

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

September 28, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write in support of the application submitted by the New York State Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) for funding from the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Grant Program administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation. This funding will be used to preserve and make the NYC Transit Authority's Westchester Yard flood resilient.

The Westchester Yard, located in the Bronx, contains 49 trains that are operated by the MTA 6 train line. The 6 line is critical to many New Yorkers as it is a direct route to major job centers in Manhattan, medical facilities, and educational institutes. It also serves as a connection to other rail lines like Metro North and Long Island Railroad. During heavy rainfall, Westchester Yard is frequently flooded due to poor drainage that significantly impacts the service on the 6-line as trains are unable to enter the yard. The heavy rainfall also increases the chances of derailment when navigating through flooded yards. The impacted services force thousands of commuters to seek alternate routes which oftentimes also become delayed due to overcrowding.

The requested funding will be used to fund cost-effective resiliency measures to address the longstanding flooding conditions at Westchester Yard. The 6 lines can carry at most 623,000 riders every weekday, traveling from Northeast Bronx down to lower Manhattan, servicing many of our underserved, marginalized, and disabled communities. As extreme weather events have become more frequent, this project will strengthen system resiliency and help ensure NYCT's ability to provide sustainable, safe, and reliable transportation services for New Yorkers who depend on transit as their primary source of travel.

I ask that you please give this application your full consideration. If you have any questions or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member, Abi Jimenez, at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator