



Media Release

Assemblywoman Nily Rozic

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Rozic Leads Efforts to Demand Timely Implementation of Queens Bus Time Program

Eight Elected Officials Release Letter to MTA Prioritizing Q46

Bus Time Would Relieve Overburdened Commuter Transit Artery

Queens, NY—Assemblywoman Nily Rozic (D,WF-Fresh Meadows) and eight elected officials from Eastern Queens called on the MTA to prioritize the Q46 as part of its Bus Time program. In a letter to Acting President Prendergast, the elected officials asked the MTA to start its Queens program along Union Turnpike, a major transportation artery in Queens that connects various bus lines and serves different transportation hubs.

Assemblywoman Rozic said, “The Q46 should be the highest priority in the MTA’s planned expansion of the Bus Time program. It would bring much relief to the transit desert of Eastern Queens, and would connect communities and commuters in real time. The Q46 is a lifeline for many other residents and the program would make their lives easier and efficient.”

Congresswoman Grace Meng said, “I fully support the need to expand MTA Bus Time to the Q46 Line. The Q46 runs through the heart of Queens and connects with many important transit centers. Bus Time would be a major benefit to the hard working riders of the Q46.”

“Enabling Q46 passengers to access the MTA Bus Time program would help save these commuters a lot of headaches and time wasted wondering where their bus might be and when it will arrive,” said State Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr. (D-Queens.) “I hope the MTA will provide my constituents with a chance to benefit from this valuable service.”

“Residents in this area of eastern Queens, without ready access to the subway, rely on bus service to take them to work or important appointments,” stated Senator Tony Avella.

“Therefore, with the MTA’s stated goal of expanding the MTA BusTime program in Queens, it would make sense that Eastern Queens would be given priority consideration. The Q46 is an integral transportation link between Eastern Queens and the rest of the City and residents who travel along this route deserve the benefits of the MTA’s BusTime Program as soon as possible.”

“The Q46 is one of the busiest and most used bus lines in Queens and runs through in my district. Thousands of commuters rely on this service every day, as it connects to the E/F subway lines in Kew Gardens that run express into the city,” said Assemblyman David Weprin (D-Fresh

Meadows). “For many, the Q46 is the most crucial part in getting to and from work. I urge the MTA to add the new, innovative BusTime service to the Q46 as soon as possible. It will be a tremendous service to this community and the thousands who ride the Q46 every day.”

“In a world that is becoming increasingly tech savvy, adding the Q46 to the MTA BusTime program is not only advised, but essential to many people in eastern Queens who rely on this route as their only method of public transportation into the City.” said Assemblyman Michael Simanowitz. “I strongly urge the MTA to give these riders this important new tool so they can plan out their commutes effectively and efficiently.”

“So many people who live and work in Eastern Queens rely on the Q46 bus every day. Expanding the Bus Time program to the Q46 will decrease commuting time, thereby enhancing the quality of life in our community,” said Council Member Mark S. Weprin.

“Union Turnpike is one of the busiest arteries in the borough, serving Queens Hospital, St. John's University, scores of retail establishments and office spaces. And yet, Union Turnpike in Eastern Queens is largely served by just one local bus line, the Q46, which has become a lifeline for thousands of city residents with few other transit options,” said Council Member James F. Gennaro (D-Fresh Meadows). “I strongly urge the MTA to consider this under-served transit corridor for an expansion of its Bus Time program that will enable residents to plan their morning commute, trips to the doctor's office and after-school meetings. For too long, Eastern Queens has been a 'transit desert' where fare-paying customers have been forced to wait at bus stops for extended periods of time, often in rain, sleet and snow. An expansion of Bus Time to the Q46 would demonstrate the MTA's commitment to reliable transportation for all residents of this region, not just those well-served by subways.”

Bus Time allows transit riders to use various technological devices, such as their smart phones and computers, to track the arrival of buses at specific stops along the route. Currently, Bus Time is used in the Bronx and Staten Island. The MTA recently announced a plan to expand the program to Manhattan this year, followed by Brooklyn, and then Queens, which will be completed by April 2014.

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