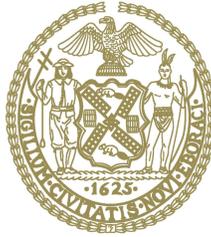


DISTRICT OFFICE
500 WEST 141ST STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10031
(212) 928-6814
FAX: (646) 582-1408

CITY HALL OFFICE
250 BROADWAY, RM. 1816
NEW YORK, NY 10007
(212) 788-7007
FAX: (646) 582-1408

district7@council.nyc.gov



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THE CITY OF NEW YORK

MARK D. LEVINE

COUNCIL MEMBER, 7TH DISTRICT, MANHATTAN

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July 2, 2015

Manhattan Borough Commissioner Margaret Forgione
NYC Department of Transportation
55 Water St
New York, NY 10041

Dear Borough Commissioner Forgione:

We write this letter to reiterate our support of an extension of the bus only lane on 125th Street to Central and West Harlem. Not only is this matter highly important to our constituents, it is also essential to the many commuters who take this route daily.

East Harlem currently enjoys the benefits of a bus-only lane, and has seen substantial transit improvements after its implementation. Since May, 2014, bus riders traveling east of Lenox Avenue on 125th Street have reaped the rewards from a bus-only lane, with bus speeds as much as 34 percent faster than before the lane was installed. GPS data from taxis show that cars traveling east of Lenox Avenue are also moving faster.

West of Lenox Avenue is a very different story. 125th Street is a vital artery for all uptown residents, as tens of thousands rely on bus travel on the M100, M101, Bx15, M60 and M104 lines each day. Buses on this stretch creep along at little more than three miles per hour on average—barely as fast as walking speed. Riders who rely on these lines deserve transit opportunities equal to those anywhere else in the city, and should be able to count on service that's both dependable and efficient.

It is time to give Central and West Harlem the benefit of faster service on the M100, M101, Bx15, M60 and M104 lines - the most viable transportation options for these commuters - by extending the 125th Street bus-only lane west to at least Amsterdam Avenue. There are bus-only lanes in wealthier parts of Manhattan, like the Upper East Side and Midtown, but not along the

whole length of 125th Street. On behalf of our constituents and all others affected by this issue, we ask that this transit inequity be addressed so that our side of Manhattan may be able to benefit from a bus-only lane.

Thank you for your consideration in this vital matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Mark Levine

Council Member, 7th District, Manhattan



Adriano Espaillat

State Senator, 31st Senate District