

***The Public Ought to Know: OK, But What About Us***

It looks as if the high price policy folks at the pricey campaign failed Research 101. It gets exciting to hear about an Express F and a V extension only to read and realize One New York (The theme from 2005's Pricey Campaign) may not include Queens (See NY Times, "Mayor Proposes Free Crosstown Buses," August 3, 2009). And we note now Mr. Bloomberg talks of of an M.T.A. that "has not done enough." He only offered praise when M.T.A. took up his Congestion Tax. Queens' transportation infrastructure links us with jobs, services and activities both in and out of the borough.

So why not some fresh ideas for Queens transit? The only offerings recycle promises (ripped from the Queens Civic Congress "playbook") during the Mayor's effort to sell his Congestion Tax – a handful of LIRR station re-openings in Queens and more LIRR intra-city discounts.

Just look at core transit items from the [CIVIC 2030](#) plan offered by the Queens Civic Congress in contrast to the topdown ivory tower *PlaNYC*. The bottom-up civic plan would "Return express F train service from 179th Street."

It also includes a call to "restore pre-existing E, F (operating through the 53rd Street tunnel), G (to Forest Hills) & R service routes and run the V trains instead through the 63<sup>rd</sup> Street Tunnel as a Broadway express until the opening of the Second Avenue line, when the V trains will eventually enter the Second Avenue Subway upon its completion." How about bus service? Queens Civic Congress wants the "MTA New York City Transit and the N.Y.C. Department of Transportation to reconfigure Queens bus routes, many of which were laid out more than a half century ago, to reflect changing residential, commercial, business, cultural and industrial needs." It would "Create new and revise, where applicable, existing bus routes to provide one-seat crossborough surface transit." Of course, it envisions "required public review of proposed route changes."

– *Corey Bearak*

Read Mayor Proposes Free Crosstown Buses at

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/04/nyregion/04bloomberg.html?\\_r=2&ref=nyregion](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/04/nyregion/04bloomberg.html?_r=2&ref=nyregion)