



February 16, 2022

Janno Lieber  
Chair and CEO  
Metropolitan Transit Authority  
2 Broadway  
New York, NY 10004

Dear Chair and CEO Lieber:

We write to urge the MTA to restore M15 Select Bus Service at 72<sup>nd</sup> Street. Before the Select Bus System was implemented, the M15 Limited stopped at 72<sup>nd</sup> Street. The area has a high bus-dependent population, infrequent local service, hospitals, and now a major subway stop. Now is the perfect opportunity to increase ridership by restoring M15 Select Bus Service at 72<sup>nd</sup> Street.

***Infrequent Local Service Mandates Expansion of Select Bus Service Station to 72<sup>nd</sup> Street***

Local M15 bus service used to be more frequent and limited service on the M15 less frequent, but now there is more frequent Select Bus Service and less frequent M15 local service. As of the January 2019 schedule, during rush hour between 7AM and 9AM, M15 local buses are scheduled every 7 to 10 minutes. This is up from the 6 to 8 minute increments they were scheduled for in 2016. Meanwhile, the M15 Select Bus is scheduled every 2 to 4 minutes. Our offices frequently hear from (typically older) constituents who have long waits for the M15 while multiple M15-SBSes pass by.

***Second Avenue Subway Station at 72<sup>nd</sup> Street Necessitates Transfer to Select Bus Service***

The Second Avenue Subway station at 72<sup>nd</sup> Street should have a corresponding Select Bus Station for riders who may wish to transfer. The Second Avenue Subway is not slated to go south of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Street Station on Second Avenue until Phase 3, which is certainly a ways away. Meanwhile, riders should be able to transfer to a Select Bus going south at 72<sup>nd</sup> Street. This is the only Second Avenue Subway station that does not have a corresponding Select Bus Station. Restoring the M15 Select Bus Service Station would increase ridership and serve the local community.

***High Concentration of Seniors and Children Need Select Bus Service at 72<sup>nd</sup> Street***

Senior citizens and families with children are far more likely to use the bus, especially to travel short distances, than younger people and families without children. Unfortunately, only about a quarter of MTA stations are currently wheelchair accessible, which limits their use by older adults. Given the infrequency of the local M15, we should not force senior citizens and people with children to walk long distances between M15-SBS stops, or to wait for unreasonable amounts of time.

The need for children and seniors to use buses for traveling short distances is best exemplified through the MTA's current policy of providing these populations free and reduced-fare MetroCards. Seniors, 65 years of age and older, as well as the disabled, qualify for reduced-fare MetroCards. The Department of Education's Office of Pupil Transportation offers a free

MetroCard to all students who live more than half a mile, but less than a mile from their schools. These programs are frustrating for children and seniors living in the vicinity of East 72<sup>nd</sup> Street who must walk more than half a mile to use the Select Bus Service.

***Precedent for Select Bus Stations Less than a Half-Mile Apart to Serve Hospitals***

There is precedent for the M15 Select Bus Service traveling five blocks between stops over a particular stretch. It currently makes three stops over the course of eleven blocks from 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, to 28<sup>th</sup> Street, to 34<sup>th</sup> Street. Thus, adding a station in between 67<sup>th</sup> Street and 79<sup>th</sup> Street is not out of the ordinary. In fact, it will help people access hospitals and other important institutions.

Points of interest noted on the M15 Select Bus Service timetable from 23<sup>rd</sup> Street to 34<sup>th</sup> Street:

- Veteran's Administration Hospital – 23<sup>rd</sup> Street
- Bellevue Hospital – 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> Street
- NYU Medical Center – 34<sup>th</sup> Street

Points of interest noted on the M15 Select Bus Service timetable from 67<sup>th</sup> Street to 79<sup>th</sup> Street:

- Memorial Hospital Sloan Kettering Cancer Center – 67<sup>th</sup> Street
- Rockefeller University – 67<sup>th</sup> Street
- New York/Cornell Hospital – No station near 71<sup>st</sup> Street
- Hospital for Special Surgery – No station near 71<sup>st</sup> Street

Other points of interest that should be considered for addition and would be served by the restoration of M15 Select Bus Service at 72<sup>nd</sup> Street:

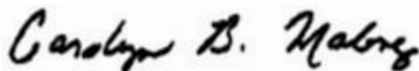
- Memorial Hospital Sloan Kettering Cancer Center/Hunter –73<sup>rd</sup> Street
- Ronald McDonald House –73<sup>rd</sup> Street
- Marry Manning Walsh Nursing Home – 72<sup>nd</sup> Street
- Marymount Manhattan College – 71<sup>st</sup> Street
- East River Esplanade Entrance – 71<sup>st</sup> Street

We urge you to restore M15 Select Bus Service at 72<sup>nd</sup> Street. This change would be a great help to families with young children and senior citizens. It would create a more logical and efficient Upper East Side transit network, and help thousands of New Yorkers who visit these locations every day. We look forward to your prompt positive response and to riding the M15 Select Bus Service to and from 72<sup>nd</sup> Street in the near future.

Sincerely,



Liz Krueger  
State Senator



Carolyn Maloney  
Congresswoman



Dan Quart  
State Assembly Member



Rebecca Seawright  
State Assembly Member



Julie Menin  
City Council Member



Keith Powers  
City Council Member

Cc: Craig Cipriano, Interim President, New York City Transit  
Frank Annicaro, Acting President, MTA Bus Company  
Ydanis Rodriguez, Commissioner, New York City Department of Transportation