

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE



ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247

May 15, 2024

Janno Lieber, Chairman
Metropolitan Transit Authority
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Chairman Lieber:

We write to implore the MTA to expand express bus service in Queens in order to attract more public transit riders when congestion pricing takes effect. Express buses play a vital role in Queens' public transit network and only stand to become even more pivotal in the near and distant future.

With congestion pricing slated to begin on June 30, we are concerned that Queens is still lacking sufficient options for travel to Manhattan. This year's FY 25 state budget provided funding for a much needed pilot, which [we were happy to celebrate alongside you last week](#), offering a 10 percent discount for Long Island Rail Road riders, as well as increases to service frequency on six popular express bus routes from Brooklyn and Staten Island to the Congestion Relief Zone in Manhattan.

It is unacceptable that Queens – one of the city's largest transit deserts – was excluded from those express bus improvements. Even more concerning is that instead of improving express bus service in Queens, the MTA has proposed a reduction in service for nearly every Queens express bus line as part of the Queens Bus Redesign.

The success of congestion pricing is contingent on the expansion of other forms of mass transit, especially the Queens express bus network. Failing this will impose a tremendous burden on the nearly 800,000 bus riders who ride the bus in Queens on an average weekday.

The 10 percent monthly LIRR discount is welcome, but it is not an adequate replacement for the lack of express bus service. Access to subway and rail service is already limited throughout Queens, as many of our constituents must pay two to three fares to access the Congestion Relief Zone.

With congestion pricing less than two months away, we must be looking for new and affordable ways to get more New Yorkers out of their cars and into mass transit, not cutting service. We encourage the MTA to rethink the express bus service cuts proposed in the Queens bus redesign, and immediately expand express bus service in Queens.

Yours In Service,



Handwritten signature of Leroy Comrie in black ink.

Leroy Comrie
New York State Senator
District 14 | Queens

Handwritten signature of John C. Liu in black ink.

John C. Liu
New York State Senator
District 16 | Queens

Handwritten signature of Michael Gianaris in black ink.

Michael Gianaris
New York State Senator
District 12 | Queens

Handwritten signature of Toby Ann Stavisky in black ink.

Toby Ann Stavisky
New York State Senator
District 11 | Queens

Handwritten signature of Jessica Ramos in black ink.

Jessica Ramos
New York State Senator
District 13 | Queens

Handwritten signature of Joseph P. Addabbo Jr. in black ink.

Joseph P. Addabbo Jr.
New York State Senator
District 15 | Queens

Handwritten signature of Kristen Gonzalez in black ink.

Kristen Gonzalez
New York State Senator
District 58 | Queens

Handwritten signature of Julia Salazar in black ink.

Julia Salazar
New York State Senator
District 18 | Brooklyn

Handwritten signature of James Sanders in black ink.

James Sanders
New York State Senator
District 10 | Queens

Handwritten signature of Alicia L. Hyndman in black ink.

Alicia L. Hyndman
New York State Assembly
District 29 | Queens

Handwritten signature of Nily Rozic in black ink.

Nily Rozic
New York State Assembly
District 25 | Queens

Handwritten signature of Edward C. Braunstein in black ink.

Edward C. Braunstein
New York State Assembly
District 26 | Queens



A stylized, cursive handwritten signature of Steven Raga.

Steven Raga
New York State Assembly
District 30 | Queens

A cursive handwritten signature of Catalina Cruz.

Catalina Cruz
New York State Assembly
District 39 | Queens

A cursive handwritten signature of Andrew D. Hevesi.

Andrew D. Hevesi
New York State Assembly
District 28 | Queens

A stylized, cursive handwritten signature of Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas.

Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas
New York State Assembly
District 34 | Queens

A cursive handwritten signature of Jennifer Rajkumar.

Jennifer Rajkumar
New York State Assembly
District 38 | Queens