

BILL PERKINS
SENATOR, 30TH DISTRICT
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
CORPORATIONS, AUTHORITIES &
COMMISSIONS
NYC EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
COMMITTEES:
CIVIL SERVICE & PENSIONS
CODES
FINANCE
JUDICIARY
LABOR
RULES
TRANSPORTATION

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247



ALBANY OFFICE
517 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
518-455-2441
FAX 518-426-6809
DISTRICT OFFICE
STATE OFFICE BUILDING
163 WEST 125TH STREET
ROOM 912
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10027
212-222-7315
FAX 212-678-0001
E-MAIL
PERKINS@NYSenate.GOV
WEBSITE
PERKINS.NYSenate.GOV

March 20, 2013

Janette Sadik-Khan, Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
55 Water Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10041

Dear Commissioner Sadik-Khan:

We are asking that the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) and the New York City Transit Authority (NYCTA) allow for thorough deliberation of the M60 Select Bus Service Plan (SBS) for improved traffic flow on 125th Street. We recognize that there is a need for improvements and we are open minded to new solutions for better -transportation services. However, the plan and process as presented to some members of the community served only, at least, to inform not to gain consensus.

Since the walking tour in which I participated with NYCTA and DOT and a few members of the community, my office has met with the community leadership from Community Boards 9, 10, 11 and the 125th Street BID (Business Improvement District), and other members of the Senate District 30 Transportation Task Force. All have expressed to me that their issues and concerns are not being adequately responded to or respected. It is clear to all that DOT and NYCTA have backed into a plan that DOT desires and are ignoring many of the concerns that must be addressed before moving forward. Comments gathered through fragmented community outreach efforts should not be the basis for drawing conclusions to reduce congestion on 125th Street. DOT does not allow for alternative input and is attempting gaining hurried and superficial approval, thus leaving us to believe that the current plan will not work and potentially leave us in a worse situation than we are in now.

Therefore, we are asking two things to happen immediately: (1) the agency slow down; and (2) alternative plans and proposals be presented to the community, through community groups such as Community Boards 9, 10 and 11, the 125th Street BID, representing the community and businesses along 125th Street and local elective officials, as well as other of interested parties.

Community leaders and residents are taking this process too seriously, investing their time to give their input to be ignored. They have attended meetings, participated in walkthroughs with NYCTA and DOT and independently. They are now meeting regularly to review your proposal. This is the type of community involvement that is needed and you should seize the opportunity to work closer . Because the Community Advisory Council does not function in a true advisory capacity, at this time we believe that your proposal is being forced and implemented without our opinions, suggestions and comments taken seriously. Over the past six months, many suggestions and recommendations have been given to Assistant Commissioner Margaret Forgione, without sincere consideration and/or out rightly ignored.

Contrary to DOT's reports of success in other areas, 2nd Avenue, 34th Street and Fordham Road, the feedback that we have received from those local residents, merchants and others, indicated dissatisfaction and even failure. We feel we can avoid a similar situation on 125th Street by working more cooperatively together.

We welcome sitting down with you to discuss our ideas and find common ground on improving the traffic conditions on 125th Street.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Perkins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right. There is a large, loopy flourish at the beginning of the signature.

Bill Perkins, State Senator

In conjunction with The 30th Senatorial District Transportation Task Force -
Members: Community Boards 9, 10, 11, 12's Leadership, Area Business Improvement
Districts, Disability, Educational, Environmental, Senior and Transportation Advocates