



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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CHRISTINE BERTHET
Chair

NELLY GONZALEZ
Acting District Manager

November 10, 2014

Dennis Martin
Vice President/General Manager
NJ Transit
Bus Operations – 3rd Floor
One Penn Plaza East
Newark, NJ 07105

Re: New Jersey Transit Idling Buses Concern

Dear Mr. Martin:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) would like to bring to your attention matters of public safety caused by idling New Jersey Transit (NJT) buses in our neighborhood, in the vicinity of the Port Authority Bus Terminal on the west side of Manhattan. We ask that you consider all measures that might contribute to resolving this issue, which puts the health and safety of a growing residential population at risk. Such measures would include directing drivers not idle, education, audits, but also new bus routes to the Port Authority if appropriate.

CB4 is on record as favoring mass transit commuting from New Jersey and acknowledges that NJT provides a mode of transportation beneficial to our city and to our neighborhood. The 2005 rezoning of the west side is bringing about conflicts in street usage that must now be addressed. Because until recently this area was a manufacturing zone, the continuous ribbon of NJT buses lined up daily on Tenth Avenue's east side, blocking intersections from West 30th to West 40th Streets between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p. m., did not interfere with pedestrians. However the 2005 rezoning of Hudson Yards converted Tenth Avenue to a residential zone with large developments sprouting up everywhere. CB4 has received formal complaints from some of the 2,000 residents of the large residential buildings newly built on both sides of Tenth Avenue between West 37th and West 38th Streets.

NJT buses drivers collectively idle for hours every day while parked. New York City has strict non-idling laws that limit idling to 3 minutes maximum, and 1 minute in the proximity of a school. There are five large parking areas for NJT buses located on lots going from West 37th to West 38th, West 38th to West 39th, West 39th to 40th Street, on West 40th Street between Ninth and Tenth Avenues and on West 40th Street between Tenth and Eleventh Avenues. At around 5:00 p.m. every day, hundreds of buses fire up their engines at the same time as they prepare to leave the parking lots. While the few buses in the front rows leave immediately, the buses parked at the back of the lots leave 15 and sometimes 30 minutes later, thus collectively idling for hours every day. Strict directives should be given to the drivers or technology should be employed to notify them individually of their hours of departure from the parking.

CB4 is greatly concerned about the idling buses in our neighborhood and the negative impact it has on the health and safety of the residents in our community as well as the negative impact it has on the environment. We request that NJT take immediate action to resolve this problem.

Sincerely,



Christine Berthet
Chair



Jay Marcus
Co-Chair, Transportation
Planning Committee



Ernest Modarelli
Co-Chair, Transportation
Planning Committee

CC: Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer
NYC Councilmember Corey Johnson
NYC Councilmember Helen Rosenthal
NYS Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal
NYS Assemblymember Richard Gottfried
NYS Senator Adriano Espaillat
NYS Senator Brad Hoylman
U.S. Congressman Jerry Nadler
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
NYC Department of Environmental Protection
NYC Economic Development Corporation
State of New York Governor Andrew Cuomo
State of New Jersey Governor Chris Christie