

**NYC Department of Transportation Testimony Before the
City Council Committee on Economic Development**

April 28, 2026

Good afternoon, Chair Maloney and members of the Committee on Economic Development. I am Emily Weidenhof, Assistant Commissioner for Public Realm at the New York City Department of Transportation. I am joined by Rick Rodriguez, Assistant Commissioner of Intergovernmental Affairs. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Mayor Mamdani and Commissioner Flynn about Intro. 807.

Intro. 807, sponsored by Council Member Abreu, would expand access to public bathrooms during the 2026 World Cup. We are working closely with the City Hall team that is leading World Cup preparations to ensure this important event benefits local businesses and communities so that all New Yorkers and visitors can enjoy the planned festivities. We are leveraging our Open Street and Plaza locations to activate public spaces across the five boroughs, creating vibrant spaces for residents and visitors alike to gather and enjoy the games at no cost, while also working with our partners to ensure access to public bathrooms through existing processes to meet the increased number of people outside this summer. We are also updating DOT's pedestrian wayfinding signs in Midtown and Lower Manhattan to ensure that they show every public restroom. We support this bill through our ongoing event preparation work.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Council for the opportunity to testify before you today. We would now be happy to answer any questions.