

1 COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 1

2 CITY COUNCIL
3 CITY OF NEW YORK

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5 TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

6 Of the

7 COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
8 INFRASTRUCTURE

9 ----- X

10 October 13, 2022
11 Start: 10:26 a.m.
12 Recess: 12:30 p.m.

13 HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

14 B E F O R E: Selvena N. Brooks-Powers,
15 Chairperson

16 COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- 17 Joann Ariola
- 18 David M. Carr
- 19 Amanda Farias
- 20 Ari Kagan
- 21 Linda Lee
- 22 Farah N. Louis
- 23 Mercedes Narcisse
- 24 Lincoln Restler
- 25 Carlina Rivera
- Althea V. Stevens
- Nantasha M. Williams
- Jumaane Williams, Public Advocate

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All right. Once again,
3 if everyone could please find seats. We are ready to
4 start with our vote. Once again, please find a seat.
5 Quiet in the Chambers. Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: [GAVEL] Good
7 morning and welcome to the first of two hearings of
8 the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
9 this morning. I am Selvena Brooks-Powers, the Chair
10 of the Committee.

11 Before we move to our oversight topic on
12 the state of the City's taxi and for-hire vehicle
13 industries, we first convene today to vote on two
14 pieces of legislation to improve our public space.

15 The first bill on our agenda is Proposed
16 Intro 258-A sponsored by Council Member Rita C.
17 Joseph in relation to a report on suitable locations
18 for installing public bathrooms. This bill would
19 require that the Mayor designate an agency or office
20 in coordination with the Department of Parks and
21 Recreation and the Department of Transportation to
22 report on feasible locations for public bathroom
23 facilities in each of the city's ZIP code tabulation
24 areas. The report would also identify the number of
25 currently operational public bathroom facilities in

2 each ZIP code tabulation area, accessibility and
3 safety measures necessary for bathroom installation,
4 and any potential barriers to installation and
5 maintenance. Finally, the bill would also require
6 that the agency or office consider public and
7 Community Board input and provide recommendations for
8 overcoming any identified barriers regarding the
9 locations suitable for public bathrooms. Lack of
10 access to public bathrooms is an issue that affects
11 us all but especially older New Yorkers, people with
12 disabilities, delivery workers, and cab drivers. As
13 of December 2021, there were only around 1,100 public
14 restrooms in the city with the majority of those
15 clustered within our parks. In a city that has almost
16 9 million residents and millions more that come to
17 work or visit, this is simply not enough. Proposed
18 Intro 258-A is the first step in rectifying this
19 critical problem.

20 The second bill that the Committee will
21 vote on is Proposed Intro 291-A sponsored by Council
22 Member Carlina Rivera and myself in relation to a
23 Citywide Greenway Plan. This proposed bill would
24 require the Department of Transportation and the
25 Department of Parks and Recreation to develop a plan

2 for the development of greenways in the city
3 including identifying locations feasible for
4 development into a greenway, opportunities for
5 integrating green infrastructure into the network,
6 and the creation of a map that displays the status of
7 existing and future greenways. The proposed bill
8 would also require the Department of Transportation
9 and the Department of Parks and Recreation to
10 annually report to the Mayor, the Council Speaker,
11 and the public on the implementation and updating of
12 this plan. The bill would also require the Department
13 of Transportation and Parks to engage with local
14 Community Boards both in formulating the greenway
15 plan and following the proposal of greenway projects.
16 Over the last several years, the COVID-19 pandemic
17 has shown us the positive impact that open spaces and
18 greenways have had on our health and mental health.
19 They also play a pivotal role in providing access to
20 safe, low-emission transportation options. The
21 Citywide Greenway Plan required in Proposed Intro
22 291-A will create a comprehensive vision for a
23 greenway network that links our neighborhoods and
24 encourages the use of green transportation modes.

2 At this time, I will read a statement
3 from Council Member Rita Joseph.

4 "To my Colleagues on the Transportation
5 Committee. Thank you to Chair Brooks-Powers for the
6 opportunity to share written testimony about my bill,
7 Introduction 258. This piece of legislation requires
8 Parks and DOT to work together to identify locations
9 for public restrooms across the city using ZIP codes
10 as a way to ensure that they are distributed equally
11 throughout the five boroughs. This bill is one
12 important step to solving our city's severe lack of
13 restroom access which affects every New Yorker. I
14 urge my Colleagues to vote aye on Introduction 258."

15 Now, I will call on Council Member Rivera
16 to make an opening statement on her bill.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you so much,
18 Madam Chair, for your leadership and for the
19 opportunity to speak before the Committee. I'm so
20 proud to be championing Intro 291-A alongside such an
21 important ally and leader in this space, Councilwoman
22 and Majority Whip Selvena Brooks-Powers.

23 The Citywide Greenway Plan not only
24 creates a vision for the future of greenways in New
25 York City, but it will also emphasize the building of

2 this plan from the ground up with robust community
3 engagement. For far too long, investment in green
4 infrastructure has been reserved for only the
5 wealthiest neighborhoods. This bill seeks to disrupt
6 that pattern and ensure every neighborhood and every
7 borough is involved in the development of a citywide
8 plan. I urge my Colleagues to join me in voting to
9 support Intro 291-A, and I thank all of the advocates
10 who were instrumental in this process so that we can
11 all deliver safe, connected, and thriving greenways
12 to all New Yorkers. Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you,
14 Council Member Rivera, and thank you for your
15 leadership and partnership as always.

16 I will now as the Committee Clerk to
17 conduct a roll call vote on the proposed bills and
18 recommend that my Colleagues vote yes on these two
19 important pieces of legislation.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
21 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
22 vote Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.
23 Both items are coupled. Chair Brooks-Powers.

24 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: I vote aye on
25 all.

1 COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 7

2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Restler.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Enthusiastic aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Rivera.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Louis.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Kagan.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: I vote aye, and I
10 want to congratulate my Colleagues, Rita Joseph and
11 Carlina Rivera, on these amazing two bills that will
12 improve the lives of so many New Yorkers.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Lee.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye on all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Narcisse.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye on all.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Stevens.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye on all.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Williams.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye on all.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Carr.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Permission to
23 explain my vote.

24 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: Go ahead.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Thank you, Madam
3 Chair. The greenway legislation is wonderful. We have
4 a greenway on Staten Island that we're blessed to
5 have and the only criticism that I've heard is that
6 it ends and so I'm happy to hear about possibilities
7 of expanding it as well as seeing more of them built
8 in our sister boroughs.

9 With respect to the public bathroom
10 legislation, I'll be voting yes on this, but I wanted
11 to just state for the record that the reason I'm
12 voting yes is because any public sitings of public
13 restrooms outside of our parks would be subject to
14 ULURP and therefore hopefully subject to the
15 convention of Member deference. We don't have a need
16 for public restrooms outside of our parks in Staten
17 Island so I am glad to see that we're also
18 considering siting additional comfort stations in our
19 parks or improving upon the ones that we have, but
20 even if we do have some recommendations for that in
21 this bill I would just like to highlight that the
22 administration still needs to work on the reducing
23 the expense related to comfort stations. Our Borough
24 President and our Council delegation in Staten Island
25 have steadfastly refused to support comfort station

2 developments in our borough because of the expense
3 associated with it and how ridiculous the overheads
4 are so I think that's something that we need to work
5 on and I hope that at the end of this report, maybe
6 the other side of the building is able to make some
7 capital commitments to that end. With that, I vote
8 aye on all. Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
11 you. By a vote of 10 in the affirmative, zero in the
12 negative, and no abstentions, both items have been
13 adopted by the Committee.

14 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you.

15 With that, we are holding the vote open.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

17 Continuation roll call vote on Introductions 258-A
18 and 291-A. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Council
19 Member Farias.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIAS: I vote aye on all.

21 Thank you.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank

23 you. Council Member Ariola.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Aye on all.

1 COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 10

2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Final
3 vote on Proposed Introductions 258-A and 291-A are
4 now 12 in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and
5 no abstentions.

6 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: The vote is
7 now closed. [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 October 16, 2022