

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Video Statement by Bus Turnaround Coalition: Bus Riders Are Tired of  
“Waiting for the Light”**

*NYCDOT Report Shows Signal Priority Speeds up Buses, While MTA Procurement  
Removes Last Tech Hurdle*

*MTA and NYCDOT Have Cleared the Way to Give Buses the Green Light at Traffic Signals,  
But Need a Joint Plan for Faster Action*

*Today the NYCDOT released a report demonstrating the power of signal priority to improve buses and outlining a plan for expanding its use. Concurrently, MTA New York City Transit moved to procure software needed to enable signal priority on buses systemwide. In response, the Bus Turnaround coalition released the following written and music video statement, along with a short report:*

Millions of New Yorkers are angry and frustrated about the state of our city’s subways and buses. Now is the time to modernize our transit system—and buses need to be part of the solution. As New Yorkers are increasingly unable to rely on public transit, fixes like transit signal priority offer an opportunity for quick wins for riders. New analysis from the NYCDOT reveals that signal priority has reduced travel times by an average of 18% on routes where it is active. We are encouraged to see that MTA NYCT is moving forward on procuring the necessary software to enable buses citywide to attain signal priority and that the agencies are planning to extend this tool more widely, as 21% of the time the average rider spends on the bus is waiting at a red light.

However, plans announced today show the NYCDOT and MTA NYCT are planning a small, slow expansion to just 11 routes by 2020. We call on the MTA NYCT and NYCDOT for a more ambitious timeline that would bring this solution to at least 20 routes in 2018, with the goal for continuing to extend it at a pace of at least 20 additional routes per year. The current transit State of Emergency warrants extending solutions like signal priority as extensively and widely as is possible.

Today we’re releasing our own analysis of key bus routes where the MTA NYCT and NYCDOT can implement transit signal priority, an action plan for quickly deploying signal priority, and an accelerated timeline for implementation that takes into account riders’ need for better service now.

We recognize that, for many riders, it can be hard to immediately see how transit signal priority will help. To better highlight the frustrations signal priority can address, we’re also releasing a music video statement: “Waiting for the Light.”

Since signal priority is only effective when buses can reach traffic signals, the NYCDOT and MTA NYCT should work together to identify and expedite the creation of additional queue jumps and bus lanes in places where

buses are stuck in traffic and develop plans for more effective enforcement of those lanes. In January, we released recommendations for 10 high ridership routes where bus lanes and other street treatments should be implemented in 2017. We await faster action from the NYCDOT on giving street priority to buses.

Turning around the declining performance and ridership of our bus system is a critical component of restoring New Yorkers' ability to rely on transit. Signal priority, when combined with other tactics like bus lanes; queue jumps; route redesign; and better boarding practices, can bring the faster, more reliable trips that will attract riders back to the bus. We look forward to working together to ensure the recovery of NYC's buses; that recovery is an essential step in restoring faith and ridership to transit in New York City.

**About the Bus Turnaround Coalition:**

*The Bus Turnaround Coalition is a diverse group of 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 that supports advocacy, research and leadership development for transit reform across the U.S.*

*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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