



Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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Eleazar Bueno, Chairperson
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

February 3, 2020

Hon. Andy Byford
President MTA New York City Transit
130 Livingston Street
Brooklyn, N Y 11201

Hon. Joseph Lhota
Chairman
2 Broadway
New York, N Y 10004

Re: Resolution regarding MTA Service Plan During Elevator Closure at 191st IRT Subway Station.

Dear President Byford and Chairman Lhota:

At the General Meeting, Tuesday, January 28, 2020 with a vote of 39 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstentions Community Board 12 Manhattan, passed the following resolution, urging the MTA to monitor closely the conditions at 181st IRT Station from February 3 to February 5 to determine if sufficient capacity exists to serve riders travelling on St. Nicholas Ave. between 181st and 191st street, and to monitor the already dangerous PM rush conditions for riders exiting, and waiting for, the elevators at the mezzanine level; and requesting that if problems of safety or capacity are identified in the first 3 commuting days, that the MTA is ready to increase bus capacity and/or add on site personnel to maintain safe conditions within the station.

Whereas: As part of the MTA's elevator project, beginning February 1, 2020, elevators at the 191st (IRT) Subway Station will be closed for approximately one year, during which time riders will not be able to enter and exit from W. 191st Street and St. Nicholas Avenue; and

Whereas: The MTA's Service Plan during the elevator closure directs riders who exit / enter via St Nicholas Ave. to use the 181st Station. The Service Plan utilizes existing M3 bus service on St. Nicholas Ave. supplemented with shuttle bus service, as well as M101 service during the overnight period. The shuttle bus service connects riders from 181st Station to both entrances of the 191st Station and runs through 10PM; and

Whereas: The station serves area residents, employees and visitors to Isabella Geriatric (with three shift changes per day), and students and faculty at several high schools and educational programs at the George Washington Educational Campus; and

Whereas: During PM rush hours, the 181st Station experiences backup of riders from the mezzanine level elevators, onto the stairs and on the platform, at times creating dangerous conditions; and

Hon. President Andy Byford and Chairman Ferrer

Re: **Resolution regarding MTA Service Plan During Elevator Closure at 191st IRT Subway Station.**

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- Whereas: Community Board 12, Manhattan and members of the public at a December 2019 public meeting, and January 6, 2020 Traffic & Transportation Committee meeting, have raised concerns that the capacity and frequency of transit alternatives may not be sufficient to meet demand, and sought assurance that adjustments can be made with little delay if problem identified; and
- Whereas: The MTA has stated that a "wildcat" bus (a bus that is at the ready to be added into the schedule) will be available to be added to route if needed, and adjustments can be made to the Service Plan if it does not meet demand; now, therefore, be it
- Resolved: Community Board 12, Manhattan strongly urges the MTA to monitor closely conditions at 181st IRT Station from February 3 to February 5 to determine if sufficient capacity exists to serve riders travelling on St. Nicholas Ave. between 181st and 191st street, particularly during the AM rush and from 10PM – midnight. Additionally, the MTA is urged to monitor the already dangerous PM rush conditions for riders exiting, and waiting for, elevators at the mezzanine level; and be it further
- Resolved: Community Board 12, Manhattan requests that if problems of safety or capacity are identified in the first 3 commuting days, that the MTA is at the ready to increase bus capacity and/or add on site personnel to maintain safe conditions within the station.

Sincerely,



Eleazar Bueno
Chairperson

cc: Hon. Polly Trottenberg, DOT Commissioner
Edward Pincar, DOT Manhattan Borough Commissioner
Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Hon. Juumane Williams, Public Advocate
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Comptroller
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman
Hon. Brian Benjamin, State Senator

Hon. Robert Jackson, State Senator
Hon. Al Taylor, Assembly Member
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Assembly Member
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member
Hon. Fernando Ferrer, Chairman MTA