

February 2, 2009

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

Dear President Roberts:

We are writing to request a meeting with you to discuss the future of Access-A-Ride. We are specifically interested in the potential use of taxi and livery cabs as a part of the paratransit system.

In 2007, the City of New York's Independent Budget Office conducted an analysis at the request of Disabled in Action to determine the potential for cost savings in the provision of Access-A-Ride by using a taxi voucher system. The IBO found that there may be significant cost savings measures associated with this model.


It is our understanding that at that time the NYCT Paratransit Division expressed an interest in pursuing such a system, and that even now the MTA is exploring different ways to make the provision of paratransit services more cost effective and efficient for riders. Several other major jurisdictions use a taxi voucher model in the provision of paratransit services for frail elderly and disabled riders, such as the cities of London and Chicago. We believe that such a program, if implemented properly, would greatly improve a paratransit user's ability to travel in New York City and we would greatly appreciate the opportunity to share our thoughts and ideas on this matter.

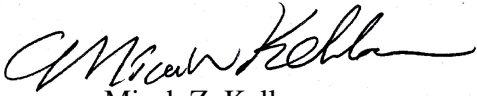
We will follow up with your office on this meeting request. It is our hope that we can work together to find creative ways to improve the cost efficiency and experience of Access-A-Ride users.

Very truly yours,

//s//

William C. Thompson
NYC Comptroller


Scott M. Stringer
Manhattan Borough President


Micah Z. Kellner
Assembly Member

cc: Elliot G. Sander, CEO, Metropolitan Transit Authority
Hilary Ring, Director of Government Affairs, MTA
Lois Tendler, Vice-President, Government and Community Relations, MTA NYCT
Lawrence Carter-Long, Disabilities Network of NYC

REPLY TO:
Assembly Member Micah Z. Kellner, 315 East 65 Street, New York, NY 10065 • (212) 860-4906, FAX (917) 432-2983
E-mail: KellnerM@assembly.state.ny.us