

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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December 21, 2009  
Start: 10:45 am  
Recess: 10:51 am

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E:  
JOHN C. LIU  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
John C. Liu  
Gale A. Brewer  
Daniel R. Garodnick  
Vincent Ignizio  
G. Oliver Koppell  
Jessica S. Lappin  
Darlene Mealy  
Diana Reyna  
Larry B. Seabrook  
Eric Ulrich  
Ydanis A. Rodriguez

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2                   CHAIRPERSON LIU: My name is John  
3 Liu. I have the privilege of chairing this  
4 committee. Although I said this last week, it  
5 looks like today is my last hearing as chair of  
6 this great committee. I thank you for the  
7 privilege and for giving me one last, last hoorah  
8 at this.

9                   We're voting today on Proposed  
10 Intro 1063-A. This bill introduced by Council  
11 Members Gerson, Gentile, and Vacca would address  
12 complaints from some around the city that the  
13 Department of Transportation provides little or  
14 not notice about some of its major transportation  
15 projects, many of which can severely affect  
16 communities. Some of these projects include the  
17 reconfiguration of Chatham Square in Chinatown and  
18 the closure of Broadway in Times Square and Harold  
19 Square.

20                   Proposed Intro 1063-A would address  
21 this issue by requiring the Department of  
22 Transportation or any other city agency, such as  
23 the Department of Environmental Protection or the  
24 Department of Design and Construction, that works  
25 on major transportation projects to provide to the

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2 Council Member and Community Board in the affected  
3 areas.

4 Affected Council Members and  
5 Community Boards would be allowed to submit  
6 comments and/or recommendations which are to be  
7 considered before the project moves forward and,  
8 if necessary, the Community Board can request a  
9 presentation which the DOT or other relevant  
10 agencies shall make to the requesting Community  
11 Board within 30 days of the request. The City  
12 would also be required to consider comments and/or  
13 recommendations from this presentation.

14 City agencies would not be able to  
15 begin their major transportation projects until  
16 they inform the affected Council Member and the  
17 Community Board of their final plan for the major  
18 transportation project.

19 We're joined by members of the  
20 committee, Darlene Mealy from Brooklyn, Diana  
21 Reyna from Brooklyn and Queens, Larry Seabrook  
22 from the Bronx, Eric Ulrich from Queens, Jessica  
23 Lappin from Manhattan, Daniel Garodnick from  
24 Manhattan and Vincent Ignizio from Staten Island.  
25 We'll turn it over to Council Member Gerson for

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2 brief opening comments on his bill.

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Mr.

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Chairman, if I may vote quickly, I'm in the Staten

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Island Delegation meeting about the Department of

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Education.

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CHAIRPERSON LIU: Sure. Will the

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clerk please call the roll for Council Member

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Ignizio?

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Thank you.

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ERIC STEVENSON: Eric Stevenson,

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Committee Clerk, Committee on Transportation,

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Intro 1063-A. Ignizio?

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes, thank

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you, all.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Thank you,

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Mr. Chair. The bill speaks for itself. It puts

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in place a process that assures full and adequate

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input from the people who will be affected by any

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changes and thus will assure that we make the best

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possible policy decisions for our streets and our

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sidewalks.

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Mr. Chair, I just need to make it

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clear on the record that the requirements set

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forth in this bill, the requirements for notice

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2 and the requirements for Community Board hearings,  
3 or for a Community Board hearing upon the  
4 Community Board's request or a presentation to the  
5 Community Board upon the Community Board's  
6 request, those and all of the other requirements  
7 are intended by the bill, by the drafters of the  
8 bill and by this Council to be minimum  
9 requirements, minimum requirements.

10           There is nothing in this bill to  
11 prevent the Department of Transportation or any  
12 other city department involved, as you point out  
13 Mr. Chair, there could be other departments, from  
14 giving additional notice or conducting additional  
15 hearings at the Community Board level or  
16 responding to additional requests for more time or  
17 more presentations by the Community Board or by  
18 the impacted hearing.

19           In fact, we would expect for  
20 certain very major and elaborate projects,  
21 possibly controversial, possibly complicated, but  
22 there will be those projects where additional  
23 notice and an additional number of hearings and  
24 presentations at the community level and the  
25 Community Board level both before the Community

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2 Board and before neighborhood organizations, block  
3 associations, building board of directors, civic  
4 associations, et cetera, will absolutely be  
5 necessary.

6 Finally, we also expect that all  
7 notice and all presentations will be given and  
8 made in neighborhood friendly languages,  
9 recognizing that in those communities where you  
10 have community members speaking a diverse number  
11 of languages or dialects that there will be full  
12 translation both in writing and verbally as  
13 appropriate.

14 With that clarification and with  
15 that understanding being made clear on the record,  
16 I would ask my colleagues to vote in favor of this  
17 bill. Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON LIU: Thank you very  
19 much, Council Member Gerson. We'll have the clerk  
20 call the roll. I recommend a yes vote.

21 ERIC STEVENSON: Liu?

22 CHAIRPERSON LIU: Yes.

23 ERIC STEVENSON: Reyna?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Yes.

25 ERIC STEVENSON: Seabrook?

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COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Yes.

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ERIC STEVENSON: Garodnick?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

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ERIC STEVENSON: Lappin?

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COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

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ERIC STEVENSON: Mealy?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Chair, may I

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explain my vote?

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CHAIRPERSON LIU: Please do.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Chair, I

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would just like to say congratulations again and

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hope you all the best in your new endeavor as

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Comptroller in which we know you're going to do a

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great job because you did it such here. I vote

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aye on all.

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CHAIRPERSON LIU: Thank you.

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ERIC STEVENSON: Ulrich?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

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ERIC STEVENSON: The vote stands at

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eight in the affirmative, no negative and no

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abstention. The motion carries.

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CHAIRPERSON LIU: We'll keep the

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roll open for 30 minutes so that a couple of

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members who are not here yet can vote. Thank you.

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2 That being said, this hearing of the City  
3 Council's Committee on Transportation is  
4 adjourned.

5 [Pause]

6 ERIC STEVENSON: Councilwoman  
7 Brewer?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye.  
9 Thank you.

10 ERIC STEVENSON: Motion now stands  
11 at nine in the affirmative, no negative and no  
12 abstentions.

13 [Pause]

14 ERIC STEVENSON: Rodriguez?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

16 ERIC STEVENSON: The vote now  
17 stands at ten in the affirmative, no negative, and  
18 no abstentions.

19 [Pause]

20 ERIC STEVENSON: Koppell?

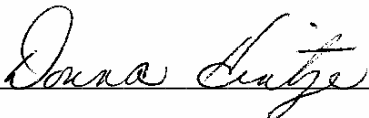
21 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

22 ERIC STEVENSON: The vote now  
23 stands at ten in the affirmative, no negatives, no  
24 abstentions.



C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Donna Hintze certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature 

Date December 30, 2009