

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 14, 2014

Secretary Anthony Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

As you consider the applications to the Federal Transit Administration's Emergency Relief Competitive Resilience program, we strongly urge you to award those projects put forth by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Superstorm Sandy caused unprecedented damage to MTA and Port Authority facilities and demonstrated that when the nation's largest transit network shuts down, the nation's largest regional economy shuts down with it, putting \$1.4 trillion (or 11 percent) of the country's Gross Domestic Product at risk. Over the course of the 92 days between Sandy's landfall in New York and the day Congress passed the disaster supplemental, we, and the State, worked together to ensure the bill included funding to make our system more resilient. The New York delegation developed, led, and passed a disaster supplemental appropriations bill focused on practical, forward-looking investments.

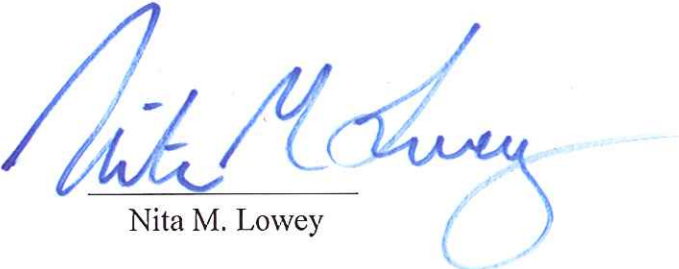
At Governor Cuomo's direction the MTA and Port Authority developed resiliency projects that not only impact their own agency, but also benefit other regional transportation partners. The 27 New York projects submitted by the MTA and Port Authority make significant strides to build back better and smarter. Every dollar spent on resilience saves \$4 in future damage, vastly reducing both the burden future storms place on tax payers and the likelihood that a storm will cause a major shutdown of the transit system. Protecting recovery investments and improving the overall transit system helps not only local families and businesses, but the national economy as well.

In recognition of this critical link between the resilience of the transportation system and the economy, the MTA and the Port Authority developed projects collaboratively with other regional transit providers. Metro-North Railroad will work with Amtrak and Connecticut to harden the existing right-of-way, eliminate single points of failure, and create new options for MTA customers in the event of another storm. Long Island Rail Road, along with Amtrak and New Jersey Transit, seeks to protect the spine of the Northeast Corridor by protecting the East

River Tunnels and Penn Station from flooding and allowing train movements to continue. The MTA also proposes a package of projects to ensure subway and bus service for 7.5 million daily customers, including those transferring from PATH, regional rail and private buses, will be restored quickly after a storm. These projects prevent water from entering subway tunnels through ventilation plants, street level openings and tunnel portals and also reduce flood risk at train yards and bus depots. The Port Authority's projects will enhance bus operations at the Port Authority Bus Terminal, PATH resilience in NY and prevent water from entering the World Trade Center site.

We urge you to award these projects in proportionally to where Superstorm Sandy caused the most damage. Since Sandy, the MTA and the Port Authority have committed \$1.286 billion to keep systems operational, make permanent repairs and implement near-term resilience measures, but without sufficient funding of this package of projects our country's economy could be exposed to the potential wrath of mother nature.

Sincerely,



Nita M. Lowey



Charles Sch Michael Grimm Kristen Gillibrand



Anthony Weiner Cory L. Maloney Michael R. Kelly

~~Joseph~~

Joseph Rowley Hanger

Jim Mc Paul Tonks

Stan

Carolyn McCarty Jovette D. Clarke

Bryan White

Jim E. Snow Edith L. Engel Ferrald Peck

Signers (Left to Right):

- 1. Rep. Lowey**
- 2. Sen. Schumer**
- 3. Rep. Grimm**
- 4. Sen. Gillibrand**
- 5. Rep. King**
- 6. Rep. C. Maloney**
- 7. Rep. Velazquez**
- 8. Rep. S. Maloney**
- 9. Rep. Crowley**
- 10. Rep. Jeffries**
- 11. Rep. Meng**
- 12. Rep. Tonko**
- 13. Rep. Israel**
- 14. Rep. McCarthy**
- 15. Rep. Clarke**
- 16. Rep. Meeks**
- 17. Rep. Serrano**
- 18. Rep. Engel**
- 19. Rep. Nadler**