

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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April 27, 2023
Start: 10:34 a.m.
Recess: 10:46 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Joann Ariola
David M. Carr
Amanda Farias
Ari Kagan
Linda Lee
Farah N. Louis
Mercedes Narcisse
Lincoln Restler
Carlina Rivera
Nantasha M. Williams

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Public Advocate Jumaane Williams

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone
3 check for the Committee on Transportation. Recorded
4 on April 27, 2023. Located in Chambers. Recorded by
5 Nazly Paytuvi.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and
7 welcome to today's New York City Council hearing for
8 the Committee on Transportation.

9 At this time, we ask that you silence all
10 cell phones and electronic devices to minimize
11 disruptions throughout the hearing. We thank you for
12 your cooperation.

13 Chairperson, we are ready to 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 three bills
19 and one resolution. Proposed Intro. 679A sponsored by
20 Council Member Joseph in relation to the installation
21 of traffic-calming devices in senior pedestrian
22 zones, Proposed Intro. 805A sponsored by the Public
23 Advocate in relation to pedestrian safety reporting,
24 Proposed Intro. 854A sponsored by myself in relation
25 to new daylighting measures, and Resolution 460

2 sponsored by Council Member Farias calls on the New
3 York State Legislature and Governor to fully fund the
4 Metropolitan Transportation Authority, also known as
5 MTA, in the State's upcoming Fiscal Year 2024 budget
6 in an effort to ensure that public transit riders
7 have effective, affordable public transportation, the
8 MTA maintains fiscal stability in the face of a
9 looming fiscal cliff, and the MTA operate more bus
10 and train services statewide.

11 This Committee prioritizes making our
12 streets safe for all. It has been the subject of
13 several Committee hearings so far this year and the
14 subject of three bills we are voting on today. As
15 this Administration continues to implement Vision
16 Zero throughout the City, it is our job to constantly
17 check and ensure that what is being done is working
18 and to legislate where more work needs to be done.
19 This is why I have called for a vote today on
20 legislation that would improve street safety in New
21 York City while working towards a safer, more
22 equitable city. This legislation represents a first
23 step, and we expect to continue having hearings and
24 legislating on these issues in the coming months.

2 As my Colleagues will be speaking on
3 their legislation, I want to highlight Proposed
4 Intro. 854A, sponsored by myself, which would require
5 the Department of Transportation to implement
6 daylighting at no less than 100 intersections per
7 year beginning in 2025. Daylighting involves
8 preventing vehicles from occupying certain areas near
9 an intersection in order to expand sightlines for
10 those approaching the intersection. The purpose of
11 daylighting is to increase visibility for pedestrians
12 and drivers to oncoming traffic and ultimately
13 reduced injuries or deaths due to obstructed
14 visibility. In addition to implementing daylighting
15 at a minimum of 100 intersections per year, the
16 Department of Transportation will also be required
17 whenever certain criteria are met to install
18 daylighting barriers such as bollards, bike racks, or
19 any other physical infrastructure. Finally, the
20 proposed bill requires the Department of
21 Transportation annually report on the locations at
22 which daylighting has been implemented and those
23 where it has been discontinued. I believe daylighting
24 is an efficient safety measure that can prevent
25 injuries and deaths in our cities, and that is why I

2 am proud to have sponsored this bill. I look forward
3 to voting on this proposed bill and the two other
4 proposed bills and one resolution.

5 I will now allow my fellow co-sponsors on
6 the other pieces of legislation that are being voted
7 on today to provide an opening statement. I will
8 start with Council Member Joseph on Proposed Intro.
9 679A.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Thank you, Chair.
11 Good morning, Colleagues and advocates. Today I stand
12 before you with honor and pride in asking you to vote
13 favorably on my proposed bill, Intro. 679A, a local
14 law to amend the Administrative Code of the City of
15 New York in relation to installation of traffic-
16 calming devices in senior pedestrian zones. This bill
17 is about protecting our seniors. It is about safety.
18 Transportation safety is real in our communities. Our
19 constituents, primarily our seniors, have been
20 calling continuously for better laws to help keep
21 them safe in the streets within their communities.
22 This bill is doing just that. By voting yes to my
23 bill, Intro. 679A, you're contributing to keeping our
24 seniors safe.

2 A special thanks to my Colleagues,
3 Council Members Mealy, Lewis, Restler, Hanif, Hudson,
4 Sanchez, Won, Gutierrez, Brannan, Riley, Schulman,
5 Caban, Farias, Aviles, and Narcisse who are co-
6 sponsors of that bill. Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you.

8 Now, we will hear from the Public Advocate on
9 Proposed Intro. 805A.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: First of all,
11 let's go Knicks. Second, thank you so much to the
12 Chair.

13 As was mentioned, my name is Jumaane
14 Williams. I'm the Public Advocate of the City of New
15 York. I want to thank Chair Brooks-Powers and the
16 Members of the Committee on Transportation and
17 Infrastructure for holding this vote.

18 One of the bills being voted on today is
19 Introduction 805. My bill would require the
20 Department of Transportation to conduct comprehensive
21 studies of traffic crashes involving pedestrian
22 fatalities or serious injuries every four years. DOT
23 would analyze the conditions and factors behind
24 crashes and develop strategies to improve pedestrian
25 safety. Strategies may include the installation of

2 audible pedestrian signals and devices to support
3 those with sight, hearing, and mobility impairments
4 and modifying citywide traffic operation policy. This
5 bill would also require DOT to make publicly
6 available reports on crash investigations from the
7 preceding three-month period. Each report shall
8 include the total number of investigations completed,
9 all evidence and data collected per investigation,
10 any potential criminal wrongdoing, factors that may
11 have contributed to each crash, and whether changes
12 to street design or improvements to infrastructure
13 could reduce the risk of subsequent serious vehicle
14 crashes and recommendations. This bill would be a
15 starting point in the larger movement to address the
16 ongoing silent epidemic of traffic violence which is
17 taking so many lives every year. New Yorkers deserve
18 to walk their streets, ride their bikes and
19 micromobility vehicles and be on the road safely and
20 out of harm's way. We know that every traffic death
21 is preventable if we make improvements and changes to
22 street infrastructure and pedestrian safety. To meet
23 the critical moment in our street safety landscape,
24 we must invest in our communities, especially those
25 in traffic corridors that for years have seen

2 incalculable loss and pass policy administration
3 addressing traffic violence in order to achieve
4 collective safety.

5 Thank you to all my Colleagues who are
6 supporting me on this bill and the Council who has
7 sponsored, and I look forward to the passage and
8 implementation of this bill and look forward to
9 making changes around the two biggest things that we
10 can prevent which is gun violence and traffic crashes
11 and violence. Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you.
13 Finally, to Council Member Farias on Resolution 460.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIAS: Thank you so much,
15 Chair. Good morning, everyone. It has now been 27
16 days and counting since the State's budget deadline.
17 While we're still waiting for the State's finalized
18 budget, the Council is making our commitment to
19 transit equity known. Today, we will be voting on my
20 bill, Reso. 460 which calls on Governor Kathy Hochul
21 to fully fund the MTA and make six-minute service a
22 reality for New Yorkers citywide. Six-minute service
23 would create a faster, safer, and more accessible
24 system for our outer borough communities like mine
25 who rely on our trains to get us to and from work,

2 school, and citywide recreation. This is something
3 all New Yorkers need right now and, while we still
4 have time to make lifesaving choices for New Yorkers,
5 this needs to be included in our State budget. While
6 this is a resolution calling on the State, Reso. 460
7 is about the City, and, as a City Council Member who
8 is dedicated to transit equity and justice, I am
9 proud to see that the Council is in full support of
10 six-minute service and Reso. 460.

11 Thank you to all the co-sponsors and
12 supporters of this bill. Thank you, Chair, for giving
13 me time and bringing this up for vote. I'm really
14 excited about it today.

15 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: I will now ask
16 the Committee Clerk to conduct a roll call vote on
17 the legislation and recommend that my Colleagues vote
18 yes on these important pieces of legislation.

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

23 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: Aye on all and
24 congratulations to my Colleagues.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Rivera.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
4 you. Lewis.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEWIS: Aye on all and
6 congratulations to all bill sponsors.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Farias.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIAS: I proudly vote aye
9 on all.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Lee.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye on all.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Narcisse.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye on all and
14 congratulations to all my Colleagues.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Restler.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye and congrats
17 to my Colleagues.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Williams.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye on all.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Carr.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: No in Introduction
22 845A and aye on the rest.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
24 you. Ariola.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: No on Intro. 679A
3 and aye on all the rest.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: One
5 moment, please. Thank you.

6 Council Member Kagan.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Hold on one
8 second. That was an error.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Council
10 Member Ariola.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I'm sorry. It was
12 854A. Apologies, and aye on all the rest.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
14 you. Council Member Kagan.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Aye on all except
16 for Intro. 854A. 854A I vote no, and yes on
17 everything else.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
19 you. Vote Committee on Transportation, Introductions
20 805A and 679A are adopted by the Committee with 11 in
21 the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no
22 abstentions, and Introduction 854A is adopted by the
23 Committee with eight in the affirmative, three in the
24 negative, and no abstentions. Also, Resolution 460 is

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2 adopted by the Committee with 11 in the affirmative,
3 zero in the negative, and no abstentions.

4 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: With that, the
5 vote is 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 May 3, 2023