

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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September 12, 2018  
Start: 10:28 a.m.  
Recess: 10:33 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: YDANIS A. RODRIGUEZ  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Fernando Cabrera  
Costa G. Constantinides  
Chaim M. Deutsch  
Ruben Diaz, Sr.  
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.  
Peter A. Koo  
Stephen T. Levin  
Mark Levine  
Carlos Menchaca  
I. Daneek Miller  
Antonio Reynoso  
Donovan J. Richards  
Deborah L. Rose  
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

2 [sound check] [pause]

3 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Good morning  
4 everyone who come to tis hearing, this hearing of the  
5 City Council transportation Committee. I am Ydanis  
6 Rodriguez, the Chair of this Committee. First, let  
7 me recognize my colleagues who are here with us  
8 today: Council Member Cabrera, Deutsch, Espinal,  
9 Koo, Menchaca, Salamanca, Diaz and Richards. Today  
10 we will be voting on two bills and every solution  
11 relation to the L Train shutdown. Starting April  
12 2019, there will be no L Train service between  
13 Brooklyn and Manhattan for 15 months, and the city  
14 needs to be prepared. I am proud to be a co-sponsor  
15 of the two bills both introduced together with  
16 Speaker Corey Johnson. The first, Proposed Intro  
17 989-A will require the Department of Transportation  
18 in coordination with the MTA to designate at least  
19 one community information center in each of  
20 Manhattan, the Manhattan and Brooklyn—and Brooklyn  
21 during the L Train shutdown. The community  
22 information centers will provide resources and  
23 information to members of the public regarding the  
24 reconstruction and the city and the MTA's alternative  
25 transportation options. The second bill is Proposed

2 Intro 990-A, which will require the Department of  
3 Transportation to have an ambudsperson for the length  
4 of the L Train shutdown. This ombudsperson will be  
5 tasked with receiving and investigating complaints  
6 and comments in connection with shut-the shutdown,  
7 and would give the public clarity in knowing where to  
8 turn with their concerns during the 15-month  
9 shutdown. We will also be voting on Resolution No.  
10 377 introduced by my colleague Council Member Rafael  
11 Espinal urging the governor and the MTA to commit to  
12 quickly transition to an electric bus fleet and to  
13 use electric buses as a robust part of the  
14 replacement plan during the upcoming L Train  
15 shutdown. I would also like to recognize Council  
16 Member Costa Constantinides. I would like to thank  
17 Speaker Johnson for his support and leadership on  
18 these bills. I now call for the vote on Proposed  
19 Intros 989-A and 990-A and Resolution 377. I  
20 recommend a yes vote, and I ask the Committee Clerk  
21 to please call the roll.

22 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ:

23 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk.

24 Roll call vote Committee on Transportation. The  
25 items are coupled. Chair Rodriguez.

2 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: [off mic] Aye.

3 CLERK: Cabrera.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

5 CLERK: Constantinides.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

7 CLERK: Deutsch.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

9 CLERK: Espinal.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Permission to  
11 explain my vote?

12 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: [off mic] Yes.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I first and  
14 foremost want to thank the Chair Ydanis Rodriguez for  
15 brining this resolution that's part of—of this vote.  
16 I want to highlight that this resolution introduced  
17 over a year ago working with the Sierra Club to—to  
18 highlight an important issue when it comes to the L  
19 Train shutdown. Yes, the train is being shut down,  
20 but we have to make sure that we use that opportunity  
21 to introduce greener transportation options. The MTA  
22 currently plans on purchasing 200 diesel fuel buses,  
23 and place them in some—in some of the neighborhoods  
24 that have the worst air quality that the city has to  
25 offer, and that's North Brooklyn and Lower Manhattan.

2 I think now more than ever it's important that we  
3 address the issues of air quality, climate change and  
4 transitioning to an electric bus fleet is the right  
5 way forward. Yes, they've committed to purchasing  
6 ten buses, and starting a pilot program, but this is  
7 a pilot program that's going to go on for three years  
8 while the L Train shuts down a few months from today.  
9 So, 200 diesel buses is not the best way to move  
10 forward. We have to make sure there's a robust plan  
11 to introduce electric buses and this opportunity.  
12 Other cities, other countries had done it, and it's  
13 time for us to get with the times, and making sure  
14 we're doing our part, and we have to remember that  
15 the reason the L Train is being shut down is because  
16 of Hurricane Sandy, a hurricane that we look back on  
17 and can—and can point to climate change as being the  
18 reason that that occurred here in New York City. So,  
19 we must urge the governor, urge the MTA that now more  
20 than ever we have to make this transition. Thank  
21 you.

22 CLERK: Koo.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote aye.

24 CLERK: Menchaca.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

2 CLERK: Richards.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

4 CLERK: Salamanca.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye.

6 CLERK: Diaz.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Aye.

8 CLERK: By a vote of 10 in the  
9 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,  
10 all items have been adopted by the committee.

11 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: So, with that, we  
12 conclude this hearing, and I would like to encourage  
13 everyone to be ready for the second MTA train station  
14 tour we are looking to have on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>,  
15 our second one, and again, in this—in this October,  
16 we're looking to go around through same train station  
17 that we did last year, and compare how service have  
18 been improved. With that, this hearing is adjourned.

19 [gavel]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date September 18, 2018