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Gale A. Brewer, Borough President

December 18, 2018

Andy Byford
President
MTA-New York City Transit
2 Broadway
New York, New York 10004

Dear President Byford,

I write to request that New York City Transit re-evaluate its planned travel alternatives during the upcoming closure of the 168th Street 1-train station for elevator repairs. As you are aware, the closure of the 168th Street station for a year will have large impacts on the nearly 26,000 daily riders coming predominantly from the Washington Heights and Inwood communities so ample alternative travel service must be provided.

The enhanced M5 bus service you will be offering during the station closure, as well as other free transfers, will not sufficiently address the difficulties caused by this closure. I request that your staff consider the possibility of bi-directional bus shuttle service to the 168th street station. These buses would provide service from both the 157th street and 181st street stations.

Additionally, since this area is especially congested during rush hour, I ask that your staff—as well as NYC DOT staff—evaluate the possibility of temporarily installing bus lanes that would serve the shuttle buses as well as portions of the M3, M4, and M5 routes. Furthermore, I ask that you include these proposed shuttle buses on the BusTime and MYmta apps, so riders can plan their travel and anticipate bus arrival times.

The 168th Street station serves New York Presbyterian Hospital, a critically important facility, as well as the Columbia University Dialysis Center and the ARC XVI Senior Center. It is essential that travelers and employees be able to access these sites at all times. It is my hope that when this station closes for badly-needed repairs that we provide travel alternatives that minimize these impacts to the fullest extent possible. Unfortunately, the currently-planned travel alternatives do not achieve this goal.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Should you have questions, please contact Natalie Espino in my office at 212-669-2258 or nespino@manhattanbp.nyc.gov.

Sincerely,

Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President

cc: Polly Trottenberg, Commissioner, NYC DOT
Rob Marino, Acting Vice President of Government and Community Relations, NYCT
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager, Community Board 12