



166A 22nd Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11232 NYC-EJA.org

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On the ground - and at the table

## **NYC-EJA Testimony to the New York City Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board**

April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Good Morning MTA Board Members. My name is Renae Reynolds, and I am here to testify on behalf of the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance (NYC-EJA). Founded in 1991, NYC-EJA is a non-profit citywide membership network linking grassroots organizations from low-income neighborhoods and communities of color in their struggle for environmental justice. NYC-EJA empowers its member organizations to advocate for improved environmental conditions and against inequitable environmental burdens.

Through our efforts, member organizations coalesce around specific common issues that threaten the ability of low-income and communities of color to thrive, and coordinate campaigns designed to affect City and State policies – including transportation policies that directly affect these communities. Our members represent the 66% of low-income New Yorker's of color, who rely primarily on MTA buses for transportation across the city. As such, access and reliability are paramount in our organizations advocacy.

In our recently published 2018 NYC Climate Justice Agenda, we outlined recommendations to transition from a fossil fuel-based fleet to a modern electric one, which would help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fine particulate matter emissions associated with diesel combustion.

We applaud the MTA's Bus Action Plan and we are encouraged by MTA's proposal to transition to a zero-emissions fleet. As the plan progresses, we urge the MTA to equitably distribute these new vehicles, prioritizing communities of color such as South Bronx, Northern Manhattan, and North Brooklyn, who suffer from the highest concentrations of diesel-combustion pollution and related negative health consequences.

The MTA should also utilize the existing pilot buses and the 60 additional buses planned for purchased in the mitigation strategy for the L-train shutdown to both address the short-term gaps in transit service and the long-term goal of emissions reduction.



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We also call on MTA leadership to adopt the **Manufacturing Careers Policy** to ensure that the money invested in electrifying the fleet result in good jobs for low-income communities and communities of color.

Finally, we join our allies at Jobs to Move America, AlignNY, Tri-State Transportation Campaign, Sierra Club and others in asking for a meeting with Chairman Lhota. We hope to work with MTA leadership to develop a transparent process that incorporates input from stakeholders directly affected by the environmental justice issues intrinsically linked to transportation and mobility in our city.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Renaë Reynolds  
NYC-EJA Transportation Planner