://www.tstc.org)) is a nonprofit advocacy organization working toward a more balanced, transit-friendly and equitable transportation network in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.*

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