

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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November 15, 2023
Start: 12:05 p.m.
Recess: 12:15 p.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Joann Ariola
David M. Carr
Amanda Farías
Ari Kagan
Linda Lee
Farrah N. Louis
Mercedes Narcisse
Lincoln Restler
Carlina Rivera
Kalman Yeger

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and
3 welcome to the New York City Council vote of the
4 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5 At this time, can everybody please
6 silence your cell phones.

7 Thank you for your cooperation.

8 Chair, we are ready to begin.

9 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: [GAVEL] Good
10 afternoon, everyone. I am so excited to welcome
11 everyone to the hearing of the Committee on
12 Transportation and Infrastructure. I am Selvena
13 Brooks-Powers, the Chair of the Committee.

14 Today, we will be voting on one piece of
15 legislation, which will be Proposed Introduction
16 number 708-A sponsored by Council Member Alexa
17 Avilés, a Local Law in relation to redesigning the
18 city truck route network. This bill has been heard at
19 a previous hearing in relation to truck routes and
20 would require the Department of Transportation to
21 redesign the city's truck route network to improve
22 safety, increase visibility, reduce traffic
23 congestion, and reduce total vehicle miles traveled.
24 In addition, the bill would require the Department of
25 Transportation assess if daylighting should be

2 implemented at specific intersections on the truck
3 route network. This bill is a meaningful step toward
4 addressing the impacts of truck traffic which
5 continue to play a larger role in New Yorkers' lives.
6 Our communities deal with noise pollution, air
7 pollution, congestion, illegal parking, that turns
8 quiet residential streets into lots for tractor
9 trailers. Moreover, truck traffic persists in
10 communities where high rates of respiratory illness
11 like asthma are common due to the emissions of truck
12 exhaust. This redesign will bring together community
13 members, industry, advocates, and truckers to be able
14 to figure out how our truck route map can better
15 serve New York City. I'm especially pleased and proud
16 to be a co-sponsor on this bill, having worked on
17 this very closely with Council Member Avilés
18 following our Transportation and Infrastructure tour
19 within her District, seeing the similarities of how
20 the trucking industry impacts her District as it does
21 in Districts like mine in Southeast Queens and
22 understanding that when this truck route was designed
23 in the 1970s, equity was never central in the
24 conversation, environmental justice communities were
25 not as well. Now, we have a real opportunity to work

2 with community, advocates, and the trucking industry
3 who we heavily rely on to create an ecosphere that
4 works for all New Yorkers so I'd like to thank
5 Council Member Avilés for leading on this and for her
6 partnership and collaboration on this as well.

7 With that, I will now allow Council
8 Member Avilés to speak on her bill.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Thank you so much,
10 Chair. Thank you for your partnership on this effort,
11 and we had a good time touring our Districts.

12 First, I just want to also thank the
13 Speaker for all of her support and the work of
14 Colleagues on this bill. As Chair mentioned, it's
15 been 50 years since the City has looked at this
16 issue, and the world and our city has changed quite
17 considerably so this is just one small piece of a
18 larger puzzle to bring sanity and to look
19 comprehensively at our city that'll move us closer to
20 climate justice, to transportation justice, racial
21 justice, economic justice, and labor conditions for
22 the truckers among others who touch this industry so
23 I'm delighted that my Colleagues, that we have gotten
24 to this point, and I hope we will pass this bill
25 today, and I am looking forward to working with DOT

2 and thank DOT for all their work in looking very
3 closely at this. I was delighted to hear that they
4 also agree this was long overdue, and so we have a
5 lot of work to do. This is but one small step in the
6 right direction to bring comprehensive analysis and
7 planning to our city and to do things properly. Many
8 thanks and I look forward to full implementation from
9 our City and rationalizing how we do this work so
10 thank you so much.

11 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you. I
12 will now ask the Committee Clerk to conduct a roll
13 call vote on the legislation and recommend that my
14 Colleagues vote yes on this legislation.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
16 afternoon. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
17 vote Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure,
18 Proposed Introduction 708-A. Chair Brooks-Powers.

19 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: I vote aye.
20 Congratulations, Council Member Avilés.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Rivera.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Yeger.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: No.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Louis.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye.

3 Congratulations.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Farías.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIÁS: I vote aye.

6 Congrats.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Lee.

8 Narcisse.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: I vote aye.

10 Congratulations.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Restler.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Williams.

14 Won. Carr.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ariola.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I vote aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Kagan.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a

21 vote of 10 in the affirmative, one in the negative,

22 and no abstentions, item has been adopted by the

23 Committee.

24 The roll will be held open at request of

25 the Chair.

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2 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: This hearing
3 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 November 17, 2023