



May 2, 2013

Thomas F. Prendergast
Chairman, Metropolitan Transportation Authority
347 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017-3739

Dear Chairman Prendergast:

Last year, in response to shutdowns on the L line that had negative impacts on North Brooklyn, we convened a meeting of local small businesses to discuss ways in which the damage from such disruptions could be mitigated in the future. This meeting culminated in several suggestions and requests from the small business community, as set forth in our letter to the MTA of 2/17/12 (attached).

Among these ideas were requests for “continuing coordination between the MTA and small businesses to ensure shutdowns are not scheduled during key weekends, such as Taste of Williamsburg or Small Business Saturday,” and that the L line not be shut down on three-day weekends.

The MTA’s reply of 3/16/12 (also attached) states that the MTA “has regularly asked all Brooklyn communities along the L line to provide a list of weekends that would be particularly problematic,” and that it “remains committed to doing so.” With regards to shutdowns on three-day weekends, the MTA responded that it is open to future discussion on this issue.

Considering the above, we were disappointed that the MTA issued notification of planned L line shutdowns that coincide with Memorial Day weekend, and the Northside Festival on June 15 - 17, without community consultation.

We understand that planned maintenance to the subway system is essential and shutdown dates will never be ideal, but it is very important that the MTA follow through on its commitment to community engagement and reschedule these shutdowns.

We look forward to working with you on this immediately.

Sincerely,

Daniel Squadron
State Senator

Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

Marty Markowitz
Brooklyn Borough President

Martin Malave Dilan
State Senator

Joseph R. Lentol
State Assemblymember

Stephen Levin
City Councilmember