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BREWER JOINS COUNCIL IN ASKING, “WHERE'S THAT BUS?”

January 28, 2009— On January 29, 2009, the Council Committee on Transportation is holding an oversight hearing on MTA plans for tracking buses and providing riders with updated arrival information. In September 2007, New York City Council Member Gale A. Brewer released a report on updating a key element of the City's transportation infrastructure: Bus Rapid Transit. Following the awarding of the M96 bus with the 2002 "Pokey Award," Council Member Brewer convened a panel discussion on buses in the neighborhood and has continued working with the community, transportation advocates, the Milano New School for Management and Urban Policy, and City policymakers to explore possibilities for system-wide transit improvements, with an emphasis on improving the efficiency of bus transit.

The report suggested the following recommendations towards improving bus transit:

- Creating a wireless network to enable Smart Card fare collection
- Exclusive bus lanes
- Traffic signal priority through automated computer system
- Precision docking for expedited bus boarding
- Passenger Information Devices at bus stops that would inform commuters when the next bus is scheduled to arrive
- Advanced Vehicle Locator systems, allowing for more consistent passenger delivery/pick up

“Meeting the transportation needs of all New Yorkers is the Herculean challenge with which the City is tasked. The availability of adequate facilities and services for existing commuters and drivers cannot be compromised in favor of satisfying new demands for flexible infrastructure and meeting changing levels of ridership and patterns of use,” said Council Member Brewer. “Only a comprehensive plan for infrastructure and service provision, coupled with new and innovative thinking about synergy between buses and subways, will enable the City to meet this challenge.”

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