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MICAH Z. KELLNER
65th Assembly District

March 19, 2008

Howard H. Roberts, Jr.
President
MTA New York City Transit
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Dear President Roberts:

I would like to follow up on our recent conversation regarding subway and bus service to Roosevelt Island and conditions in the Roosevelt Island subway station.

Thank you for your commitment to having netting installed within the Roosevelt Island F-train station, as has been done on the exterior of the station, to mitigate the problem with pigeon droppings around the fare control area. The droppings had contributed to an unsanitary condition for station users, who will appreciate the MTA's efforts to control the problem.

I would appreciate your forwarding me a schedule of the escalator repairs underway at the Roosevelt Island F-train station. Given the depth of the island's station, and the number of island residents who are elderly or have disabilities, it is important to know when escalators will be out of service and to be assured that all of the escalators will be functioning properly when the project is completed. I must note that many riders have reported that even the escalators that have been replaced are frequently out of service. It is also critical that the station's elevators be kept in good repair during this period and thereafter.

You also offered to forward me a schedule of planned service outages on the F line during the coming months. I thank Alissa Kosowsky for passing that information along to my staff. While there is no question that necessary security improvements and track work must be performed on the F line, the frequency of service outages affecting Roosevelt Island residents has seemed particularly burdensome. I hope that your staff will continue to work closely with my office in alerting Roosevelt Island residents to planned service changes as far in advance as possible.

I thank you for informing me of your discussions with the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation regarding the possibility of implementing additional bus service to the island during the overhaul of the Roosevelt Island tram in 2009. Please keep me informed of the details of any such plans as they become available. This initiative is of critical importance, since as many as

4,500 riders will be seeking alternative modes of transportation every day during the tram outage. Please let me know how I can be of assistance in carrying these plans forward.

Finally, I am in receipt of your response to the January 20 joint letter of Roosevelt Island elected officials regarding F-train crowding and the possibility of enhancing subway service to the island. I thank you for your explanation of why NYCT believes that an extension of Q-train service to the island would not be feasible. However, I would encourage NYCT to offer other suggestions as to how best to address the transportation needs of the island's rapidly growing population on a long-term basis.

As stated in the January 20 letter, 8,000 – 10,000 new residents are expected to move to Roosevelt Island during the coming decade. NYCT needs a plan to deal with these developments, which will greatly increase the strain on the island's transportation infrastructure. I recognize that there may be no easy solutions. But it is imperative that NYCT work pro-actively now to be prepared for the challenges ahead on Roosevelt Island.

Thank you for your attention to these matters. If you would like to discuss them further, please don't hesitate to call me at (212) 860-4906.

Very truly yours,

Micah Z. Kellner
Assembly Member

MZK/phc

cc: Stephen H. Shane, President, Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation
Deborah VanAmerongen, Commissioner, NYS Division of Housing and Community
Renewal
Matthew Katz, President, Roosevelt Island Residents Association