



MICHAEL CUSICK
Assemblyman 63RD District

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Ways and Means

March 7, 2016

Thomas F. Prendergast
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
347 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Chairman Prendergast,

We want to thank you for your testimony during the Joint Legislative Budget Hearing on Transportation. We thoroughly appreciated your straightforward answers on the questions we posed and look forward to enjoying a positive relationship with you and the MTA in the future.

As you know, the districts that we represent on Staten Island and in Queens share some common characteristics, namely, our constituents' reliance on express buses as a primary means of commuting to and from Manhattan each day. Neither of our districts is served by an MTA subway line, leaving anyone travelling to Manhattan to take a personal vehicle or a bus. Some of these trips can take up to ninety minutes end to end, meaning that some commuters spend fifteen hours every week simply getting to and from their job. While the distance of these trips and dealing with often unpredictable road conditions present obvious challenges, we believe that proactive steps can be taken to significantly reduce trip times for our constituents.

First among these steps is the possibility of streamlining these routes by combining certain stops that may be in close proximity to one another. We have heard time and time again from constituents who believe the frequency with which buses stop to pick up and drop off passengers slows trip times dramatically. The combination of certain stops could serve to ease vehicular traffic as well; if express buses merged into and exited moving traffic with less frequency, traffic would flow more smoothly along our local roads.

Furthermore, we urge the MTA to consider the adaptation or construction of dedicated "park and ride" facilities for certain express bus routes. We understand that this has been attempted in the past, without the success that your agency had hoped. However, given the current issues with express bus service notably the exhausting trip times, we believe that we should leave no stone unturned in searching for solutions to these problems.

We are aware the MTA is currently in the process of reviewing all bus service on Staten Island after fielding significant input from those who ride the buses on a daily basis, with the results of your observations expected soon. We politely urge the MTA to conduct a similar study of the effectiveness of existing express service during rush hour in Assembly Member Rozic's district. We believe our recommendations would be best executed after we have gathered the most relevant and up-to-date data. Conducting this study will ensure that is the case.

We would like to reiterate our sincere thanks for your consideration & attention to these matters. As we both represent far-flung districts within New York City, transportation options are limited and the daily commute to Manhattan is not always easy. We believe that by working together to address the concerns we have put forth, we can improve the lives of so many of our constituents. We look forward to your cooperation and more detailed discussions about certain routes and traffic patterns in an attempt to alleviate these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Cusick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M".

Michael J. Cusick
Member of Assembly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nily Rozic". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N".

Nily Rozic
Member of Assembly