

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



TONY AVELLA
SENATOR, 11TH DISTRICT

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ALBANY OFFICE: ☐

ROOM 902, LOB
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
(518) 455-2210 OFFICE
(518) 426-6736 FAX

DISTRICT OFFICE: ☐

38-50 BELL BOULEVARD
SUITE C
BAYSIDE, NEW YORK 11361
(718) 357-3094 OFFICE
(718) 357-3491 FAX

INTERNET ADDRESS:

AVELLA@NYSENATE.GOV

June 14, 2017

Ms. Veronique Hakim
President
MTA New York City Transit
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Mr. Patrick Nowakowski
President
Long Island Rail Road
Jamaica Station
Jamaica, NY 11435-4380

Dear Ms. Hakim and Mr. Nowakowski:

I am writing to you regarding the proposed cuts to Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) service this summer that will severely impact residents in Northeast Queens.

While I understand the need to make service changes due to the construction at Penn Station, eliminating trains to and from Northeast Queens is only going to cause more congestion on other LIRR trains and the 7 subway line. As you are keenly aware, commuters in this area only have the option of LIRR service or the 7 train at Flushing Main Street to commute into Manhattan – and I do not feel the need to tell you yet again that the 7 train simply cannot accommodate more passengers at Flushing Main Street since it is 94% capacity.

Though some park and ride bus service will be added for commuters in Nassau County, the MTA is not providing any of these services to Northeast Queens, which is already a transit desert. Having residents drive to Port Washington for a park and ride, Glen Cove for a ferry, or Flushing Main Street for the 7 train are not feasible options.

Given the accommodations that were made on many of the other LIRR lines, I would appreciate your revisiting the options for service accommodations and letting me know how you plan on easing this transit burden on the residents of Northeast Queens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tony Avella".

Tony Avella
Senator
11th Senatorial District