

August 12, 2004

Mr. Lawrence G. Reuter, President
MTA New York City Transit
370 Jay Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Re: Full Accessibility of New York City's Subway System

Dear Mr. Reuter:

At its July 21, 2004 meeting, Manhattan Community Board No. 4's Transportation Planning Committee voted unanimously to support Manhattan Community Board No. 3's request that the MTA create a task force to develop a comprehensive plan to make New York City's subway system fully accessible to people with disabilities.

This task force should be comprised of engineers, a group of people with diverse types of disabilities, and elected officials. Their goal should be not only to assess the feasibility of making our entire subway system accessible, but also how to create subway stations that are truly "fully accessible" to those with differing disabilities.

The current agreement between state and federal government agencies and the United Spinal Association (formerly Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association) and Disabled in Action calls for 100 key subway stations to be made fully accessible by 2020. Although we believe that all of New York's subway stations are "key stations" as prescribed by the Federal Transit Administration, it is understood that, due to physical or economic reasons, the enormous undertaking of making all subway stations fully accessible may just not be possible. Therefore, we request that any plan regarding the accessibility of New York's subway stations include a report of all stations that cannot be made fully accessible, including justification of such determinations.

On August 11, 2004 the Full Board approved the application with the above stipulation by a vote of 31 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining and 0 present but not eligible to vote.

Sincerely,



Walter Mankoff
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4



Joshua David
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee



John Rust
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee

cc: Manhattan Community Board #3, United Spinal Association, Disabled in Action