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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan**

March 21, 2023

Shelton Haynes
President & CEO
Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation
524 Main Street
Roosevelt Island, NY 10044

Janno Lieber, Chair and CEO
MTA New York City Transit
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

RE: Impacts of “F” Train/63rd Street Tunnel Construction

Dear President Haynes and Chair Lieber,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on March 15, 2023, the board unanimously approved the following resolution by a vote of 37 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 0 not voting for cause.

WHEREAS; the MTA’s 63rd Street Line Direct Fixation Track Rehabilitation Project, impacting the F Line serving Queens, Roosevelt Island and Manhattan, is to be performed in the Spring, Summer and Autumn of 2023; and

WHEREAS; F train service will be significantly impacted by the 63rd Street Line Direct Fixation Track Rehabilitation Project, including two months apiece in phases 1 and 3 when trains will only operate in one direction, and on 5 weekends when both directions of service will be suspended; and;

WHEREAS; A large majority of Roosevelt Islanders use the F train as primary means of transit; and

WHEREAS; the F train is also a primary mode of transportation for visitors, students and workers who travel to Roosevelt Island; and

WHEREAS; Users of the Roosevelt Island F Train Station will be disproportionately impacted by the project, as they will face additional travel time required for Roosevelt Island subway passengers of at least 20 minutes in order to backtrack through Queens or Manhattan;

WHEREAS; Persons with disabilities and other passengers who rely on subway stations with elevators will require even more additional travel time, as they will have to travel 3 additional stops through Queens to Jackson Hts./Roosevelt Avenue when traveling through Queens since the closest available transfer at Steinway St. is not ADA accessible, and one additional stop through Manhattan to 47-50 St./Rockefeller Center as 57th St./6th Avenue is not ADA Accessible;

WHEREAS; Roosevelt Island is also served by the Roosevelt Island Tram and NYC Ferry's Astoria Route, which are likely to see much more passenger activity throughout the track rehabilitation project; and

WHEREAS; even during times when F train service is operating normally, the Roosevelt Island Tram often encounters long lines and overcrowding, requiring passengers to wait for the next available tram during peak travel periods; and

WHEREAS; it is anticipated that Roosevelt Island Tram overcrowding will be exacerbated during the track rehabilitation project when many F train passengers will find the Tram as their fastest option, especially during warmer weather months when tourists flock to the Tram to visit Roosevelt Island; and

WHEREAS; the Roosevelt Island Tram has not yet been upgraded to the MTA's OMNY fare payment system, and requires use of MetroCards in order to for passengers to obtain a free transfer to NYC Transit Subways and Buses; and

WHEREAS; NYC Ferry is not an affiliate agency of the MTA for fare payment, and thus doesn't use MetroCard/OMNY and doesn't allow free transfers to/from the Roosevelt Island Tram or NYC Transit Subways and Buses;

WHEREAS; no current timeline for OMNY to be installed for the Roosevelt Island Tram has been provided by the MTA; and

WHEREAS; Roosevelt Island F Train users who use the Tram as an alternative during the track rehabilitation project will need to revert to the antiquated MetroCard, losing the convenience, features and improved user experience that OMNY has provided;

WHEREAS; MetroCard Vending Machines located on Roosevelt Island have a history of being unreliable and are often out of service, and when operational often have long lines of both residents and visitors waiting to purchase a MetroCard or add value to their cards; and

WHEREAS; any potential maintenance on the Roosevelt Island Tram that may impact levels of service would further cause overcrowding while the track rehabilitation project is occurring;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 Manhattan requests that New York City Transit provide shuttle buses from Roosevelt Island to Queens and Manhattan for the entire duration of the MTA's 63rd Street Line Direct Fixation Track Rehabilitation Project;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Board 8 Manhattan requests that New York City Transit should provide more frequent service on the Q102 bus route, linking Roosevelt Island to Queens, for the duration of the track rehabilitation project;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Board 8 Manhattan requests that the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation ("RIOC") commit to operating the Roosevelt Island Tram at maximum levels of service for the duration of this rehabilitation work;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Board 8 Manhattan requests that RIOC ensure that any essential maintenance of the Tram should be scheduled to avoid to the fullest extent possible the timeframe in which one direction of Roosevelt Island subway service is suspended;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Board 8 Manhattan requests that MTA expeditiously address any MetroCard vending machine malfunctions or outages at both sides of the Roosevelt Island Tram and keep them in full working order for the duration at all times throughout the duration of the track rehabilitation project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Board 8 Manhattan requests that the MTA expedite the implementation of the MTA's OMNY Fare Payment System at both stations of the Roosevelt Island Tram, and that the MTA work with RIOC to formalize all agreements to enable this to occur before the beginning of Phase 1 of the Track Rehabilitation Project on May 1, 2023.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

Russell Squire

Russell Squire
Chair

Craig Lader and Charles Warren

Craig Lader and Charles Warren
Co-Chairs, Transportation Committee

Paul Krikler

Paul Krikler
Chair, Roosevelt Island Committee

cc: Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York
Honorable Eric Adams, Mayor of the City of New York
Honorable Carolyn Maloney, 12th Congressional District Representative
Honorable Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District
Honorable José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District
Honorable Dan Quart, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District
Honorable Julie Menin, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District