



Bus Company

January 9, 2009

Mr. John Stiene, Jr.
78 Pell Place
City Island, NY 10464

Re: Discontinuance of the BxM7B City Island Bus

Dear Mr. Stiene:

This is in response to your letter to H. Dale Hemmerdinger, MTA Chairman, regarding the discontinuance of the BxM7B City Island Bus.

The proposed discontinuation of the BxM7B (City Island-Midtown Express) is being considered as one of several actions in response to an extremely weak economic environment and resulting severe budget gap. All MTA agencies have developed several additional actions, including service revisions which may be required to achieve a balanced budget. In evaluating proposed service reduction actions, every effort was made to identify those actions that would achieve savings while minimizing the impact to our customers. These service reductions are still only proposals and can be changed if there is an increase in funding to help balance the budget, as recommended in the recent Ravitch Commission report.

The BxM7B is one of a few MTA Bus Company routes that perform well below the system-wide average, and is one of the least-utilized routes in the system. There are also other transit options between City Island and Manhattan. Because of these reasons, the BxM7B was chosen as a route for possible discontinuation. BxM7B customers would continue to have the option of using the Bx29 to Pelham Bay Park station where transfers can be made to or from the BxM7A express bus, or the **6** subway to or from Manhattan. During the weekday peak periods, when the BxM7B currently provides, the Bx29 operates every 15 minutes, and the BxM7A and the **6** subway operates frequent service with express service through the Bronx. Transfers using a MetroCard can be made at no additional charge between the Bx29 and the BxM7A, and are free between the Bx29 and the subway.

In your letter you provided three possible recommendations as alternatives to discontinuation of the BxM7B:

1. *Reduce service frequency on other, more frequent routes, such as Co-op City (BxM7) or Pelham Bay (BxM7A) so that those resources can be used to maintain the BxM7B.*

Frequency reductions on the BxM7 (Co-op City-Midtown express) and BxM7A (Pelham Bay-Midtown express) routes are already being considered as a proposed savings action, in addition to the discontinuation of the BxM7B. It should be noted that reductions in express bus frequencies are being considered throughout the MTA Bus Company system to achieve the required savings.

2. *Reduce the frequency of the BxM7B from two trips in each direction to one trip in each direction (one AM trip to Manhattan and one PM trip to City Island)*

Reduction of BxM7B service to one trip in each direction is a possible alternative that will be considered if revenue improves. However, this would not achieve the full savings that would result from a full discontinuation of the BxM7B, as operating costs would remain for these two trips.

3. *Start two morning Pelham Bay trips (BxM7A) from City Island and extend two evening Pelham Bay Trips (BxM7A to City Island).*

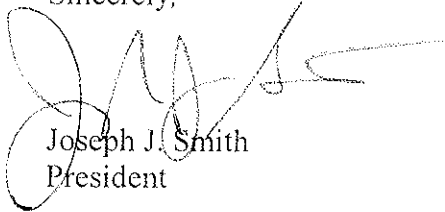
Extension of two morning and two evening BxM7A trips also does not achieve the necessary savings that would be gained by a full discontinuation of the BxM7B. As previously mentioned, the frequency reductions are proposed on the BxM7A (Pelham Bay). These reductions are intended to more closely match the ridership demand to the capacity of the bus. Therefore, in order to accommodate City Island customers, additional BxM7A trips would be required. These trips would negate the effect of the discontinuation of the BxM7B.

Discontinuation of the BxM7B is only one component of a comprehensive cost savings plan for MTA Bus Company. The BxM7B is a route with low utilization, and a limited service market with alternative transit options available, which unfortunately, makes it a candidate for discontinuation.

Mr. John Stiene, Jr.
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If you have any further concerns, please contact Diane Bobetsky, Senior Customer Service Analyst at 718 888-6036.

Sincerely,



Joseph J. Smith
President

cc: H. Dale Hemmerdinger (2008-001220)
H. H. Roberts, Jr. (12160805)

January 14, 2009

URGENT: Discontinuance of the City Island Express Bus 7B

Dear Fellow Express Bus Rider and City Islander,

Please read the attached letter from the MTA Bus Company which I received in response to a letter I had mailed them voicing my concerns to save the City Island 7B Express Bus.

THE MTA'S RESPONSE IMPLIES BY NO MEANS IS OUR EXPRESS SERVICE SECURE! THIS LETTER INDICATES TO ME THE MTA IS HELL BENT ON TERMINATING OUR EXPRESS BUS SERVICE WITH NO OTHER OPTIONS EXCEPT THE BX29 TO PELHAM BECAUSE IT WILL SAVE THEM MONEY.

The MTA by terminating our Express Bus Service is alienating City Island and adding substantial complexity and time to our commute.

None of the other Bronx communities are losing their Express Bus Service completely.

I made several recommendations to the MTA to save our Express Bus Service such as elimination 1 of the 7B buses, or extend 1 or 2 of the 7A Buses out to City Island and the MTA rejected all of these as not "SAVING ENOUGH MONEY". Really, how much cost would be incurred to send a bus for another 15 minutes?

There was nothing said about the bus drivers employment status either. If you don't have mass layoffs how much money do you save? Lets be real here.

I also received a letter from Michael R. Benedetto, Member of NY State Assembly. (See Attached). Mr. Benedetto supports us

**The MTA'S attitude is cavalier and laced with indifference.
Please be active write your City and State Politicians listed on
the attached sheet.**

**John Stiene
Fellow Express Bus Rider & City Island Resident**



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

MICHAEL R. BENEDETTO
Assemblyman 82nd District
Bronx, NY

COMMITTEES
Agriculture
Consumer Affairs
and Protection
Education
Government Operations
Housing
Labor

January 7, 2009

Mr. John Stiene Jr.
78 Pell Place
City Island, NY 10464

Dear Mr. Stiene,

Thank you for your letter in regard to MTA's proposal to eliminate the City Island express bus service.

I believe that this is outrageous and will not save a significant amount of money. It will, however, serve to isolate City Island!

I will be working with Councilman Vacca and Senator Klein to find ways to save the bus route.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Benedetto
Member of Assembly

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The MTA does not provide direct e-mail addresses so you must log on to the NYCTA web-site, select contact us on the left side of the screen. Your personal information must be completed to set up an account and then you can cut and paste a letter to the MTA.

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