

**NYC Department of Transportation Testimony Before the
City Council Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises
December 3, 2025**

Good morning, Chair Riley and members of the Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises. I am Michelle Craven, Associate Deputy Commissioner for Cityscape and Franchises at the New York City Department of Transportation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Resolution No. 1157-2025, which would authorize the New York City Department of Transportation to enter into a Coordinated Street Furniture franchise for the installation, operation and maintenance of Coordinated Street Furniture in the Boroughs of the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island.

This Resolution would authorize DOT to seek permission from the New York City Franchise and Concession Review Committee (or FCRC) to enter into a new, non-exclusive, sole source franchise agreement with JCDecaux Street Furniture New York, LLC ("JCDecaux"), the City's current coordinated street furniture franchisee, for three years, eight months, and twenty-four days, expiring on March 22, 2035. The new franchise agreement would consist of substantially the same terms as the existing Coordinated Street Furniture franchise agreement, and it would additionally be consistent with all terms and conditions set forth in Resolution No. 1004-2003, the original authorizing resolution underlying the existing agreement.

To provide some background, in 2006, DOT awarded a 20-year franchise to Cemusa, Inc. for the construction, installation, and maintenance of bus stop shelters, newsstands, automated public toilets (APTs), and public service structures. In 2015, the FCRC approved a Change in Control to JCDecaux North America, Inc., making JCDecaux the new franchisee. Subsequently, in 2023, the City Council approved an authorizing resolution permitting a five-year extension to the current franchise agreement, and the FCRC approved this extension along with other amendments to the franchise agreement. With the five-year extension, the current franchise agreement will expire on June 26, 2031, twenty-five years after its commencement, matching the maximum term permitted by Section 363 of the City Charter.

Three weeks ago, this Subcommittee held a hearing on Resolution No. 1109-2025, regarding the City's franchise agreement with CityBridge, LLC, for the installation and maintenance of Public Communication Structures. That franchise is managed by the City's Office of Technology and Innovation and is currently scheduled to expire on March 22, 2030. If the Council approves this resolution, it will amend the authorizing resolution for the Public Communications Structures franchise by authorizing OTI to amend and extend the franchise for five years. With that extension, the City's Public Communication Structures franchise would expire on March 22, 2035.

The City is interested in exploring the possibility of combining the Coordinated Street Furniture and Public Communication Structures franchises into one consolidated franchise. This consolidation would potentially allow for greater capital investment and sustained revenue for the City. Approval of Resolution No. 1157-2025 in conjunction with Resolution No. 1109-2025

would make the two existing franchises coterminous, thereby providing the City with the flexibility to explore that option.

Approval will also provide stability during the additional three-year, eight months, and twenty-four-day period. JCDecaux will continue to maintain the existing street furniture to their current standards. In addition, it will provide revenue stability, as JCDecaux will pay the City a guaranteed minimum plus the revenue share of advertising for a total of approximately \$200 million from 2031 to 2035. Further, JCDecaux will continue to provide millions of dollars per year in overseas advertising for no additional cost, which will aid the City by promoting tourism.

In conclusion, the Administration supports this Resolution which would allow DOT to seek permission from the FCRC to enter into a new franchise agreement for Coordinated Street Furniture. We would be happy to answer any questions.