

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 1
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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February 24, 2026
Start: 10:08 a.m.
Recess: 10:13 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - 8TH FLOOR - HEARING
ROOM 2

B E F O R E: Shaun Abreu, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Selvena N. Brooks-Powers
Eric Dinowitz
Shekar Krishnan
Farah N. Louis
Christopher Marte
Justin E. Sanchez
Pierina Ana Sanchez
Julie Won
Phil Wong

1 COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 2

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a mic check on
3 Committee of Transportation and Infrastructure
4 recorded by Kimberley Smith, location HR2. Today's
5 date February 24, 2026.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: (INAUDIBLE) Vote from
7 the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8 At this time, I'd like to remind everyone
9 to please silence their electronic devices, and at no
10 point is anyone to approach the dais.

11 Chair, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: [GAVEL] Good morning,
13 and welcome to today's hearing of the New York City
14 Council's Committee on Transportation and
15 Infrastructure. I am Council Member Shaun Abreu,
16 Majority Leader and Chair of this Committee.

17 At today's hearing the Committee will
18 vote on the following legislation. Proposed
19 Introduction Number 68-A, sponsored by myself, in
20 relation to news rack requirements and enforcement;
21 and Proposed Introduction Number 257-A, sponsored by
22 Council Member Joseph, in relation to special
23 activation of the Open Streets Program on certain
24 holidays and time periods with significant pedestrian
25 traffic.

2 Proposed Intro. Number 68-A would improve
3 the City's oversight over news racks, which play an
4 important role in the distribution of newspapers and
5 other printed materials, but can also cause safety
6 hazards and quality of life issues when poorly
7 maintained or improperly placed. Specifically, this
8 bill would require news rack owners to provide their
9 email address to the Department of Transportation
10 when registering a news rack and permit DOT to
11 communicate with those news rack owners
12 electronically. It would additionally require news
13 rack owners to regularly clean and repaint their news
14 racks and to remove refuse from the news rack if a
15 notice of correction is issued. It would also expand
16 DOT's ability to address violations in various ways.

17 Proposed Introduction Number 257-A would
18 modify the existing Open Streets Program to permit
19 community organizations to request special activation
20 opportunities, which are days and times the Open
21 Street may be operated in addition to the Open
22 Street's regular hours of operation. These special
23 activation opportunities may include Memorial Day,
24 Juneteenth, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Halloween, or
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2 other time periods where there is significant
3 pedestrian traffic.

4 Before we begin, I would like to thank my
5 Staff and the Committee Staff for their hard work in
6 preparing for today's hearing. Jalissa Quigley, my
7 Deputy Chief-of-Staff and Director of Legislation and
8 Budget; Amber Moore, my Chief-of-Staff; Ian
9 Boldiston, my Director of Communications; Mark Chen,
10 Senior Counsel to the Committee; Theodore Miller,
11 Counsel to the Committee; Kevin Kotowski, Senior
12 Policy Analyst to the Committee; John Basile, Senior
13 Policy Analyst to the Committee; and Adrian Drepaul,
14 Principal Financial Analyst to the Committee.

15 Is Council Member Joseph online?

16 Seeing that she is not online, I will now
17 ask the Committee Clerk to call the roll.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
19 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
20 vote, Committee on Transportation. Both items are
21 coupled.

22 Chair Abreu.

23 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: I vote aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Louis.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Brooks-
3 Powers.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: I vote aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
6 you.

7 Dinowitz.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: I vote aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanif.
10 Krishnan.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Marte.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Pierina
15 Sanchez.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER PIERINA SANCHEZ: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
18 you, Council Member.

19 Won.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
22 you.

23 Justin Sanchez.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Aye.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Wong.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER WONG: I vote aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Council
4 Member Hanif.

5 With a vote of 10 in the affirmative,
6 zero in the negative, and no abstentions, both items
7 have been adopted by the Committee.

8 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: With that, this vote
9 is recessed, pending attendance of other Committee
10 Members.

11 With that, this vote is adjourned.

12 [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 February 25, 2026