



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

330 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, 26<sup>th</sup> floor New York, NY 10036  
tel: 212-736-4536 fax: 212-947-9512  
www.nyc.gov/mcb4

**CHRISTINE BERTHET**  
Chair

**NELLY GONZALEZ**  
Acting District Manager

November 10, 2014

Dennis Martin  
Vice President/General Manager  
NJ Transit  
Bus Operations – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
One Penn Plaza East  
Newark, NJ 07105

**Re: New Jersey Transit Idling Buses Concern**

Dear Mr. Martin:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) would like to bring to your attention matters of public safety caused by idling New Jersey Transit (NJT) buses in our neighborhood, in the vicinity of the Port Authority Bus Terminal on the west side of Manhattan. We ask that you consider all measures that might contribute to resolving this issue, which puts the health and safety of a growing residential population at risk. Such measures would include directing drivers not idle, education, audits, but also new bus routes to the Port Authority if appropriate.

CB4 is on record as favoring mass transit commuting from New Jersey and acknowledges that NJT provides a mode of transportation beneficial to our city and to our neighborhood. The 2005 rezoning of the west side is bringing about conflicts in street usage that must now be addressed. Because until recently this area was a manufacturing zone, the continuous ribbon of NJT buses lined up daily on Tenth Avenue's east side, blocking intersections from West 30<sup>th</sup> to West 40<sup>th</sup> Streets between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p. m., did not interfere with pedestrians. However the 2005 rezoning of Hudson Yards converted Tenth Avenue to a residential zone with large developments sprouting up everywhere. CB4 has received formal complaints from some of the 2,000 residents of the large residential buildings newly built on both sides of Tenth Avenue between West 37<sup>th</sup> and West 38<sup>th</sup> Streets.

NJT buses drivers collectively idle for hours every day while parked. New York City has strict non-idling laws that limit idling to 3 minutes maximum, and 1 minute in the proximity of a school. There are five large parking areas for NJT buses located on lots going from West 37<sup>th</sup> to West 38<sup>th</sup>, West 38<sup>th</sup> to West 39<sup>th</sup>, West 39<sup>th</sup> to 40<sup>th</sup> Street, on West 40<sup>th</sup> Street between Ninth and Tenth Avenues and on West 40<sup>th</sup> Street between Tenth and Eleventh Avenues. At around 5:00 p.m. every day, hundreds of buses fire up their engines at the same time as they prepare to leave the parking lots. While the few buses in the front rows leave immediately, the buses parked at the back of the lots leave 15 and sometimes 30 minutes later, thus collectively idling for hours every day. Strict directives should be given to the drivers or technology should be employed to notify them individually of their hours of departure from the parking.

CB4 is greatly concerned about the idling buses in our neighborhood and the negative impact it has on the health and safety of the residents in our community as well as the negative impact it has on the environment. We request that NJT take immediate action to resolve this problem.

Sincerely,



Christine Berthet  
Chair



Jay Marcus  
Co-Chair, Transportation  
Planning Committee



Ernest Modarelli  
Co-Chair, Transportation  
Planning Committee

CC: Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer  
NYC Councilmember Corey Johnson  
NYC Councilmember Helen Rosenthal  
NYS Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal  
NYS Assemblymember Richard Gottfried  
NYS Senator Adriano Espaillat  
NYS Senator Brad Hoylman  
U.S. Congressman Jerry Nadler  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
NYC Department of Environmental Protection  
NYC Economic Development Corporation  
State of New York Governor Andrew Cuomo  
State of New Jersey Governor Chris Christie