

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Monday, December 21, 2020

CONTACT

Lauren Bailey, Director of Climate Policy, Tri-State Transportation Campaign

lauren@tstc.org |

Kathleen Gasperini, Director, Communications and Marketing, The Alliance for Clean Energy New York

kgasperini@aceny.org |

NY for TCI Groups Encouraged by New York's Engagement on Groundbreaking Clean Transportation Initiative

The regional initiative is an important opportunity to achieve New York's climate goals and transform the state's transportation to be cleaner, healthier, and more equitable.

New York, NY - NY for TCI, a coalition of over 80 health, transportation, environment, business, and clean energy groups from across New York State, today welcomed the Cuomo Administration's continued engagement on an ambitious regional initiative to provide better public transportation, more clean vehicles, and healthier communities. In a joint statement with other Eastern states, New York committed to continue discussing and developing the initiative, known as the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI), a bipartisan effort to address the nation's biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions--the transportation sector. The initiative would do so by requiring oil companies that sell gasoline and diesel fuels to pay for the pollution they cause and investing those payments in healthy, equitable, sustainable, affordable, and accessible transportation for all New Yorkers.

Anne Reynolds, Executive Director of the Alliance for Clean Energy New York and a member of the Climate Action Council, said, **"I think it is good news that New York will continue to be engaged in creating the multi-state Transportation and Climate Initiative. There is broad recognition that New York will need serious investment in public transit, electric vehicles, and charging infrastructure in order to meet our mobility and climate goals, especially in underserved communities. TCI will be an effective regional structure for making those investments, and it makes sense for New York to act in concert with other states in the region."**

New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) tasked the Climate Action Council with developing a plan by the end of 2022 to achieve economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions reductions of 40 percent from 1990 levels by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2050. The transportation initiative would be a key part of this strategy by helping cut carbon pollution from transportation fuels at least 30 percent by 2032.

Importantly, the transportation initiative incorporates New York's nation-leading commitments to climate justice and equity under the CLCPA, including commitments to invest at least 35 percent

of funds under the transportation initiative in projects that benefit historically marginalized communities, such as environmental justice and low-income communities, and to work with state equity advisory boards, such as New York's Climate Justice Working Group, to set investment priorities and implement the program.

"We appreciate that New York State continues to work on this program in partnership with our regional neighbors. This announcement today is an excellent starting point for making the TCI policy reality for all New Yorkers. We know what we need to do to keep our frontline communities safe and make sure everyone can get where they need to go, and that comes down to investing in public transportation. The need for sustainable funding for maintaining and expanding the state's transit system has never been direr and we expect to see future leadership from New York on this critical issue," said Lauren Bailey, Director of Climate Policy for Tri-State Transportation Campaign.

As part of today's announcement, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Washington, D.C. have committed to move forward with the transportation initiative. New York and seven other states—New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina—signaled they support the initiative's goals and will consider joining in the coming months. The states involved will continue developing the detailed TCI program framework in 2021, conversations New York can still be a leader in. Full implementation of the initiative is expected in 2023, providing ample time for New York to join before it starts.

The announcement from New York and other states on the transportation initiative is available here: <https://bit.ly/3h85oOD>.

New Yorkers for the Transportation and Climate Initiative (NY for TCI) includes leading voices in health, transportation, environment, business, and clean energy working together to achieve equitable and sustainable transportation. To learn more about NY for TCI, visit www.nyfortci.org.