

For Immediate Release: Monday, July 23, 2012

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ATU Local 1056, Electeds, Community Welcome Queens Bus Restoration

Members of Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 1056 including President and Business Agent I. Daneek Miller, Queens elected officials including State Senators Toby Stavisky and Tony Avella, Members of the Assembly Barbara Clark, Grace Meng and Ed Braunstein, representatives of Assemblymen William Scarborough and David Weprin and Council Members Leroy Comrie and Mark Weprin, and community leaders, including Community Board 11 Chair Jerry Iannece, Queens Civic Congress President Rich Hellenbrecht and Community Board 8 Vice-Chair Martha Taylor, rallied to welcome the Queens bus service restorations announced by the MTA, today (Monday, July 23, 2012) at the Q76 bus stop on the NW corner of Francis Lewis Boulevard and Hillside Avenue, just south of Foothill Avenue in Hollis, Queens. ATU 1056 members – bus operators and mechanics – work for MTA New York City Transit's Queens bus division and serve the riding public.

“Since the misguided and hurtful cuts to bus service affecting many communities outside Manhattan, ATU Local 1056 has organized news conferences, rallies and other events with electeds and community leaders, and testified at hearings to urge the MTA to reverse harmful cuts,” stated ATU President Miller who also chairs the MTA Labor Coalition. “We thank our electeds and the community for their advocacy and support throughout this difficult period. Throughout this process we made clear that the dollars existed to restore service in Queens and the facts today make that clear. ATU 1056 will work together with the community, our electeds and our sister transit unions to make sure the MTA delivers what the riding public in Queens needs.” ATU 1056 also thanks the three MTA board members who strongly pressed the case for restoring service – Allen Cappelli, Mitchell Paley and Andrew Albert.

“People in Queens rely on bus service to get between their homes, schools, workplaces, shopping centers, and every other place they need to go in their daily lives,” stated State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky. “The Q76 is a vital lifeline for Central and Northeast Queens, and it must be readily available seven days a week.”



*Representing all hourly rated Employees of the
Queens Division, Who safely Operate and
Maintain Buses for MTA New York City Transit.
Serving the communities of Queens,
Manhattan, and the Bronx since January
23rd, 1935.*

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Senator Tony Avella stated, "I am very pleased that the MTA finally restored this critical bus service, which many of my constituents had come to rely on. Upon taking office in 2011, the restoration of this service became one of my priorities as I kept hearing from dozens of constituents who were devastated by these cuts and demanded that this service be reinstated. I made it clear to the MTA that residents in northeast Queens, who do not have ready access to the subway, rely on buses to take them to work or important appointments. I am glad that the MTA heeded the call and listened to the residents of northeast Queens and brought back the Q79 and Q76."

"Perhaps no other area of the City is as dependent on bus service as is southeast Queens, stated Assembly Member Barbara Clark. "Largely because of this the average travel time for commuters who use mass transit to travel back and forth to work is the longest here of any area of the City. This dependence also translates in long travel times for point to point bus commuters in the area whose travel is not work-related. As such any enhancement of bus service in this area is welcomed. For the area that I represent, the restoration of the all night service of the Q27 will be especially beneficial from both a safety and conveyance standpoint for those compelled to travel late at night."

"I am very pleased to learn that the MTA and Chairman Lhota have allotted \$29 million for service enhancements, including the restoration of the Q79," stated Assembly Member Grace Meng. "Investing in transportation and infrastructure is critical to ensuring the long term security and strength of our local economy and is absolutely vital in areas like Queens, where subway service is limited in certain parts of the borough."

"I thank the MTA for recognizing the need to not only restore Saturday service for the Q76, but to add Sunday service as well," said Assemblyman Edward C. Braunstein (D-Bayside). The Q76 travels through a large section of Queens, connecting to numerous other bus lines, and is vital to my constituents who do not have easy access to the subway, especially those in Whitestone and Auburndale who rely on public transportation to travel to work or to their place of worship during the weekend. I also thank the MTA for recognizing the need to restore the vital service that the Q79 provided for my constituents in Little Neck, many of whom rely on bus service to travel to work or school."

"Through the advocacy and efforts of the local community, ATU Local 1056 and elected officials, the MTA recognized the need for the restoration of bus service routes in Eastern Queens, an area that is sorely in need of more public transit options," stated Assembly Member David I. Weprin. "The restoration and additions to the Q76, Q79, Q27 and Q30 bus service lines are critical to constituents, particularly senior citizens, who have no other means to travel to stores, do their shopping and get to and from work."

"I am very pleased to hear of the service restorations planned for our transit system. The additions to the Q27, Q42, and Q76 in particular will be welcomed by my constituents," Assemblyman William Scarborough. "I applaud Local 1056 for their continued advocacy for needed services, as well as the MTA for making the restorations."

"Queens is a commuter borough and this reversal makes sense for its residents" said Council Member Leroy Comrie. "The restoration to these bus lines will help those who rely on public transportation. When these lines were cut, many families had a hard time getting to work

or getting their children to day care and after school programs. While I will continue to advocate for more improvements and better service, this is a step in the right direction. I would like to thank Daneek Miller President of Local ATU 1056, my colleagues in the City Council, Lois Tendler, Director of Government and Communications for the MTA, and all the advocates who have worked tirelessly on this issue.”

“Without the Q79, there was no north-south public transportation available to people who live or work in Little Neck, Bellerose, Glen Oaks, Floral Park, or New Hyde Park. Reinstatement of service along the route will make a huge difference for local residents,” said Council Member Mark Weprin.

"Every time the city has budgetary issues, they look to Queens to make cuts, stated Community Board 11 chair Jerry Iannece. “Bus service in Queens is not a luxury, it's a necessity. In many places, buses are the only forms of mass transportation. The cutting of our bus service, which our communities depend upon to go to and from work, was unfair and unacceptable. I want to thank all our local elected officials, ATU Local 1056, our local Community Boards and all our residents, who put in countless ours to lobby the powers that be, who found the resources and did everything they had to do restore our bus lines and bring some desperately needed relief to our residents. We MUST do everything we can to make sure that it doesn't happen again."

On behalf of the Queens Civic Congress and all of the eastern Queens area civic associations, I am thrilled to be here today celebrating a rare, positive decision by MTA,” said Richard C. Hellenbrecht, President of the Queens Civic Congress, an umbrella organization that represents over 100 civic associations throughout the borough of Queens. “A year or so ago the MTA decided to eliminate several bus routes in Queens. Reducing bus routes cuts jobs for bus drivers, makes commuting to schools much more difficult for students, workers can’t get to their jobs, or seniors their doctors and people of all ages are inconvenienced getting to shopping, entertainment and services of all sorts.”

"The MTA has mended the grievous error of its prior administration,” concluded Mr. Miller in a statement for the MTA Labor Coalition. “These service restorations in Queens address the needs of working families, workers, seniors, students who depend on their transit service. The members of the MTA Labor Coalition applauds this move and reminds the MTA more much remains to be done to provide the safe and dependable service throughout the system that the riding public needs and deserves."

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[The chart detailing the service restoration follows on the next page;
please find four photos on the two pages following the chart]

Queens			
Q24	Restore extension from Bway. Junction to Bushwick Ave. via Broadway Serves East New York, Bushwick	Service restoration Improves service connectivity	Jan 2013
Q27	Provide overnight service from Horace Harding Expwy to Cambria Hts via Springfield Blvd Serves Queens Village, Cambria Hts	Network coverage restoration	Jan 2013
Q30	Provide service to Queensborough Community College	Service to new markets	Jan 2013
Q36	Extension of every other trip from Jamaica Avenue to Little Neck via Little Neck Parkway; restores weekday service along route of previous Q79 Serves Floral Park, Bellerose, Glen Oaks, Little Neck	Network coverage restoration	Jan 2013
Q42	Restore midday service from Jamaica Ctr. to St Albans via Archer Ave. Serves Jamaica, Addisleigh Park	Service restoration	Jan 2013
Q76	Restore Saturday service/add Sunday service from Jamaica to College Point via Francis Lewis Blvd Serves Jamaica, Jamaica Estates, Fresh Meadows, Bayside, Whitestone, College Pt.	Weekend service restoration and addition	Oct 2012



Senator Toby Stavisky, ATU Board member Willie Moorer, ATU Recording Secretary Gladys McDaniel, Assembly Member Grace Meng, ATU Financial Secretary Luis Alzate, Community Board 8Q Vice Chair Martha Taylor, ATU Vice President Mark Henry and President Daneek Miller, Community Board 11 chair Jerry Iannece, Senator Tony Avella and Assembly Member Ed Braunstein. [Photo courtesy ATU Local 1056].



ATU President I. Daneek Miller speaks as (l to r) Assembly Member Grace Meng, ATU Financial Secretary Luis Alzate, Community Board 8Q Vice Chair Martha Taylor, ATU Vice President Mark Henry, aCommunity Board 11 chair Jerry Iannece, Assembly Member Ed Braunstein and Senator Tony Avella look on. [Photo courtesy ATU Local 1056].



Senator Toby Stavisky speaks. Also l to r: ATU Financial Secretary Luis Alzate, ATU Recording Secretary Gladys McDaniel, ATU Board member Willie Moorer, Assembly Member Grace Meng, ATU Board Member Al Ianno, Community Board 8Q Vice Chair Martha Taylor, ATU Vice President Mark Henry, Community Board 11 chair Jerry Iannece, ATU President Daneek Miller, Assembly Member Ed Braunstein, Senator Tony Avella, Assemblyman William Scarborough's representative Manny Caughman and Assembly Member Barbara Clark. [Photo courtesy ATU Local 1056].



Assembly Member Ed Braunstein speaks. Also l to r: Senator Toby Stavisky ATU Financial Secretary Luis Alzate, ATU Recording Secretary Gladys McDaniel, ATU Board member Willie Moorer, Assembly Member Grace Meng, ATU President Daneek Miller, ATU Board Member Al Ianno and Senator Tony Avella. [Photo courtesy ATU Local 1056].