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COMMUNITY BOARD No. 2, MANHATTAN

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January 11, 2010

Jay H. Walder, Chair and CEO
Metropolitan Transit Authority
347 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10017

Dear Chairman Walder:

At its Full Board meeting on December 17, 2009, Community Board #2, Manhattan (CB#2, Man.) adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION OPPOSING PLANNED SERVICE CUTS BY THE MTA

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Transit Authority approved its 2010 budget on December 16, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the MTA budget includes massive service cuts because of a \$383 million budget shortfall; and

WHEREAS, the cuts proposed by the MTA include eliminating free and discounted rides for New York City public school children, a policy which has existed since 1948 and currently provides 417,243 students with free Metro cards and 167,912 students with half-fare cards; and

WHEREAS, experts predict that by eliminating this policy, it could cost half a million students nearly \$1,000 per year in transportation fees and result in students missing school because their families cannot afford the extra cost of a Metro card; and

WHEREAS, the other service cuts proposed include:

- Discontinue W and Z subway routes; terminate G subway route at Court Street
- Increase subway headways on weekends and early mornings; increase off-peak subway load guidelines
- Adjust express bus service to reflect demand and eliminate low performing weekend express bus service
- Discontinue and restructure local bus service on low-performing routes
- Eliminate Rockaway-resident Cross Bay toll-rebate program
- Reduce car consists and increase load standards
- Reduce service on commuter railroads
- Reduce Access-A-Ride service to meet ADA minimum standards; and

WHEREAS, these proposed cuts threaten the continued operation of the M8 bus, which is the only east-west route through Greenwich Village, and which Community Board No. 2, Manhattan, is on record in strong support of maintaining.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that CB#2, Man. strenuously objects to the service cuts proposed by the MTA in its 2010 budget, in particular:

- the elimination of free and discounted rides for NYC public school children because of the unfair burden that it will place on all income students and their families in the middle of a recession, and
- any plan that would eliminate the M8 bus route, a vital transportation link for Greenwich Village seniors, people with special needs, parents with young children, and small businesses.
- the elimination of door-to-door Access-a-ride service for the handicapped and seniors, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CB#2, Man. implores the MTA to work with the Governor, State Legislature and all of our elected officials to seek alternatives to the proposed cuts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED and assure a consistent source of long-term funding for the MTA, such as through dedicated tolls or congestion pricing revenues.

Vote: Unanimous, with 35 Board members in favor.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



Ms. Jo Hamilton, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan

JH/fa

cc: Hon. Jerrold Nadler, Congressman
Hon. Thomas Duane, NY State Senator
Hon. Deborah Glick, Assembly Member
Hon. Scott Stringer, Man. Borough President
Hon. Christine Quinn, Council Speaker
Hon. Margaret Chin, Council Member
Hon. Rosie Mendez, Council Member
Lolita Jackson, Manhattan Director, CAU
Sandy Myers, CB2 liaison, Man. Borough President's office
Applicant