

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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April 24, 2017
Start: 10:58 a.m.
Recess: 11:33 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm,
14th Fl.

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Daniel R. Garodnick
James Vacca
Margaret S. Chin
Stephen T. Levin
Deborah L. Rose
James G. Van Bramer
David G. Greenfield
Costa G. Constantinides
Carlos Menchaca
I. Daneek Miller
Antonio Reynoso
Donovan J. Richards
Jumaane D. Williams
Helen K. Rosenthal
Eric A. Ulrich

COUNCIL MEMBERS: (CONTINUED)

Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.

Rafael Salamanca, Jr.

Chaim M. Deutsch

Mark Levine

Barry S. Grodenchik

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

2 [sound check]

3 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Transportation,
4 please. Transportation. [background comments]

5 Thank you, Jumaane. Thank you, Jumaane. [background
6 comments]

7 [pause]

8 [sound check]

9 [pause]

10 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Good afternoon

11 and welcome to our New York City Council

12 Transportation Committee hearing. My name is Ydanis

13 Rodriguez and I am the Chair of this Committee.

14 We've been joined by my colleagues, Council Members

15 Vacca, Chin, Rose, Van Bramer, Richards, and Reynoso.

16 Today we will vote on two pieces of

17 legislation: Intro 965-A, introduced by myself, and

18 Intro 1311-A, introduced by Council Member Deutsch.

19 I would like to add my name to Intro 1311-A,

20 introduced by my colleague.

21 Intro 965-A will require the City

22 Department of Transportation to submit a study to the

23 Council on transit deserts, or areas cut off from

24 subway access, as well as recommendations on a

25 strategy to ensure residents in these communities

1
2 have ample options for public transit. [background
3 comment]

4 I introduced this bill because there is a
5 proven relationship between access to public transit
6 and economic opportunities. Furthermore, areas in
7 our city cut off from transit are more likely to have
8 higher rates of car ownership, according to census
9 data analyzed by the Tri-State Transportation
10 Campaign.

11 Following the second annual Car Free Day
12 -- and thank everyone for your support -- in our city
13 this past weekend, key aspects of this celebration
14 are thinking about how to reduce our city's reliance
15 on cars and the importance of investing in public
16 transit.

17 For parts of Queens, Brooklyn, the Bronx,
18 and most of Staten Island subway stations are scarce;
19 meaning, residents are left to purchase a car or rely
20 on unreliable bus service.

21 This bill is about how highlighting these
22 issues and strategizing about how we can deploy
23 limited resources in the most cost-effective way, as
24 well as where larger investments are needed to bring
25 communities into the transit network, from enhancing

1
2 [sic] our buses, to using more BRT features, to
3 building improve cycling and pedestrian
4 infrastructure, to thinking about the possibility of
5 light rail along existing rail corridors. We hope
6 this study will prove solution-oriented with a
7 **[inaudible]** roadmap to follow. I am glad that DOT
8 has already begun to study transit and where we can
9 improve. This bill will ensure that addressing areas
10 where transit is inadequate to nonexistent will play
11 a prominent role. Too many inequalities exist in our
12 current transportation network and I am proud to
13 address this matter through this bill. We will
14 continue to look for way to make it easier for New
15 Yorkers to shed their cars and I encourage my
16 colleagues to vote yes.

17 Intro 1311-A will require the New York
18 City Department of Transportation to notify the NYPD
19 and the Fire Department before a road repaving
20 project begins. And I will invite Council Member
21 Deutsch to offer remarks on this bill.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Thank you,
23 Chair.

24 When an emergency vehicle is responding
25 to a 911 call, every second counts. Often when

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2 rushing to a fire, a crime in progress or an injury,
3 our first responders can get caught in an unexpected
4 traffic jam or redirected because roads are closed
5 for work. When each passing minute can mean a
6 difference between life or death for the people
7 waiting for their arrival, it is vital that emergency
8 providers are well informed about closed streets and
9 unusual congestion in the area. My bill that this
10 Committee is voting on today, Intro 1311, will
11 mandate notification to the NYPD and the FDNY within
12 two days of scheduled road work. This will provide
13 sufficient advance notice to firefighters, EMTs and
14 police officers who can then ensure that they avoid
15 areas with street closures while responding to calls.

16 I encourage my colleagues to vote in
17 favor of Intro 1311; this can save lives. Thank you.

18 [pause]

19 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. And I
20 want to be sure that as we, in the bill that address
21 transportation deserts, when we refer to other modes
22 of transportation, that ferry is also included as
23 part of that group.

24 Now I would like to ask the counsel to...
25 Thank you, Council Member Deutsch. I will now ask

1
2 the Clerk to call the roll; the Chair recommends a
3 yes vote on both bills.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,
5 Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on
6 Transportation. Chair Rodriguez.

7 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vacca.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I want to explain
10 my vote.

11 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Yeah.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I'm voting yes on
13 this, but the word "ferry" is becoming really an
14 upsetting one to me. Every effort my community has
15 made to get ferry service has fallen on deaf ears and
16 we are a transit desert, if you know where Throggs
17 Neck is and where City Island is -- transportation-
18 wise, we are a transit desert. I'm upset by it and I
19 take exception to it. We continue to talk about
20 helping people who are stranded, yet we do little, if
21 anything, and here yet is another study. The City
22 has a ferry study; the ferry study showed the need,
23 as if we needed a study to show the need, yet ferry
24 service becomes elusive. So I'm upset, basically,
25 with the Economic Development Corporation; they're

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2 the entity doing the ferry work, not DOT, they do the
3 ferry surveys, and the answer that we constantly
4 receive of "tomorrow," "maybe," "in a couple of
5 years" is old hat and I'm tired of listening to it
6 and I want this Committee to know that my community
7 and others, when it comes to ferry service, have been
8 left out in the cold. I'll vote yes on this, but I
9 wanted to explain the whole trajectory of things
10 here. Thank you.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I vote aye, and
13 please add my name to 1311-A. Thank you.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Permission to
16 explain my vote. I want to say ditto to Council
17 Member Vacca's remarks, and one of the most dreaded
18 words on Staten Island is "study," we've been studied
19 and over-studied and I think we should be included in
20 the "ferry" as a given. So I vote aye and I ditto
21 Council Member Vacca's remarks.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Greenfield.

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COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I vote aye
3 and I'd like to add my name to Intro 965-A.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I vote aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I vote aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I vote aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 9 in the
11 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
12 both items have been adopted by the Committee.

13 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Thank you and I
14 would like to recognize also that we were joined by
15 Council Members Levin and Greenfield and we will
16 leave the vote open for the next 30 minutes.

17 [pause]

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call,
19 Committee on Transportation. Council Member
20 Constantinides.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: I vote
22 aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote now currently
24 stands at 10 in the affirmative.

25 [pause]

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COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION 11

COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call,
the Committee on Transportation, Introductions 965-A
and 1311-A. Council Member Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: I vote aye,
and with that, the Transportation Committee..
[background comment]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote now,
Committee on Transportation; both items have been
adopted by a vote of 11 in the affirmative, 0 in the
negative and no abstentions. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: This is what
happens when you put an understudy in for the job.
With that, the Transportation Committee of the New
York City Council is hereby adjourned.

[gavel]

[background comments]

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 May 25, 2017