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October 14, 2019

Andy Byford  
President, New York City Transit  
2 Broadway  
New York, NY 10018

Dear President Byford,

As a member of the Better Buses Advisory Group, I am writing to urge you to expand the public input process that was recently announced as part of the Brooklyn bus network redesign initiative. There is no doubt that bus routes in Brooklyn are overdue for a much-needed overhaul, and every Community District must be engaged and involved in this process.

It is concerning to me that NYCT has only announced ten accessible open houses in Brooklyn, which leaves large gaps without any presence to solicit community input from certain service areas. Further, the number and location of the “pop up” events is also sorely lacking. For example, in my district alone, there are only two such pop-ups, although nearly twenty bus lines service my district. In the ten months I’ve been in office, I have received no shortage of requests from residents for better bus service and changes to routes to better reflect their commuting realities. They, along with their neighbors, deserve to have their voices heard at a local community forum in their neighborhood.

Relying on just the busiest locations in the borough is insufficient, because it is often the locations with less service that are in more dire need of expanded transit opportunities. These are often the communities that rely most heavily on buses because they do not have sufficient access to subway lines. **I strongly urge you to hold an open house in every Community District in the borough.**

Since assuming my office, I have sought to work collaboratively with you, NYCT, and the MTA’s leadership to improve transit service for my constituents. You and your leadership team have been responsive to such efforts, and I sincerely hope that we can find a way to include the voices of Brooklyn’s residents in this critical redesign work.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Andrew S. Gounardes

Member of Senate