

Dear members of the MTA Board,

Bronx Community Board 7 thanks you for the opportunity to address our transportation concerns to you today over issues that will affect our community. We are concerned that the MTA is planning to leave residents of our community without access to critical, affordable, public transportation.

First, our community requests that the MTA maintain the Bx34 bus line for access to work, schools, shopping, medical needs, and connections to other transportation services.

The existing Bx34 bus:

- Reduces traffic congestion on our major intersections, especially during the morning and evening rush hours.
- Provides handicap accessible public transportation to our area hospitals and other community services along the current bus route (the nearest handicap accessible subway in Board 7 is the Fordham Road #4 Train station).
- Provides access to residents and employees to a multitude of clinical and medical services at both Montefiore and North Central Bronx Hospital.
- Is an important public transportation service in Bedford Park and North Fordham, especially to the Bainbridge Ave, Fordham Road and Jerome Gun Hill shopping areas (this route was also used as a justification to connecting to the SBS Bx12 line).
- Provides vital public transportation to 12 private and public schools' students and their parents along this route.
- Serves as the only affordable means of transportation for many neighborhood seniors.
- Connects to the transportation hubs in Norwood (NYCT buses servicing the north Bronx and the D Train) and at the Woodlawn Station (Westchester County buses and the #4 Train).

The removal of this bus service will negatively impact our transportation needs as outlined above by creating a heavier reliance on more vehicles in a highly congested area with limited parking facilities. In addition, individuals with limited disposable incomes will be forced to pay more for their transportation needs to and from Norwood, Bedford Park, and North Fordham. We implore the MTA to maintain service on this line to all of our employees, residents, commuters, shoppers, and students.

Second, Board 7 is opposed to the removal of the part-time customer service agents that were located at the 205th Street entrance (Booth# N225K) and Kingsbridge Road entrance (Booth# N220K). These agents provided a sense of safety and security to commuters using these entrances and a valuable customer service when there are problems with the MTA Metrocard vending machines. We ask that the MTA not compromise safety and service to commuters and restore these agents immediately.

Third, Board 7 is alarmed at the prospect of the MTA contributing to pollution, traffic congestion, increasing health-related ailments, and undue hardship to our residents by implementing tolls on bridges where none previously existed. Bridges in our district do not provide direct connections to the city's highways or to the major business corridors of Manhattan. Instead, they provide access to local services that the local community relies upon. The Community Board is emphatically opposed to the MTA's proposal for implementing tolls along the Harlem River as a way to deal with its current revenue shortage.

Finally, Board 7 is vehemently opposed to what we perceive as draconian increases and widespread service reductions by the MTA for both the Access-a-Ride service and the fares for bus and train services. The MTA is not the only one having to face difficult financial choices, but by spreading the pain disproportionately on the backs of those who are the most dependent on public transportation is a travesty of justice. We ask that the MTA work with us and the city's other 58 community boards to identify where savings can be achieved and where new income sources can be generated as an alternative to a blanket policy of outrageous fare increases.

Thank you again for providing the opportunity for the community to voice its concerns directly to you.

Sincerely,

Lowell Green

Lowell Green
Traffic and Transportation Chair
Bronx Community Board 7

Cc: Hon. David Patterson, NYS Governor
Hon. Charles Schumer, US Senator
Hon. Elliot Engels, US Congressman
Hon. Jose Serrano, US Congressman
Hon. Michael Bloomberg, NYC Mayor
Hon. Pedro Espada Jr., NYS Senator
Hon. Jeffery Dinowitz, NYS Assemblyman
Hon. Jose Rivera, NYS Assemblyman
Hon. Naomi Rivera, NYS Assemblywoman
Hon. Adolfo Carrion, Bronx Borough President
Hon. Oliver Koppell, NYC Councilman
Hon. Maria Baez, NYC Councilwoman
Hon. Joel Rivera, NYC Councilman
Jacqueline Carter, Assistant Director, Office of Government & Community Relations, MTA