

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

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December 4, 2025
Start: 10:14 a.m.
Recess: 10:33 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - 8TH FLOOR - HEARING
ROOM 3

B E F O R E: Selvena Brooks-Powers, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Joann Ariola
Chris Banks
Carmen N. De La Rosa
Amanda Farías
Farah N. Louis
Mercedes Narcisse

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Testing, testing. This
3 is a sound check for the New York City Council
4 Committee on Transportation Infrastructure. Today's
5 date is December 4, 2025. We're in Hearing Room 3,
6 250 Broadway, recorded by Sergeant Ben Levy.

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning. Welcome
8 to the New York City Council Committee on
9 Transportation and Infrastructure.

10 At this time, we ask that you please
11 silence all electronics, and at no point, please do
12 not approach the dais.

13 Chair, you may begin.

14 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: [GAVEL] Good
15 morning, and welcome to this hearing of the Committee
16 on Transportation and Infrastructure. I am Selvena
17 Brooks-Powers, the Chair of the Committee.

18 Today, we will be voting on Proposed
19 Intro. Number 1154-A, sponsored by Council Member
20 Julie Menin, a local law in relation to testing high-
21 visibility pavement markings and establishing a pilot
22 program; Proposed Intro. Number 1423-A, sponsored by
23 Council Member Althea Stevens, a local law in
24 relation to requiring the Department of
25 Transportation to provide an inventory of City-owned

2 retaining walls under its jurisdiction; Proposed
3 Reso. Number 498-A, sponsored by Majority Leader
4 Amanda Farías, a resolution calling on Metropolitan
5 Transportation Authority to create a program that
6 provides New York City's first responder agencies
7 with real-time global positioning systems, also GPS,
8 data for all MTA buses; and Proposed Resolution
9 Number 773-A, also sponsored by Majority Leader
10 Farías, a resolution calling on the New York State
11 Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign Assembly
12 Bill 3024, which directs the MTA to establish a
13 student fare program for trains and buses.

14 I will now allow the Majority Leader to
15 read and open a statement on her legislation.

16 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Thank you, Chair
17 Brooks-Powers, for giving me time to speak on my
18 resolutions before this Committee.

19 The first on the agenda is Reso. 498,
20 which calls on the MTA to establish a program that
21 provides New York City's first responder agencies
22 with real-time GPS data for all MTA buses. This
23 resolution addresses a critical operational gap
24 between the MTA and our emergency response agencies.
25 Although every MTA bus is already equipped with GPS

tracking, that data is not shared directly with the NYPD, FDNY, or EMS in real time. As a result, when an emergency occurs on a moving bus, first responders must rely on information relayed through the MTA Bus Command Center. That process adds unnecessary delay in situations where minutes, and sometimes just seconds, can determine whether help arrives in time. The urgency of this issue became much more clear following an incident I learned about in my District when one of my constituents from Parkchester was harassed on an MTA bus and did what anyone should in a situation like this, he called 9-1-1. Because it was raining and visibility was poor, he was unable to identify his location and instead gave the dispatcher the bus number. But despite that effort, the bus could not be located by dispatch officers. To my surprise, this was because the MTA does not currently make its real-time GPS data accessible to first responders. Under the MTA's existing protocol, even when a bus operator reports an emergency, that information must first be passed through the MTA Command Center before reaching NYPD or FDNY. Every additional step adds time and risk for both riders and transit employees. Reso. 498 calls for the MTA to

2 close that gap. It calls on the MTA to develop a
3 secure, real-time data-sharing system when the City's
4 emergency agency is using the GPS infrastructure that
5 already exists. We have other major transit systems,
6 including those in Chicago and D.C., that employ
7 similar coordination, and the results have been
8 proven. Faster response times, stronger interagency
9 communication, and greater public confidence.

10 And we also have Resolution 773 that's
11 calling on the MTA and the state legislature and the
12 governor to provide free Express Bus fares for New
13 York City students who rely on those routes to travel
14 to and from school. The infrastructure already exists
15 through OMNY and the student MetroCard system. What's
16 missing is the policy alignment and the will to make
17 it equitable. This idea actually started in our
18 office, building on the work we've done around
19 student discounts for ferries and OMNY access.
20 Providing free express bus fares for students is a
21 responsible, practical fix. It reduces cost burdens
22 for families who are already struggling and ensures
23 that no student's education depends on whether they
24 can pay for the bus that gets them to school. This is
25 what equity in transit should look like, using the

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2 tools we already have to make a system work better
3 for everyone.

4 I want to thank my Colleagues who co-
5 sponsored this resolution, and thank you again to
6 Chair Brooks-Powers and the Members of the Committee
7 for your continued leadership and partnership in
8 building a transit system that truly reflects the
9 needs of New Yorkers. Thank you so much.

10 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you.

11 I will now ask the Committee Clerk to
12 conduct a roll call vote on the legislation.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:

14 Matthew DiStefano, Committee Clerk. Committee on
15 Transportation and Infrastructure, roll call vote.
16 All items are coupled.

17 Chair Brooks-Powers.

18 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: I vote aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: Louis.
20 De La Rosa.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:
23 Farías.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER Farías: I vote aye.
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2 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:

3 Narcisse.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: I vote aye.

5 Congratulations.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: Won.

7 Banks. Ariola.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I vote aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: By a
10 vote of five in the affirmative, zero in the
11 negative, and no abstentions, the items have been
12 adopted.

13 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: With that,
14 this vote is recessed pending attendance of other
15 Committee Members.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:
17 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.
18 Continuation of roll call.

19 Council Member Louis.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye on all.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: The
22 vote now stands at six in the affirmative, zero in
23 the negative, and no abstentions.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:
3 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure,
4 continuation of roll call.

5 Council Member Banks.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye on all.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: The
8 vote stands at seven in the affirmative, zero in the
9 negative, and no abstentions.

10 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you.

11 This hearing is now adjourned. [GAVEL]

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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 December 15, 2025