

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
105 EAST 116TH STREET  
NEW YORK, NY 10029  
(212) 828-9800  
FAX: (212) 722-6378

**CITY HALL OFFICE**  
250 BROADWAY, ROOM 1882  
NEW YORK, NY 10007  
(212) 788-6960  
FAX: (212) 442-1564  
mviverito@council.nyc.gov



THE COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

**MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO**

COUNCIL MEMBER, 8<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

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August 12, 2013

Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan  
New York City Department of Transportation  
55 Water Street  
New York, NY 10013

Re: Select Bus Service along 125th Street

Dear Commissioner Sadik-Khan:

I am writing to express my continued support for the proposed Select Bus Service (SBS) route along 125th Street in Manhattan. This project would deliver significantly improved bus service to my constituents, many of whom do not have access to a vehicle and who overwhelmingly rely on public transportation. SBS on 125th Street will expedite bus travel for tens of thousands of daily bus riders, and I believe strongly that we should continue to pursue this proposal. At the same time, I have heard the concerns of El Barrio/East Harlem residents regarding the placement of the M35 bus stop on Lexington Avenue. The alternate proposal to move the stop in front of the Pathmark is one that I support, and one that I would ask that DOT work with MTA New York City Transit to advance. In the meantime, however, DOT should continue the work to bring SBS to this important corridor.

Almost 75 percent of households in Manhattan's Community Board 11 do not have access to a vehicle, and over 70 percent of CB 11 residents commute via public transportation. Our streets and transportation infrastructure must benefit all members of our community, and I believe that discontinuing this project is a huge disservice to my constituents.

Right now, 125th Street is known as a commercial corridor notoriously choked with traffic. Given that most visitors to 125th Street are arriving on foot or via public transportation, the focus should be placed on improving bus travel times with dedicated bus lanes, off-board fare collection, and new signal technology that will encourage even greater use of public transportation options. Helping buses move more quickly along 125<sup>th</sup> Street will also improve the pedestrian experience on this corridor, which experiences heavy congestion on its sidewalks. With these improvements, it is no surprise that where SBS has been implemented thus far, bus ridership has grown, bringing more potential customers to each corridor.

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I urge you to re-engage in this important project. I look forward to continuing to work with you, my constituents, and other stakeholders along the proposed route to push this project forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa Mark-Viverito', with a stylized, cursive script.

Melissa Mark-Viverito  
Council Member, District 8