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## **ATU ADVOCATES FOR FULLY-FUNDED MTA CAPITAL PLAN**

Statement by Mark Henry, President and Business Agent, Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) 1056,\* and Chair, ATU NYS Legislative Conference Board, at an 11:30 a.m. Albany Rally today (Tuesday, May 12, 2015) for a fully funded MTA Plan:

Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) relies on our extensive experience and knowledge of the MTA system. We emphasize maintaining, rebuilding and enhancing the MTA system, especially its bus service. Throughout the discussion over the MTA Capital Plan, we consistently advocated that the State and City allocate the resources necessary to fully fund it. In fact, a real argument exists for the City and State to up the ante – A LOT – to fund the plan and not defer the issue to the identification of new revenues.

Investing in infrastructure to keep our buses running, rebuild and enhance bus service and deliver the best service possible makes sense and needs full funding – as does other basic system maintenance and service needs. Ridership has exploded across the City. The City transit system is being outpaced by the overall necessity for all New Yorkers to commute. Logic dictates government make the needed long-term commitment and “stick with the plan” to invest the needed funds for the MTA Capital Plan.

Public transportation remains key to the economic growth of our region. ATU support funding the capital plan to meet the greater needs of New York City and State.

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\*ATU Local 1056 represents drivers and mechanics who work for MTA NYC Transit's Queens Bus Division

