



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Michael Gianaris

Senator Gianaris Pushes for Expanded Western Queens Bus Service

MICHAEL GIANARIS August 23, 2012

| ISSUE: **TRANSPORTATION, ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT**

Queens, NY—Following pronouncements that previously cut transportation services in western Queens would not be restored, Senator Michael Gianaris is calling on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) to expand Q103 bus line hours of operation. He sent a letter to MTA Chairman Joe Lhota requesting a review of the Q103 for possible expansion to night and weekend service.

The Q103 is currently only operational on weekdays, with service terminating shortly before 7 pm. It travels between Astoria and Hunter's Point in Long Island City, along which a burgeoning arts corridor in western Queens has been established. The bus is already well-utilized and demand for increased service hours will only grow as this arts corridor further develops and the community prepares for construction of the Cornell-Technion Applied Sciences Campus on Roosevelt Island. The only bridge connecting to Roosevelt Island empties directly onto the Q103 route between Astoria and Long Island City.

"Western Queens has experienced a population and development boom, and it is important that mass transit keeps pace with that growth," Senator Gianaris said. "The emergence of our LIC arts community and the opening of the Cornell-Technion Campus on Roosevelt Island make an expanded Q103 service a necessity."

In July, Senator Gianaris also called on the MTA to include the W subway and the QM22 bus on its list of service restorations. Senator Gianaris believes Queens is in need of more transportation options, particularly as previously cut services are not restored.

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