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DRAFT

Transportation

April 2014

RE: A06076C and S05703B – Flashing Lights for all SBS Buses

Whereas, Select Bus Service (SBS) helps relieve subway overcrowding and underserved transit needs, as it overcomes the problem of slow buses with off-board fare collection, station spacing, dedicated bus lanes, traffic enforcement cameras, and traffic signal prioritization and the cost associated with those activities; and

Whereas, the introduction of Select Bus Service proved very successful with the public in providing shorter transit times and with the public; and

Whereas, the special identifying lights built already into the destination signs of SBS-branded buses consist of a pair of simultaneously flashing round blue LEDs positioned on either side of the destination sign located atop the front windshield of the SBS-branded bus; and

Whereas, their highly visible signature blue lights easily set apart SBS buses from local buses, a feature that has helped attract new ridership to the SBS bus routes; and

Whereas, the present law prohibits flashing blue for non-volunteer member of a fire department forcing MTA to turn off the flashing blue light on their SBS buses to comply with the law; and

Whereas, MTA SBS Bus customers are now unable to see and distinguish an approaching SBS bus several blocks away that flashing blue lights made possible, something especially important after dark or in inclement or inclement weather when passengers are deciding which stop to use and whether there is time enough to pre-pay for the SBS bus fare, or to walk to the local bus stop if it is not the SBS buses that is arriving; and

Whereas, Assembly bill A06076C and Senate bill S05703B allows MTA to install flashing purple light on its buses; and

Whereas, Community Board 6 previously adopted a resolution on March 10, 2013 in support of restoring the flashing blue lights; and

Whereas, since presently MTA's fleet of SBS-branded buses are equipped with a pair of simultaneously blue flashing lights located above the windshield, it would be easy to change the color to purple with little cost to MTA; now

Therefore, be it

Resolved, that that Manhattan Community Board Six supports Assembly Bill 6076C and Senate Bill S05703B, which amends the Vehicle and Traffic Law § 375(41) and authorizes MTA buses to use flashing purple lights by adding a new subparagraph a-1 to the statute which includes the MTA's buses as an additional category of vehicles permitted to use such lights – provided, however, that in the heading and text of the legislation the phrase “a blue light” be replaced by the phrase “a pair of forward-facing simultaneously flashing purple lights” wherever it appears, and this amendment shall be deemed to ratify and authorize all past, present, and future use of the same. Community Board Six urges the Governor of New York State to sign such bill into law.

Be it further

Resolved, that Manhattan Community Board Six urges the MTA, (while the Legislature proceeds with its efforts to enact curative legislation), to explore all avenues to consider other alternatives to make SBS buses easily distinguishable to other buses.