

Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Advocates *All-Door Boarding*
Testimony to Metropolitan Transportation Authority
by
Mark Henry, President and Business Agent, ATU Local 1056 and
Chair, ATU Legislative Conference Board
&
Bennie Caughman, President and Business Agent, ATU Local 1179

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on a simple but great opportunity improve public transit in the City of New York. I am **Luis Alzate**, Vice President of Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local No. 1056. I present this testimony on behalf of **Mark Henry**, ATU Local 1056 President and Business Agent and Chair, ATU Legislative Conference Board and **Bennie Caughman**, President/ Business Agent, ATU Local 1179.

As mass transit professionals, ATU offers unique and valuable insights. ATU 1056 and ATU 1179 members – bus operators and maintainers – work respectively for MTA New York City Transit's Queens Bus and the MTA Bus division; we serve the riding public.

At almost every opportunity discussing public transit ATU emphasizes that smartly investing in public transit keys growth in the economy, job creation and sustains a green environment.

For many New Yorkers public transit serves as their lifeline to shop, go to the doctor, attend worship services, visit family members, and do many of the things that enrich their lives. Working Families need safe, equitable and efficient transportation.

More often than not, including in Queens, that means buses. Thus we emphasize the real opportunity before MTA to improve bus public transit by moving to adopt “All-door Boarding” as it moves ahead to a new phase for fare collection. This initiative offers a real opportunity to provide New Yorkers with availability and mobility of a First Class Public Transit System. The ATU 1056 [stood last week](#) outside MTA’s headquarters with partners in labor transit and community transit advocacy in support of this basic bus public transit improvement.

Implementing a new fare collection system in conjunction with All Door Access on the Select Bus Service Buses represented a good first step. Many opportunities exist to use that feature on other bus routes while the MTA development the next generation fare collection system. With proper notification to the public and enforcement ATU Operators would welcome those additions.

The ATU stands at the ready to provide more ideas to improve services to our transit system and transit deserts across our city, especially in Queens. The men and women of the ATU will provide those services seamlessly.

New York City deserves a public transit system that accessible to all New Yorkers. Adopt and extend All-Door Board at the earliest opportunities throughout the MTA bus system.

Thank you.



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