



UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT
NEW YORK STATE SENATE
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

June 5, 2012

Janette Sadik-Khan
Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane, Floor 37
New York, NY 10038

Thomas F. Prendergast
President
MTA New York City Transit
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Dear Commissioner Sadik-Khan and President Prendergast:

We are writing in regard to the 34 Street Select Bus Service (SBS) construction project, portions of which fall within our respective districts. Through meetings of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), as well as by engaging impacted residents and businesses, your agencies have developed a project that better responds to the needs of the community, while still meeting the growing transit demands of the area. However, several issues, in particular the elimination of the bus stops at Madison and Lexington Avenues and the lack of loading and unloading spaces on West 34 Street, must be addressed. We urge you to carefully consider these issues before the M34 bus route is finalized for permanent construction this fall.


Prior to and after SBS service was implemented on 34 Street last November, we heard from a number of East Side residents about the serious impact the elimination of the Madison and Lexington Avenue bus stops would have on the elderly users of the bus service. The Madison and Lexington Avenue stops are particularly important for our constituents because they provide north and south bound connections to the Q32, M1, M2, M3 and M4 bus services, and the M101, M102, and M103 bus service, respectively. Additionally, since the elimination of these stops last November, many elderly users have had to traverse long, sloped distances to get to and from Third, Park and Fifth Avenues, where stops now exist. It has proven a great physical challenge to these users. While we understand that SBS service is meant to prioritize bus speeds for all users of the route by standardizing the distance between stops, it must not do so at the expense of the needs of the immediate community. We urge you to reconsider the elimination of these stops.

We have also heard complaints from a number of residents and businesses about the lack of loading and unloading spaces in front of their buildings on both the north and south side of 34 Street, particularly in front of 430, 433, and 435 West 34 Street. This problem has imposed an undue burden on the workers and residents of the block, particularly those with mobility impairments. As Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) noted in its March 8, 2012 letter on the subject, delivery truck drivers will compensate by double parking, thereby blocking the bus lane. We therefore request that you increase the number of loading and unloading spaces available on the 400 block of West 34 Street.

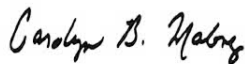
To achieve this increase, we echo CB4's recommendation that the two proposed bus stops for west of Dyer Avenue and east of 9 Avenue be consolidated into one bus stop west of 9 Avenue. One factor that had prevented any progress on moving this bus stop location in the past was the curb cut in front of the Emblem Health building on West 34 Street. As of last week, Emblem Health stated to CB4 that the company is ready to file for a permit with the New York City Department of Transportation and begin work on eliminating the curb cut, clearing the way to relocate the proposed bus stop and thereby allowing for the additional loading and unloading spaces across Dyer Avenue.

We believe that taking these steps will ensure a stronger proposal that better balances the needs of the surrounding community with those of the larger ridership. Thank you in advance for your consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,



Christine C. Quinn
Speaker



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Jerrold L. Nadler
Member of Congress



Thomas K. Duane
State Senator



Liz Krueger
State Senator



Richard N. Gottfried
Assembly Member



Rosie Mendez
Council Member



Scott M. Stringer
Manhattan Borough President

cc: Manhattan Community Board Four
Manhattan Community Board Five
Manhattan Community Board Six
Murray Hill Neighborhood Association
Emblem Health
New York Police Department