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May 15, 2014

Mr. Thomas F. Prendergast
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
347 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Chairman Prendergast,

We are writing to support Governor Cuomo's recommendation that the Metropolitan Transit Authority create a Transportation Reinvention Commission tasked to develop a reinvention plan for the future of the region. We would like to recommend commission members who could lend valuable expertise to you and your colleagues on this initiative.

As you know, the American Institute of Architects New York Chapter (AIANY) membership includes over 5,000 practicing architects, allied professionals, students, and public members dedicated to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public through design.

As Governor Cuomo wrote to you on May 7, 2014, the MTA must "adapt its system for a changing world, a changing state and a changing climate." Over the last year-and-a-half, AIANY has focused much of its programming and outreach on this very topic. In 2013, AIANY initiated a collaborative effort focused on several areas key to resilience, including transportation and infrastructure. Over 150 professionals from a wide range of fields participated in exploring emergency planning for and response to Sandy, both in terms of short-term recovery efforts and long-term resiliency considerations. Their contributions formed the basis of the *Post-Sandy Initiative* report, which has been supported by a variety of local, regional, state, and national public agencies. We hope to bring what we learned from this process to the new MTA commission.

The chapter's 27 program committees—with specialized knowledge ranging from the needs of the aging to the impacts of climate change—have the expertise to address the new challenges facing the increasing population and changing demographics in the region. Some of our committees that may be most helpful to you are Transportation and Infrastructure, Planning and Urban Design, and Design for Risk and Reconstruction.

Please let us know how we can be of assistance during this process.

Sincerely,

Lance Jay Brown, FAIA
2014 AIANY President

Rick Bell, FAIA
AIANY Executive Director