



The Council of the City of New York
Speaker Christine C. Quinn
Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer



The New York State Assembly
Assembly Member Catherine T. Nolan

January 20, 2010

Jay Walder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
347 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017-3739

Dear Chairman Walder:

It has come to our attention that the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) plans service disruptions to the 7 subway line for seven weekends between January 29th, 2010, and March 29, 2010. With the exception of one weekend, this represents two months of consecutive weekend disruptions. We realize that work needs to be done on the tracks from time to time, and that track replacement, switch replacement, maintenance and inspection are a necessary part of keeping our transportation infrastructure running in a safe, efficient manner. We also realize that it's often impossible to carry out the necessary maintenance without halting service altogether.

However, it's our belief that Long Island City and other areas of Queens are consistently made to suffer by these disruptions. The MTA should consider alternatives when such diversions become annual rituals. As you know, the 7 line is the lifeblood of Long Island City and without it residents cannot get to work or function in their daily lives. The impact on Long Island City has become particularly severe, with numerous planned service outages over the years and with no hope of relief in the near future. Small businesses and commuters suffer disproportionately from these disruptions, and the MTA is simply not doing enough to remedy the problem.

The shuttle service provided from Vernon Boulevard to Queensboro Plaza is wholly inadequate and doesn't address the needs of residents who live far away from these stops. Additionally, what is clearly needed is direct access through the tunnel and service to Grand Central. At the least, the MTA should supply supplementary express bus service and a direct connection to Manhattan. Without this, the MTA is failing to address the dire needs of local residents and completely disrupting their lives. The public awareness campaign is also insufficient. One week's notice is not enough time for residents to make alternative plans and attempt to mitigate the impacts of these disruptions.

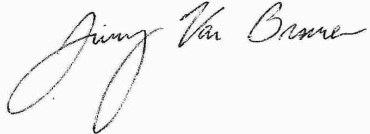
We look forward to working with your office to develop a more comprehensive plan that takes the true needs of Long Island City residents into consideration, and we would like to schedule a meeting with you as soon as possible to discuss these options. If you have any questions, please call Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer's Chief of Staff, Tim Roberts, at (718) 383-9566 or Assembly Member Nolan's Chief of Staff, Geri Reilly, at (518) 455-4851.

Sincerely,

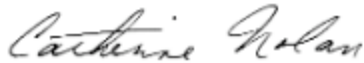
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cc: Mr. Hillary Ring, MTA, Director of Government Affairs
Mr. Andrew M. Saul, MTA, Vice Chairman, Board Member
Mr. Ira Greenberg, MTA, Board Member
Mr. Allen P. Cappelli, MTA, Board Member
Mr. John H. Banks, MTA, Board Member
Mr. Robert C. Bickford, MTA, Board Member
Mr. Donald Cecil, MTA, Board Member
Ms. Doreen M. Frasca, MTA, Board Member
Mr. Jeffrey A. Kay, MTA, Board Member
Mr. Mark D. Lebow, MTA, Board Member
Ms. Susan G. Metzger, MTA, Board Member
Mr. Mark Page, MTA, Board Member
Mr. Mitchell H. Pally, MTA, Board Member
Mr. Norman I. Seabrook, MTA, Board Member
Mr. James L. Sedore Jr., MTA, Board Member
Ms. Nancy Shevell, MTA, Board Member
Mr. Carl V. Wortendyke, MTA, Board Member