



Queens Civic Congress

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Queens Civic Congress Questions MTA's Proposed Service Cuts

Statement by Queens Civic Congress President Corey Bearak

Queens Civic Congress, a coalition of over 110 civic, community, cooperative, tenant and other organizations in the borough of Queens, commends Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Board Member Allen Cappelli for voting to maintain bus and subway service but questions the other MTA Board Members who voted to cut core bus and subway service rather than insist agency look at other parts of its budget. While cuts to central salaries – to be implemented in the Spring when new revenue estimates could obviate that one set of reductions, Queens Civic Congress looks to the MTA to do more than symbolism. The public demands more of the MTA. The MTA must seize this opportunity to review how it contracts out, including for professional services. Queens Civic Congress recently received information about how the MTA handles its legal services. Concerns exist that this similar waste exists elsewhere. The MTA must also re-think the mega projects in the capital program BEFORE imposing ANY cuts to bus and subway service.

Many pundits and commentators too often glossed over how transit got shortchanged if not outright robbed of support by the City and the State over the years. Yes times remain tough but better times when they come ought to include new commitments from New York City and State. Queens Civic Congress also urges the MTA, the State and City coalition to get more federal stimulus and other funding to resource transit. And let's not just stop at the stimulus plan; let's make sure before looking to fund the big glossy stuff, we first lock in federal funding to get the track signals modernized. When Queens Civic Congress testified earlier this year ([January 2009](#)) and [November 2007](#), we noted the minuscule aid New York City provides (barely 4% of NYC Transit's operating budget). Innovative [ways](#) exist to resource the state and city to provide stable annual contributions to the transit system that empower the MTA to keep the fares reasonable, if not reduced. We need that approach – reduced fares and service increases – to induce more people to eschew any reliance on cars – something very hard to do living in Queens.

For more two years, Queens Civic Congress promoted specific [revenue](#) measures to provide additional support for mass transit. In [past testimonies](#), Queens Civic [Congress](#) and others noted the discordant variance in funding for mass transit when the City accounts for nearly seven out of every eight state riders moved by some form of mass transit. The ridership continues to increase without a concomitant investment by government at ALL levels. This also has to change. Not service cuts, Cut waste.

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Find Queens Civic Congress [Members](#) on the next page or on the web at:
<http://queensciviccongress.org/organization/members.php>.

The Queens Civic Congress platform, [CIVIC 2030](#) found on the Queens Civic Congress website's platform [link](#), recommends public policies to make New York a better City.

Queens Civic Congress Members

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