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Danielle Brecker
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

April 11, 2023
Mr. Janno Lieber
President and CEO MTA
2 Broadway
New York, New York 11004

RE: Plans for Upcoming Construction on the #7 Train to Maintain a State of Good Repair at All Stations and Increase Accessibility

Dear Mr. Lieber:

Community Board 2 Queens would like to thank Daniel Randell for the presentation he provided to CB2's Transportation Committee on April 4, 2023 and for the plans he presented for the upcoming construction on the #7 Line to maintain a state of good repair at all stations and increase accessibility.

CB2Q is requesting the following, beginning when express service west of Woodside 61st Street is suspended:

- The Long Island Railroad cross-honor Metrocard fares for riders traveling between Woodside and Manhattan at all times.
- NYCT increase the frequency of bus service along Roosevelt Avenue.

We know the MTA can do better by the riders who depend on this service and our community at-large.

The elimination of express service as well as temporary platform closures will increase commute times and add confusion and inconveniences for riders. West of Woodside, the local platforms are typically crowded and trains arrive full during rush hours even with frequent express service. Without express service, the situation will be dangerous, uncomfortable, unnecessarily slow, and unreliable.

Meanwhile, LIRR service to Manhattan is not operating anywhere near full capacity. The primary barrier to many riders who would otherwise access LIRR service is the cost

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difference. The \$9 peak fares and even the \$5 City Ticket price at off peak times are unaffordable for many Queens commuters. Cross-honoring fares equitably addresses this discrepancy and should not be difficult to implement.

NYSERDA classifies the majority of census tracts along the 7 line as "[disadvantaged communities](#)." 7 train riders should not suffer longer, less reliable commutes and crowded trains for the current fare price when an equitable, underutilized transit alternative exists and has just received a major investment. Nor should the people of Western Queens experience increased traffic congestion and pollution when would-be riders forsake transit and opt for vehicles seeking faster, more comfortable commutes.

We also request that NYCT increase and prioritize bus service on Roosevelt Avenue to provide additional capacity and reduce wait times for riders. Community members with disabilities already depend on this critical service and many others will struggle when they are required to climb additional staircases and wait longer on platforms for slower trains due to the disruptions.

CB2Q unequivocally supports transit and understands that the health and vitality of our community depends on the speed, frequency, reliability, affordability, and safety of the system. We ask that the MTA heed our requests to ensure that it continues to serve all riders, our community and the people of Queens.

Thank you for your review of this matter. Please contact CB 2 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

DMK/mag

Cc: Honorable Grace Meng, US Congress
Honorable Nydia M. Velazquez, US Congress
Honorable Michael Gianaris, NY State Senate
Honorable Kristen Gonzalez, NY State Senate
Honorable Jessica Ramos, NY State Senate
Honorable Juan Ardila, NYS Assembly
Honorable Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, NYS Assembly
Honorable Zohran Mamdani, NYS Assembly
Honorable Steven Raga, NYS Assembly

Honorable Robert Holden, NYC Council Member
Honorable Shekar Krishman, NYC Council Member
Honorable Julie Won, NYC Council Member
Honorable Donovan Richards, Queens Borough President
Catherine Rinaldi, LIRR
Lucille Songhai, MTA
Daniel Randell, MTA
Danielle Brecker, Chairperson, Community Board 2
Sheila Lewandowski, Co-Chair Transportation Committee
Thomas Mituzas, Co-Chair, Transportation Committee
Laura Shepard, Chair, Environment Committee

MTA Upcoming Construction on #7 Line