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NYCTRC Calls for Agreement on MTA Capital Program Funding

The New York City Transit Riders Council (NYCTRC) calls upon the MTA, State, and City to promptly reach agreement on the funding structure for the 2015-2019 MTA Capital Program. This agreement should include a substantial commitment from the City of New York, as the MTA system is critically important to the functioning of the City. Approximately 80 percent of the MTA's infrastructure lies within the City's borders and 90 percent of the MTA's ridership is on subways and buses within City limits. A timely agreement is necessary to prevent delays and additional costs that could result from a lack of available funding for programmed capital improvements.

"The Governor has committed to providing State support to fund \$8.3 billion of Capital Program gap, and it is now time to reach agreement among the MTA and its governmental funding partners on the structure of the Capital Program and each party's contributions to its success," said NYCTRC Chair Andrew Albert. "The City has historically provided for a portion of the MTA's capital needs, but that support has not grown proportionally over time relative to the MTA's needs. MTA Chairman Tom Prendergast has called upon the City to increase its support in recognition of the benefits that the City receives from the system and its dependence on transit for its future development. It's now time for all parties to engage in serious discussions around the capital funding framework that the MTA has set forth."

A number of projects that are critical to the City, including future phases of the Second Avenue Subway, Communication Based Train Control on the E, F, M and R lines in Queens and the B, D, F and M lines in Manhattan, new buses and R211 subway cars to replace aging rolling stock, expansions of the Countdown Clock and Help Point systems in the subways, security enhancements, renewal and improvement of existing infrastructure, and improvements to the resiliency against natural disasters of our transit system, depend on Capital Program Funding. Mr. Albert notes that "without these and other critical investments funded through the Capital Program, the City cannot hope to maintain its current vitality, let alone prepare for the economic and population growth that is projected for the coming decades."