



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**JOHN WEIS**

Chair

**ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.**

District Manager

Jay Walder  
Chairman  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
347 Madison Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Mr. Walder

Manhattan Community Board #4 is concerned about the subway and bus service reductions proposed by the Metropolitan Transit Authority. We understand that these cuts are required by reduced state and other revenue in FY2010 and FY2011 and the resulting projected budget deficits. We reiterate our long-standing request that state and city officials work together to find additional revenue streams for the MTA.

We appreciate that the MTA used common sense standards that took into account current usage and availability of other mass transit services in making the difficult decisions on service reductions. We thus feel that, with a couple of exceptions noted below, the proposed cuts that affect Community Board 4 (listed on the attached sheet), while hurtful, are acceptable given the current fiscal environment.

First and foremost, we join with most of our elected officials in condemning the proposed elimination of free student fare cards. With over 2/3rds of New York's K-12 students coming from households earning less than \$28,000/year, this is clearly a regressive policy that will not only impact the transit system, but the educational system.

Secondly we are concerned that the elimination of the both the M50 and M66 1am to 5am service combined with the proposed elimination of the M104 east-west route and the M57 already having no service at those times leave limited cross-town bus options in the midtown area. We also note that midtown has many tourist related industries (e.g. Hotels, restaurants) with lower paying workers and unconventional hours (and that the 3 MTA bus lines that cross the West 59<sup>th</sup> Street bridge from Queens all end on the east side) . We thus request that the MTA investigate beginning 1am to 5am service on the M57 as a way to mitigate the impact of the combined service reductions.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed MTA service reductions and look forward to further discussions with the MTA on both its short term and long-term budget issues.

**Proposed MTA 2010 and 2011 reductions affecting Community Board #4**

The proposed subway service reductions that will affect Community Board #4 include:

- Increased wait times during weekends of approximately 2 minutes on the #1, 7, N, Q, R and L trains;
- Increased wait times of approximately 2 minutes Sunday on the A and E trains;
- Increased wait times of between .5 and .9 minutes during off-peak hours for the 1, 7, A and L trains during mid-days and 1, 7 and A trains during evenings; and
- Making the N train local North of Canal Street to replace the W train.

The proposed bus service reductions that will affect Community Board #4 include:

- Discontinued weekend service on the M50 bus;
- Discontinued 1am to 5am service on the M16, M50 and M66 buses (which currently run 24 hours);
- Moving the beginning time for the M11 from 4:45am to 6am and for the M20 from 5:45am to 6:15am; and
- Discontinue the M42 bus segment south along 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the Javitts Center.

Several service cuts that affect the eastern-most border of Community Board #4 (with the actual bus stops mostly being in CB #5) include:

- Discontinue M27 bus service (which includes a route along 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue from West 42<sup>nd</sup> to West 50<sup>th</sup> Street and then goes east);
- Discontinue M30 bus service (which includes a route to 57<sup>th</sup>/58<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and then east and then north along Madison to East 72<sup>nd</sup> Street);
- Discontinue M10 bus service south of Columbus circle (it currently goes along 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenues between West 31<sup>st</sup> West 59<sup>th</sup> Street); and
- Elimination of the M104 bus route that goes along West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street (eliminates going east from 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, stops between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenues and North on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue remain).

Sincerely yours,



John Weis  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board No. 4



Christine Berthet  
Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee



Jay Marcus  
Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee