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## The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

### Roosevelt Island Committee

Monday, March 3, 2014

6:30PM

546 Main Street 12<sup>th</sup> Floor

Roosevelt Island, NY

**Members Present:** Jeffrey R. Escobar and Larry Parnes, Co-Chairs, Ellen Polivy, Ed Hartzog

**Public Members Present:** Judith Berdy, Judith Buck

**Transportation Committee Member Present:** Scott Falk, co-chair

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm.

### 1. Discussion of the Q102 Bus line on Roosevelt Island/ Held jointly with Transportation Committee

The discussion was held as a follow-up to the Transportation Committee's meeting on the Q 102 bus held on April 13, 2013.

Marcus Book, Assistant Director of Government and Community Relations for New York City Transit indicated that schedule adjustments to improve reliability in service went into effect in January, 2014. However, because ridership on the route is low, additional service should not be expected.

Charles Psaila, Superintendent of Transportation, Queens North road Operations, New York City Transit noted the Roosevelt Island Red Bus service would be free starting on April 1, 2014. Many people who now use the Q 102 bus instead of paying the current 25 cent fare (especially at the subway station) would likely use the Red Bus after April 1. This should also help improve the reliability of the Q 102 service. In order to continue to serve Southpoint Park and the FDR Memorial, the bus would use the west road when it temporarily becomes 2 ways due the demolition of Goldwater Hospital. NYCT has been in contact with Cornell and will use the turnaround at the southern end of the loop road that will be constructed by Cornell.

There were several questions from the public:

Several of the bus stops on Roosevelt Island do not have schedule information posted. Mr. Book said he would look into that.

The Director of Operations of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation noted that service has been better and asked if the Q 102 bus could stop directly in front of the Roosevelt Island Tram station and that it stop at the same stops that the Red Bus uses. The bus' current route has it coming on the island and then first going north to Coler Hospital than to the south end of the

island and proceeding north again and leaving the island. He suggested that this route be reversed during PM rush hours.

A question was asked if the Q 102 bus route could be extended further south to Long Island City and to the shopping areas in Astoria. NYCT pointed out that a transfer can be made to the Q 103 bus which runs on Vernon Boulevard. A resident suggested that the Q 103 bus go across the Roosevelt Island Bridge, stop at the Motorgate Garage and then continue around the circle back across the bridge to continue its regular route.

The chief nurse at Coler Hospital asked for more frequent service to the hospital as the hospital's shuttle service has been discontinued. She also said that there have been times when a scheduled bus has not arrived at the hospital.

Another island resident was worried about possible cuts in service. She said that there are residents who can't use the tram or subway and rely on the Q 102 Bus to get off the island.

Committee members had comments as well:

Ed Hartzog asked for ridership numbers.

Judy Buck mentioned that some of the Q 102 bus drivers are not courteous to handicapped riders and agreed with the suggestion to reverse the route during the PM rush hour.

Scott Falk noted that buses on the Q 102 route are older vehicles with wheel chair lifts that do not work well. He also asked about the MTA's Bus Time feature that allows someone to find out the location of the next bus and the approximate time before it arrives. (Note – as of Monday, March 10, this information is available for all five boroughs. Go to [http://web.mta.info/nyct/MTA\\_BusTime.htm](http://web.mta.info/nyct/MTA_BusTime.htm) for more info.)

Jeff Escobar noted that providing better transit access to Roosevelt Island is the subject of the West Queens Transportation Study being conducted by the Department of City Planning. The recommendations of that study are expected in the spring.

Ellen Polivy asked about the possibility of having a bus route from the island to Downtown Brooklyn

Judy Berdy noted that MTA has a new bus route (Q 70) that runs directly from the Roosevelt Avenue/74<sup>th</sup> Street subway station (7, E, F, M, R) lines to La Guardia Airport and noted it is much less expensive than taking a taxi. She asked the MTA to post notices about this route on Roosevelt Island.

The committee indicated that we would ask NYCT back later this year or early next year for a further update.

The committee briefly discussed the lack of a schedule for further presentations by Cornell/NYC Tech concerning the design of the Residential Building, open space and executive conference center/hotel.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm

**Jeffrey Escobar and Laurence Parnes, Co-Chairs**