April 21, 2015

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Senate Majority Leader Skelos  
Legislative Office Building Room 909  
Albany, NY 12247

Assembly Speaker Heastie  
Legislative Office Building Room 932  
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Governor Cuomo, Majority Leader Skelos, and Speaker Heastie:

As elected officials who helped convene the A and C Train Review Working Group and advocates for better transit service, we are writing to urge that Full-Line Reviews be implemented across the entire subway system at least every five years, and that recommended improvements be quickly implemented. To fund this expansion of Full-Line Reviews and associated improvements, and ensure the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) can fund a sufficient capital plan, we support the Move NY Fair Plan.

Since 2009, the MTA has completed three of these reviews: on the F, L and G trains. The MTA is currently conducting a Full-Line Review of A and C train service. The Review has consistently proven itself an effective way to make measurable improvements that make a dramatic difference for riders who need them most. But the system-wide Full-Line Review schedule must move faster. At the current rate, it would take more than 20 years to review every subway line in the system. And while reviews have led to major service improvements, some of the strongest recommendations from each review are often not feasible to implement because the MTA lacks critical resources. The MTA should review service on every subway line once every five years, and must have the resources necessary to enact the review’s recommendations.

That is why we support the Move NY Fair Plan to implement tolls on some New York City crossings and to reduce tolls on others, making driving more fair and producing more than a billion dollars each year for public transportation. This promising proposal would provide more than enough funds to accelerate the schedule of Full-Line Reviews, including the possibility of expanded application to buses. It will also allow for implementation of the improvements that make a significant difference in commuters’ lives: trains that run more frequently and break down less often, countdown clocks that allow riders to know when their trains will arrive, public address systems that can alert riders to changes in service, and other important improvements that are overdue in New York.
New York City’s subway system is the backbone of our city’s economy, and it provides economic opportunity and mobility for millions of New Yorkers. We have a great tool in the Full-Line Review to improve service regularly and to modernize an aging system, but we are hampered by a dramatic lack of the necessary funds to conduct the reviews and take advantage of their findings.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Daniel Squadron  
State Senator

Walter T. Mosley  
Assemblymember

Gale A. Brewer  
Manhattan Borough President

Adriano Espaillat  
State Senator

Brad Hoylman  
State Senator

Richard Gottfried  
Assemblymember

Linda Rosenthal  
Assemblymember

Jo Anne Simon  
Assemblymember

Margaret S. Chin  
City Councilmember

Laurie A. Cumbo  
City Councilmember

Corey Johnson  
City Councilmember

Mark Levine  
City Councilmember

Donovan Richards  
City Councilmember

cc: Riders Alliance  
Move NY