



September 21, 2015

James Ferrara
Acting President
MTA New York City Transit
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Dear Acting President Ferrara:

We are writing once again regarding the deteriorating condition of the West 4th Street subway station. This station is in desperate need of repair and renovation to improve health, safety, economic viability, and quality of life, and is a constant grievance we hear from our constituents. We ask that MTA New York City Transit do everything in its power to find a rapid solution to fund these repairs, both within and beyond the current MTA Capital Plan.

We understand that the 2015-2019 Capital Plan has been finalized. However, there are still urgently needed repairs that remain to be addressed at West 4th Street, one of the busiest stations in the system with 42,000 daily riders in 2014. Many components that elected officials and community organizations requested be included in the 2015-2019 Capital Plan were left out because they did not receive a high enough priority ranking in the 2012 Station Inspection Report. We believe many of these rankings were assigned haphazardly in light of strained budgets and that they require reevaluation.

Outstanding repairs that are needed include:

- Repair of structural damages caused by many years of water leaks, such as crumbling walls.
- Replacement of broken, missing, and stained subway tiles adjacent to the subway tracks.
- Refurbishment of station entryways, which suffer from dirty, mismatched tiles and flooring as well as inadequate signage.
- Painting of peeling ceilings once the ventilation project is complete.
- Installation of public art – We were informed by former MTA New York City Transit President Carmen Bianco that MTA Arts for Transit's Permanent Arts Program is only applicable when a full station renewal is conducted. However, we were also informed that full station renewals are no longer undertaken due to budgetary constraints. This is a troublesome contradiction that has widespread negative implications for the arts in our city.

We understand that the Capital Plan is massively underfunded, meaning that even inclusion of these vital items in future Capital Plans is not guaranteed. While we look forward to

working with the MTA to identify and support long-term funding solutions for the Capital plan, in the meantime we request the authority explore other creative funding solutions to finance these repairs.

We appreciate that certain components at West 4th Street were included in the most recent Capital Plan. We applaud the work currently being done on the ventilation system, which is expected to improve persistent leaking into the station and associated cracked and peeling paint. Hopefully, this ventilation work will help address the excessive summer heat in the station, which news reports recently found to be in the 90s. We are also pleased to hear that wireless service will be installed in April 2017 as part of a phased approach, and that electronic help points have been added to the platforms. However, much more needs to be done.

Enclosed is a copy of our March 2014 letter to former President Bianco, which discusses the importance of the station and its challenges in further detail, along with the response we received in April 2014.

We thank you for your time and attention to this matter, and ask that you give serious consideration to creative funding solutions. We are happy to meet with you and your staff to discuss this matter further. If you have any questions or to follow up, please contact Tara Klein in Senator Hoylman's office at 212-633-8052.

Sincerely,




Brad Hoylman
State Senator



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President



Deborah J. Glick
Assembly Member



Margaret Chin
City Council Member



Corey Johnson
City Council Member

cc: William Kelley, Executive Director, Village Alliance
Manhattan Community Board 2

Encl.