



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10

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PARKS RECREATION & TRANSPORTATION Committee

Wednesday, November 13, 2013, 6:30pm

Hon. Deborah Gilliard, Chair
Hon. Karen Horry, Acting Chair
Hon. Daniel Clark, Co-Chair

Meeting began at 6:30 and was held in the 3rd floor conference room. The meeting was chaired by Hon. Daniel Clark.

Committee members in attendance were;

Hon. Melvin Christian
Hon. Maria Garcia
Hon. Stephanie Howze
Hon. Dan Clark

**AGENDA DISCUSSION: MARTIN BAEZ, DISABLED PASSENGERS'
CONCERNS REGARDING LIMITED BUS STOPS AND M60 CONVERSION TO
SELECT BUS SERVICE BACKGROUND: Outcome and Follow-up:**

Mr. Baez delivered an insightful presentation about some of the effects that the proposed changes would have on the elderly, the handicapped and wheelchair bound persons like himself. The presentation included the following highlights:

-For Mr. Baez it is an issue of equal opportunity, having to change buses to get to an express stop forces the elderly, handicapped and wheelchair bound into an unequal position both financially and in terms of time.

-Having to switch buses could force the elderly, handicapped and wheelchair bound to pay extra money. For instance, if a person wanted to take the M60 to the N train for access to Northern Queens or Mid-Manhattan, and had to transfer to get the M60, she would have to pay an additional fair.

--Boarding a bus can be especially difficult for a wheelchair bound person during rush hour. Some buses are so packed that the drivers are physically unable to make room for them. So forcing a transfer to access the

M60 during this period, could make traveling doubly difficult.

-Proposal is racially insensitive: Transfers are only necessary in the minority areas of the route (125th Street).

Michael Alden, Former member of Community Board 8 in the Bronx, delivered a presentation about the proposed changes from his perspective as a current bus driver of the Bx 15. His points included the following:

- When the Bx 15 was an express bus, it saved its passengers 30 minutes per route.
- Minorities from Upper Manhattan and the Bronx are currently at a disadvantage, time wise, accessing LaGuardia and the aeronautic schools around it.
- Under the proposal are three other bus lines that will continue making local stops. Since 90% of the passengers that ride the M60 get off before the bus goes to Queens, the other three buses can accommodate them.
- We shouldn't stop progress.

1. Outcome and Follow-up:

Board member Maria Garcia suggested that Mr. Baez reach out to the Peoples Council for the MTA, an organization that advocates for straphangers and is particularly sensitive to the needs of handicapped passengers. The four members present agreed that he should then come back to our committee for a letter of support.

2. Old/New Business:

Board Member Stephanie Howze wanted to know how the committee planned to follow up on the river-to- river idea presented by Board Member Maria Garcia at November's general meeting. The four members present agreed that this issue should be placed as an agenda item for December's PRT committee meeting.

3. Announcements: None

4. Adjourned at 8 pm.