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THE CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD SIX
211 EAST 43RD STREET, SUITE 1404
NEW YORK, NY 10017

VIA E-MAIL

February 15, 2019

Andy Byford
President
MTA New York City Transit
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Polly Trottenberg
Commissioner
New York City Department of Transportation
55 Water Street
New York, NY 10041

Resolution supporting the mayor's plan for improving buses in New York City

At the February 13, 2019 Full Board meeting of Manhattan Community Board Six, the Board adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the bus system operated by New York City Transit (NYCT) faces an array of issues that include

- ever-slowng speeds (the M15 bus, for example, averages under 4mph)
- “legacy” bus routes that no longer carry riders where they need to go
- “clustering,” defined as buses separated by 25% or less of scheduled arrival times
- illegal parking in or blocking of dedicated bus lanes
- lack of shelters and countdown clocks at about two-thirds of bus stops;

WHEREAS, the impact of these issues has accelerated a decline in annual bus ridership estimated at 100 million over the last eight years, according to the city comptroller’s 2017 report, “The Other Transit Crisis”;

WHEREAS, the burdens of the bus crisis fall disproportionately on the poor and more vulnerable New Yorkers, who make up the bulk of the system’s 2 million daily riders:

- Bus riders’ average income is \$28,455
- 75% are people of color

- 55% are foreign-born
- 12% are seniors;

WHEREAS, the Bus Turnaround Campaign has recommended the following to address these issues:

- Transform how we get on and off the bus
- Design streets to prioritize buses
- Redesign the bus network and routes
- Adopt better methods to keep buses on schedule
- Increase transparency about bus performance
- Make using the bus easy and intuitive;

WHEREAS, in April 2018, NYCT released a plan to remediate issues raised by transit advocates and the comptroller’s report, which includes:

- Implementing all-door boarding by 2022, with a new “tap” payment system
- Installing Transit Signal Priority (TSP) on all buses by 2020 as TSP allows bus drivers to slightly prolong green signals at key intersections, thus minimizing a key cause of delays
- Redesigning the bus network from scratch, borough by borough, by 2021, to reconfigure bus routes to match passenger needs, and maximize interconnectivity between bus routes and with subways
- Creating a Bus Command Center by 2019 to centralize bus data and control via GPS and replace the current lack of coordination and oversight
- Installing digital information screens and ADA announcements at bus stops and on apps by 2020
- Enhancing and “greening” the bus fleet by adding electric and double-decker buses;

WHEREAS, the mayor, in his January 2019 State of the City speech, committed the Department of Transportation (DOT), which controls the city streets the buses run on, to work with NYCT to achieve these shared goals; the components include:

- installing 10 to 15 miles of new bus lanes yearly
- installing TSP on 300 intersections yearly
- dedicating seven tow truck teams to bus lane enforcement
- coordinating with NYCT to revamp existing bus routes;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Manhattan Community Board Six (CB6) strongly supports the proposals by transit advocates such as the Bus Turnaround Campaign, as well as the initiatives announced by NYCT and DOT, and urges these two agencies to implement these new policies as expeditiously as possible.

VOTE: 33 in Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstention 0 Not Entitled

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jesús', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Jesús Pérez
District Manager

Cc: Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Hon. Corey Johnson, Speaker of the New York City Council
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Liz Krueger, State Senator
Hon. Brad Hoylman, State Senator
Hon. Richard Gottfried, Assembly Member
Hon. Harvey Epstein, Assembly Member
Hon. Dan Quart, Assembly Member
Hon. Carlina Rivera, Council Member
Hon. Keith Powers, Council Member
Hon. Ben Kallos, Council Member
Darryl C. Irick, President, MTA Bus
Edward F. Pincar, Jr., Manhattan Borough Commissioner, New York City DOT
Sandra McKee, Chair, CB6 Transportation Committee