



Matthew S. Washington  
**Chairman**

George Sarkissian  
**District Manager**

## COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN  
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July 10, 2013

Carmen Bianco  
Acting President  
MTA New York City Transit  
2 Broadway  
New York, NY 10004

Margaret Forgione  
Manhattan Borough Commissioner  
New York City Department of Transportation  
59 Maiden Lane, 35th Floor  
New York, NY 10038

Dear President Bianco & Commissioner Forgione,

Community Board 11 is opposed to the revised plan for the implementation of the M60 Select Bus Service on 125th Street, as presented by MTA New York City Transit (NYCT) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) on June 18, 2013, unless NYCT commits to, and executes on, the relocation of the M35 bus stop from its current location at the northwest corner of 125<sup>th</sup> Street and Lexington Avenue, and presents alternate relocation scenarios, including 125<sup>th</sup> Street between Lexington Avenue and Third Avenue, that are satisfactory to and supported by our Board.

We recognize the need for traffic and bus service improvements along the 125<sup>th</sup> Street corridor and will continue to work with your agencies in developing solutions to alleviate the serious congestion issues affecting the corridor. However, we also recognize the severe sidewalk congestion that directly results from the current location of the M35 bus stop at 125<sup>th</sup> Street. Throughout the day, hundreds of passengers converge on Lexington Avenue at 125<sup>th</sup> Street to await the next M35 bus. The available sidewalk space for pedestrian traffic at this location is further narrowed by the sidewalk entrance of the 125<sup>th</sup> Street subway station. At peak congestion times, this sidewalk is often impassable for pedestrians trying to get to their destination. Despite the requests by this board to NYCT over the past decade (see attached letter) for the stop to be relocated to a more suitable location, that has not happened and this sidewalk congestion problem has been allowed to persist because of inaction.

Recently, CB11 along with community stakeholders again raised the bus stop relocation issue in the context of your proposed traffic and bus service improvements along the 125<sup>th</sup> Street corridor. Our office and board members participated in several planning meetings related to these

proposed improvements. On top of those meetings, our office assembled a working group of community stakeholders and City agencies, including NYCT, to identify issues contributing to the sidewalk congestion at the bus stop location, and to work constructively to identify reasonable scenarios for its relocation. To date, we have been disappointed with NYCT's response to possible relocation sites suggested by working group members. Our office worked to develop suggestions that met NYCT's stated goal of siting bus stops in a manner that facilitates ease of transfer between modes of public transportation and accounts for the ability of bus operators to safely navigate local streets and busy intersections. NYCT's suggestion to move the current stop north several feet from its current location was unacceptable as it fails to adequately address the sidewalk congestion issue and would prevent ambulettes from accessing the entrance to AHRC, a non-profit organization serving developmentally disabled individuals with severe medical conditions.

Among the alternate locations submitted for NYCT's consideration was the south side of 125<sup>th</sup> Street between Lexington and Third Avenues adjacent to the Pathmark supermarket. This alternate location has been supported by the owners of the adjacent property, the management of the supermarket as well as local community stakeholders. A relocated bus stop at this location would benefit from an extra wide sidewalk, low pedestrian traffic volumes, no commercial or building entrances to be obstructed by waiting passengers, and an entrance for the 125<sup>th</sup> Street subway station.

We request that NYCT and DOT explore reasonable relocation scenarios which address the concerns of our community, continue to study the feasibility of implementing a protected left turn at the intersection of 125<sup>th</sup> Street and Lexington Avenue, and report the findings of the study to our office. We expect to continue dialogue with each of your respective agencies to identify and implement traffic and bus service improvements for the 125<sup>th</sup> Street corridor, including many of the elements of the proposed M60 Select Bus Service plan.

We hope to work with you to address these and other matters impacting transportation in the East Harlem community.

If you have any questions, please contact our Assistant District Manager, Angel Mescaín-Archer, at 212-831-8929 or amescain.cb11@gmail.com.

Sincerely,



Matthew S. Washington  
Chairman  
Community Board 11

Enclosure (1)

cc: Thomas F. Prendergast, Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
Janette Sadik-Khan, New York City Department of Transportation  
Hon. Melissa Mark-Viverito, New York City Council (via email)  
Hon. Inez Dickens, New York City Council (via email)  
Hon. Robert J. Rodriguez, New York State Assembly (via email)  
Hon. Keith L.T. Wright, New York State Assembly (via email)  
Hon. Bill Perkins, New York State Senate (via email)  
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Manhattan Borough President (via email)  
Peggy Morales, Community Board 11 (via email)



Robert Rodriguez  
Chair

George Sarkissian  
District Manager

## COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

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April 28, 2008

MTA New York City Transit  
Howard H. Roberts Jr.  
President  
2 Broadway  
New York, NY 10004

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Manhattan Community Board Eleven is formally requesting that the MTA consider moving the M35 bus stop from its current location on Lexington Avenue between East 125<sup>th</sup> Street and East 126<sup>th</sup> Street. This stop has been a constant area of contention and we truly believe that in the interest of pedestrian safety it must be moved to a less congested location.

The 125<sup>th</sup> Street Alliance has submitted a proposal that we would support as it moves the stop to an underutilized area in front of the Pathmark Supermarket on East 125<sup>th</sup> Street between Lexington and Third Avenues. This move would still be within close proximity to the subway entrance/exit and would relieve some of the problems that currently exist.

We look forward to a response and hope to work collaboratively to rectify this situation. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact the board office at 212-831-8929/30.

Sincerely,

Robert Rodriguez  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board Eleven