



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

330 West 42nd Street, 26th floor New York, NY 10036
tel: 212-736-4536 fax: 212-947-9512
www.nyc.gov/mcb4

CHRISTINE BERTHET
Chair

NELLY GONZALEZ
Acting District Manager

November 7, 2014

Patrick Foye
Executive Director
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
225 Park Avenue South, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10003

Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Re: Funding of Galvin Plaza Bus Annex

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) urges the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PA) to prioritize the construction of a Bus Annex on Galvin Plaza in Manhattan, to include its funding in the Capital Plan and to formulate a long-term regional plan to accommodate the expected growth in bus commuting.

We applaud the Port Authority recent operational changes that have somewhat improved conditions for 90 minutes a day. We are also pleased with the recent allocation of funds for operational upgrades of the Bus Terminal in midtown. However, only \$18 million will be dedicated to improve bus access and street conditions. While small ameliorations are expected, it does not begin to address the bus terminal's insufficient capacity, which causes 8,000 buses to overflow daily in our streets and convert them into bus parking and curbside terminals.

While the master plan the Port Authority is developing to address these shortcomings, including a 500-bus Annex at Galvin Plaza is taking shape, we are concerned that the construction of the Annex may be delayed due to recent funding setbacks.

CB4 has been requesting the construction of a bus garage since 2005. The situation has now reached crisis proportions: more people take a bus into New York City than all three railroads combined (PATH, NJT and Amtrak). Bus ridership in Manhattan has grown by 23% over the last 10 years and every afternoon there is an 11-mile queue of buses waiting to enter the terminal, blocking 50% of the Lincoln Tunnel inbound capacity and causing a 15-mile trips to take 40 minutes. The PABT is full and cannot accommodate that demand while nearby off-street parking diminishes. In the last four years curbside parking capacity on the west side has decreased by 50% and this trend is accelerating. Staging of idling buses on local streets has become routine, creating congestion and environmental problems while threatening quality of life and stifling

economic development. Such a use of our streets in the middle of a residential district is incompatible with Vision Zero by putting lives at risk.

The construction of the 500-bus Galvin Plaza Annex is long overdue. It is essential to include it in the Port Authority Capital Plan and proceed without delay as a short-term solution, regardless of whether new funding sources materialize.

It is also urgent to design a long-term regional plan to accommodate the rapid growth in bus commuting and its impact on the City economy and the Hudson Yards development. 30% of Manhattan workers come from west of the Hudson. Commuter bus trips to Manhattan from the west are forecasted to increase 35 to 50% by 2045. The Lincoln Tunnel Express Bus Lane (XBL) already handles 600+ buses per hour and is at or near or at its peak capacity.

We request that you urgently address bus travel severe deficiencies by including the construction of the Galvin Plaza Annex in the Port Authority Capital Plan, by accelerating its construction and formulate a long-term regional plan to accommodate the expected growth in bus travel.

Sincerely,



Christine Berthet
Chair



Jay Marcus
Co-Chair, Transportation
Planning Committee



Ernest Modarelli
Co-Chair, Transportation
Planning Committee

CC: Andy Lynn
Mayor Di Blasio
Alicia Glen, City Hall
Polly Trottenberg, Commissioner DOT
Veronica Hakim, New Jersey Transit
Carl Weisbrod, Department of City Planning
U.S. Congressman Jerry Nadler
NYC Councilmember Corey Johnson
NYS Assemblymember Richard Gottfried
NYS Senator Brad Hoylman
NYC Councilmember Helen Rosenthal
NYS Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal
Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer
Port Authority Board Members
New Jersey Governor Chris Christie