

September 8, 2009

Joseph J. Smith, President  
MTA Bus Company  
2 Broadway  
New York, NY 10004

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for your letter dated August 21, 2009, which was sent in response to my letters of June 3 and August 3, 2009, regarding revisions to the BM3 express bus from Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn to Manhattan.

While I appreciate that you are planning to monitor ridership along the BM4 to see if earlier and/or increased service is necessary, I can tell you that there has been, and continues to be, a dire need for these changes as a result of the modifications to the BM3 that went into effect in June. When they learned of the proposed elimination of the three bus stops along the BM3 nearest to Gerritsen Beach, my constituents were asking that the BM4 begin to receive the additional service at the same time the other cuts were made, so that they could continue to travel via express bus. The MTA's plan to monitor ridership will only further delay this.

In your letter, you state that ridership has been declining. The feedback that I am receiving from my constituents is that this is occurring because the service currently offered is not sufficient to meet their needs. Commuters in Gerritsen Beach, in particular, have severely limited options with public transportation. The recent change to the BM3, in the absence of augmentation of service along the BM4, only perpetuates this. Just as a restaurant that is losing its clientele should not reduce its portion size to get their customers back, neither should the MTA do the same in the face of declining ridership.

I respectfully request that you immediately expand BM4 service to include service prior to 6:00 a.m. on weekdays, with the addition of more frequent runs during the day, so that this underserved neighborhood will not continue to be hampered by reductions to the BM3.

I look forward to receiving your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lewis A. Fidler".

LEWIS A. FIDLER  
Councilman - 46th District

LAF/re