

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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June 6, 2024  
Start: 10:48 a.m.  
Recess: 10:55 a.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Joann Ariola  
Chris Banks  
Carmen N. De La Rosa  
Amanda Farías  
Mercedes Narcisse  
Carlina Rivera

1 COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 2

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone  
3 check for the Committee on Transportation and  
4 Infrastructure recorded by Layla Lynch in the  
5 Committee Room on June 6, 2024.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and  
7 welcome to the New York City Council Committee on  
8 Transportation.

9 Chair, we are ready to begin.

10 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: [GAVEL] Good  
11 morning, and welcome to this hearing of the Committee  
12 on Transportation and Infrastructure. I'm Selvena  
13 Brooks-Powers, the Chair of the Committee.

14 Today, we will be voting on Proposed Reso  
15 number 79-B, sponsored by Majority Leader Amanda  
16 Farías, a Resolution calling on the New York State  
17 Legislature to pass and the New York State Governor  
18 to sign Senate Bill 315-A and Assembly Bill 1416,  
19 which would authorize New York City to set a five-  
20 mile-per-hour speed limit on streets participating in  
21 the Open Streets Program. This Resolution would call  
22 for the passing of two State bills that empower us to  
23 slow down vehicles operating on Open Streets in order  
24 to ensure the safe operation of this program.

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2 I will now allow Majority Leader Fariás  
3 to speak on her Resolution.

4 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Thank you,  
5 Majority Whip Brooks-Powers.

6 With the passage of Sammy's Law by the  
7 Governor this April, this Resolution showcases the  
8 City Council's support of its passage, our commitment  
9 to Open Streets and pedestrian safety. Resolution  
10 number 79 calls New York State to authorize the City  
11 to set a speed limit on surrounding streets  
12 participating in the Open Streets Program. In the  
13 face of the COVID-19 pandemic, this City and Council  
14 made an effort to transform streets into public space  
15 open to all, which allowed for a range of activities  
16 that promote economic development, support schools,  
17 and encourage cultural programming and community  
18 building. With the permanence of the Open Streets  
19 Program and the massive economic benefits local  
20 corridors saw, like restaurants and bars seeing  
21 increases in sales growth and the ability to stay  
22 open during the pandemic, we knew we were moving in  
23 the right direction. Our next step was ensuring its  
24 popularity and the use of Open Streets has increased,  
25 and it's important to ensure that streets are safe

2 for pedestrians, cyclists, drivers and businesses. In  
3 recent years, New York City has experienced higher  
4 traffic fatalities with people dying due to traffic  
5 violence. This Council is prepared to ensure all New  
6 Yorkers are safe. I urge my Colleagues in Committee  
7 today to vote yes on this Resolution, and I'm proud  
8 to have partnered with my friends, New York State  
9 Assembly Member Harvey Epstein and New York State  
10 Senator Julia Salazar on their accompanying bills  
11 that would work towards ensuring that Open Streets  
12 are safer, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists.  
13 Thank you, Chair.

14 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you and  
15 congratulations in advance on the passage of your  
16 Resolution and congrats to our State partners.

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

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good  
20 morning. Thank you. William Martin, Committee Clerk.  
21 Roll call vote, Committee on Transportation and  
22 Infrastructure, Proposed Resolution 79-B. Chair  
23 Brooks-Powers.

24 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: I vote aye.  
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1 COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 5

2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Rivera.

3 Louis. De La Rosa.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Farías.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: I proudly vote

7 aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Narcisse.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Won.

11 Banks.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye and

13 congratulations.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ariola.

15 With a vote of five in the affirmative, zero, pardon

16 me. Council Member Rivera. Okay, we'll come back.

17 With a vote of five in the affirmative,

18 zero in the negative, and no abstentions, Resolution

19 has been adopted by the Committee.

20 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: With that,

21 this vote is recessed pending attendance of other

22 Committee Members.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

24 Continuation roll call, Committee on Transportation.

25 Council Member Rivera.

1 COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 6

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
4 you. Vote is now six in the affirmative, zero in the  
5 negative, and no abstentions.

6 Continuation roll call, Committee on  
7 Transportation. Council Member Ariola.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: No.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Vote is  
10 now six in the affirmative, one in the negative, and  
11 no abstentions.

12 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: With that,  
13 this Committee vote has concluded. 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 July 4, 2024