

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, April 22, 2014

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### **ATU Local 1056 Earth Day Message, 2014**

“As we observe Earth Day 2014, we remind our policymakers and decision-makers to look to expand the use of public bus transit options and strengthen existing capabilities,” stated Mark Henry, President and Business Agent for ATU Local 1056, which represents drivers and mechanics who work for MTA New York City Transit's Queens Bus Division. “As we look for ways to protect and upgrade our environment, it makes sense to recognize how public transit enhances our environment and reduces our carbon footprint while supporting our economy and investment. After Sandy, New Yorkers experienced how the membership of ATU Local 1056 and our sister transit union stepped up and helped New Yorkers get by through alternative transit modes while the MTA worked to resume subway service system-wide. Our work during Sandy and the periodic subway service shutdowns to allow repairs to this day demonstrated how buses matter both as a practical and flexible transit mode. Most importantly, buses offer a cost-effective means to expand public transit options where none or insufficient modes exist.”

Based on our experience and knowledge of the MTA system, ATU 1056 emphasizes the need to rebuild and enhance bus service – as we did just last month - and invest in the infrastructure necessary to keep our buses running and deliver the best service possible to New Yorkers and those who visit or work here. This includes the need to move on a Jamaica Depot now that the MTA assembled the land required for the projects, to bolster the Casey Stengel Depot against flooding risks (We recall that managers moved buses to “higher ground” in advance of Sandy.) and to look at a bus terminal in Flushing that Member of Congress Grace Meng proposed at our behest.

Public transportation remains key to economic growth. Folks in real estate and development recognized this when they promoted the Far West Side station between Javits and Times Square. For just that same rationale – economic growth and meeting the public's transit needs, ATU 1056 advocates a better bus replacement schedule for Queens with too many old buses, modernized bus terminals to meet existing ridership capacities and the new Jamaica depot. Longer term the MTA must focus on better use of its bus lines to serve intra-borough needs rather than just funneling riders to subways and rail.

Support (and use) public transit; it helps save our environment.

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