

Jeannine Kiely, *Chair*
Susan Kent, *First Vice Chair*
Valerie De La Rosa, *Second Vice Chair*
Mark Diller, *District Manager*



Antony Wong, *Treasurer*
Amy Brenna, *Secretary*
Ritu Chattree, *Assistant Secretary*

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE
NEW YORK, NY 10012-1899

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March 30, 2023

Jamie Torres-Springer
President, Construction & Development
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Anastasios Georgelis
Deputy Commissioner, Water & Sewer Operations
NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection
59-17 Junction Boulevard
Flushing, NY 11373

Dear President Torres-Springer and Deputy Commissioner Georgelis:

At its Full Board meeting on March 23, 2023, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Resolution in response to presentations of projects for a new Canal St. substation by MTA NYC Transit and a new sewage pump station (Canal & Sullivan Sts.) by DEP and considering impacts with other concurrent projects in the vicinity.

Whereas two separate projects directly across the street from each other on the north side of Canal St. were presented at Community Board No. 2 Manhattan's (CB2, Man.) jt. Traffic & Transportation and Parks & Waterfront Committees meeting on March 1st, one a new sub-surface power station for the 8th Ave. A/C/E subway line by MTA NYC Transit (NYCT); the other an updated sewage pumping station replacement by the NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP); and

Whereas the substation project, located at Grand Canal Courts at the intersection of Thompson St., Canal St. & 6th Ave., is already underway and will continue to the end of 2025 (although the surface level park will reopen in the 3rd qtr. of 2024); and

Whereas the pump station project, located underneath Canal & Sullivan Sts. (adjacent to Duarte Sq.), will undergo active construction from May 2024 to Aug. 2026, i.e., part of the work on both projects will occur for an extensive period at the same time; and

Whereas there will be a considerable amount of vehicular activity during these projects, with large trucks delivering equipment and supplies, two traffic lanes closed at certain times of day, other areas taken up with staging activities, coupled with heavy excavation and construction activity at both sites and the prospect at the times when the projects overlap of intensified noise, vibrations, dust and air pollution as well as broadened traffic congestion and conflicts. Many of those present voiced their concerns about vast disruption, disturbance and danger when the projects are running concurrently; and

Whereas these impacts will be further exacerbated by construction expected to start in 2025 of a 465-ft.-tall, 26-story building at 76 Varick St. at Canal St., with Grand St. to the north (to be called 2 Hudson Sq.), developed by Taconic Investment Partners and Nuveen (with a 99-year lease from Trinity Real Estate); and

Whereas the Port Authority of NY & NJ (PANYNJ) has closed the Holland Tunnel's North Tube entrance westbound (NYC to NJ) for Hurricane Sandy damage repairs through the 3rd quarter of 2025 (weekdays & Sun. 11pm-5:30am, Fri. 11:59pm-9am). With the Tunnel's location in the same vicinity as these other projects, their co-existence with the Tunnel closure for a period of time might engender confusion and conflicts in the required diversion of traffic from the Tunnel; and

Whereas it was recognized that this confluence of projects in a very tight area all at once calls for careful coordination between the agencies and entities involved in these endeavors, including NYCT, DEP, Taconic, Nuveen, Trinity and PANYNJ as well as the NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation (DPR) which is working with both NYCT (in removing and restoring trees and other elements at Grand Canal Courts) and DEP (in coordinating grading at Duarte Sq. for its redesign), and the NYC Dept. of Transportation (DOT) which also is working with both NYCT and DEP (to facilitate pedestrian and vehicular access and movement and mitigate traffic generally);

Therefore be it resolved that CB2, Man. thanks both NYCT and DEP for presenting their projects on NYCT's new substation that will bring better, more frequent, reliable subway service with an increased power capacity by 5 trains per hour and DEP's new pump station that will meet updated standards of safety, efficiency and resiliency routing wastewater and stormwater from the SoHo community, and for the opportunity to be informed and comment on these projects; and

Be it further resolved that CB2, Man. strongly urges NYCT, DEP, Taconic, Nuveen, Trinity, PANYNJ, DPR and DOT to work together in developing and executing a scheduling plan and necessary adjustments in schedules and activities for the smoothest, least intrusive implementation of not only the substation and pump station, but also of the building construction at 76 Varick St. and other projects occurring in the vicinity within the corresponding time frames in question and to consult on a regular basis to ensure continued attention to avoiding conflicts and other negative impacts during the course of their operations; and

Be it finally resolved that CB2, Man. asks that the involved agencies and entities return to CB2 as soon as possible to present the plan they've worked out for scheduling and coordinating their activities as they implement their projects in the Canal, Grand, Thompson, Varick Sts. & 6th Ave. area.

Vote: Unanimous, with 44 Board members in favor.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



Richard Caccappolo, Chair
Parks & Waterfront Committee
Board #2, Manhattan



Shirley Secunda, Chair
Traffic & Transportation Committee Community
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Jeannine Kiely, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan

JK/fa

cc: Hon. Dan Goldman, Congressman
Hon. Brian Kavanaugh, NY State Senator
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, NY Assembly Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Christopher Marte, NYC Council Member
Ernest Modarelli, Asst. Dir., Govt & Community Relations, MTA
Alicia West, Director of Public Design Outreach, DEP
Humberto Galarza, Manhattan Coordinator, DEP
Luke DePalma, Sr. Director, Govt & Community Relations, MTA NYCT
Melissa Farley, MTA Govt. & Community Relations
Steve Simon, Chief of Staff, Dept. of Parks

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March 30, 2023

Richard Davey
President
MTA NYC Transit
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Dear President Davey:

At its Full Board meeting on March 23, 2023, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Resolution in response to update on MTA agreement in class action settlement to make 95% of subway stations ADA accessible by 2055

Whereas in June 2022 MTA and accessibility advocates reached a class action settlement agreement to make 95% of subway stations ADA accessible by 2055; and

Whereas this agreement provides for making another 346 stations in the NYC subway system ADA accessible by that 2055 target date, with the goal of distributing station accessibility in such a way that subway users wouldn't be more than two stations away from an accessible station; and

Whereas accessibility will be facilitated by the installation of elevators and ramps (to solve vertical access issues) plus incorporation of other elements such as wayfinding devices like beaded yellow strips on platforms to guide the vision impaired and ADA-compliant railings. Escalators are not part of the agreement; and

Whereas subway elevators often break down and remain out of service for long periods of time, depriving those who rely on them of sorely needed mobility. Users also attest to foul smells, lack of cleanliness and physical damage, all of which point to serious neglect and the need for steady, dependable maintenance; and

Whereas MTA NYC Transit is exploring requiring contractors to not only build and install subway elevators but also to maintain them (as opposed to the current practice in which MTA NYCT does the maintenance); and

Whereas Community Board No. 2 Manhattan (CB2, Man.) has a sizable and ever-growing population of senior citizens, families with children and many others who have difficulty accessing subway stairs, whether physically challenged, pushing strollers with small children, carrying luggage or maneuvering a variety of heavy, unwieldy items, all of them greatly in need of ADA accessible stations;

Therefore be it resolved that CB2, Man. welcomes the prospect of increased availability of ADA access to subway stations after more than 30 years since the passage of the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) act and hopes that as work in advancing accessibility progresses, there will be opportunities to shorten the timetable for completion of these efforts; and

Be it further resolved that CB2, Man. fully supports procurement activities by MTA NYCT that would entail contracts for building and installing subway elevators that also include provisions requiring maintenance of those elevators for a defined and lengthy period of time (preferably for the estimated typical life of an elevator); and

Be it further resolved that CB2, Man. thanks MTA NYCT for presenting information on its agreement to increase subway accessibility, for answering our many questions and for showing their willingness to come back again and provide additional information if needed; and

Be it finally resolved that CB2, Man. would appreciate and requests that MTA NYCT return in the near future to address opportunities for expanding these accessibility projects to subway stations in Community District 2 and looks forward to potential collaborations.

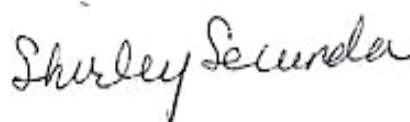
Vote: Unanimous, with 44 Board members in favor.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



Jeannine Kiely, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Shirley Secunda, Chair
Traffic & Transportation Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

JK/fa

Hon. Dan Goldman, Congressman
Hon. Brian Kavanaugh, NY State Senator
Hon. Brad Hoylman-Sigal, NY State Senator
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, NYS Assembly Member
Hon. Grace Lee, NYS Assembly Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Erik Bottcher, NYC Council Member
Hon. Christopher Marte, NYC Council Member
Hon. Carlina Rivera, NYC Council Member
Ernest Modarelli, Asst. Dir., Govt. & Community. Relations, MTA
Luke DePalma, Sr. Director, Govt. & Community Relations< MTA NYCT
Melissa Farley, MTA Gov.t & Community Relations

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March 30, 2023

Richard Davey
President
MTA NYC Transit
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Dear President Davey:

At its Full Board meeting on March 23, 2023, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Resolution requesting timely inclusion of CB2 bus routes in the upcoming expansion of MTA NYC Transit's pilot program providing designated space on buses to accommodate strollers.

Whereas in Sept. 2022 MTA NYC Transit launched a pilot program to provide a special area for strollers on buses, which is still being tested on seven bus routes among them, one in Manhattan; and

Whereas in January 2023, MTA announced the expansion of the pilot to 1,000 local and SBS buses across all boroughs, with route details to be announced soon; and

Whereas Community Board No. 2 Manhattan (CB2) has experienced considerable growth in its population of families with small children (which continues to grow), who have a great need for stroller accommodations on both crosstown and north-south/south-north bus routes in CB2; and

Whereas ridership figures show that the M14SBSD is the most frequently used crosstown bus in this area with a route that covers a considerable span from the Lower East Side to Abingdon Square; and

Whereas figures show that the M103 has the most frequent ridership north-south/south-north covering the eastern edge of CB2 and going all the way from East Harlem to City Hall; and

Whereas the M1 has one of the most frequently used north-south/south-north routes going mid-island in CB2 that covers the largest portion of the district, down to SoHo, and as far north as Harlem;

Therefore be it resolved that CB2 fully supports the Bus Open Stroller Pilot and the MTA's plans for expansion; and

Be it further resolved that CB2 asks the MTA to include bus routes within Community District 2 for the Bus Open Stroller Pilot expansion. The following bus routes are recommended and requested, in order of preference, based on the latest ridership data available and reach within the district: M14SBSD, M103, and M1; and

Be it finally resolved that CB2 asks that the Bus Open Stroller Pilot be expanded into Community District 2 as soon as possible to accommodate the urgent needs of CB2's many families with small children.

Vote: Unanimous, with 44 Board members in favor.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



Jeannine Kiely, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Shirley Secunda, Chair
Traffic & Transportation Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

JK/fa

Hon. Dan Goldman, Congressman
Hon. Brian Kavanaugh, NY State Senator
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