



300 unions
1.3 NY million
members



3,000 unions
2.5 NY million
members



15 unions
100,000 NY
members



80,000 NY
members



41,000 NY
members



2,621 NY
members



220,000
members

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Senator Schumer,

Thank you for your leadership in helping New York weather the ongoing crisis we face, particularly in passing the CARES Act. Now, with cases of COVID-19 progressively declining, we're focused on the future of our city and region. True to the New York spirit, we're fighters. We won't give up until we get what we need to succeed, and at this historic moment that is a strong and robust mass transit system. The next few days are critical—we need your support now to ensure that millions of New Yorkers have access to public transportation well into the future. Alarmingly, the current Senate bill has no transit funding, despite the fact that our buses, subways, and commuter rails are the backbone of this city. Public transit is critical for getting people back to work, school and home again, and it'll be the driving force of our economic recovery.

To protect the MTA now in its hour of need is to prioritize the needs of New Yorkers hit hardest by the pandemic—the thousands of workers who tragically lost their jobs and the thousands more who kept working because they could not afford to shelter-in-place.

It's no surprise to us that it often falls on our union brothers and sisters to keep the city going in times of crisis, whether it's caring for the sick, keeping grocery stores stocked and open, or operating trains and buses. That's why we've banded together in solidarity—we know that our recovery is intertwined. But we can only move forward, literally and figuratively, by preserving public transportation. Because without a functioning MTA, there is no recovery.

The agency's budget has been strained to the bone by running essential service while dealing with unprecedented declines in ridership, farebox revenue, and supporting taxes and subsidies. With the emergency aid directed to the MTA under the CARES Act set to run out this month, another injection of federal funding is the only solution. The well is dry. We need the U.S.

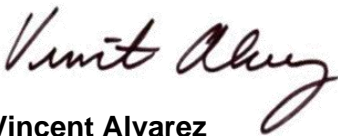
Senate to act now and include an additional \$3.9 billion for the MTA in the upcoming HEROES Act.

Time is of the essence. New Yorkers' safety and commuting ability hinges on this support. If the Republican version of the Senate bill, which unconscionably has no funding for public transit, is enacted, New York will be devastated. Other options to cut costs would be disastrous for New York City. Service reductions, fare hikes and layoffs to cover continued operations through 2020 and 2021 are a non-starter. These actions would only shift the burden of this financial calamity to riders and workers, who disproportionately come from communities hardest hit by both the virus and the economic crisis.

We know you have been champions of public transportation throughout this public health emergency, and we greatly appreciate your efforts thus far. We urge you to continue to stand strong and we are with you every step of the way.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Vincent Alvarez
President
AFL-CIO New York City Central Labor
Council



William DeCarlo
National Vice President & Legislative
Director
TCU



Kyle Bragg
President
32BJ SEIU



Gary LaBarbera
President
Building and Construction Trades Council of
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Mario Cilento
President
New York State AFL-CIO



Anthony Simon
Transportation Division Alternate Vice
President
SMART



Anthony Utano
President
TWU Local 100