



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

COMMITTEES
Banks
Cities
Consumer Affairs and Protection
Environmental Conservation
Steering

MICAH Z. KELLNER
65th Assembly District

August 6, 2009

Helena E. Williams
Interim Executive Director and CEO
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
347 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ms. Williams:

I have always supported—and continue to support—the construction of the Second Avenue Subway, and I write to you today to express my deep concerns about the recent announcement by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority that the timeline for completion of Phase I has been pushed back, yet again, to July 2017.

As I understand it, Phase I completion is now projected at five years beyond the original timeline of 2012. While we are all well aware of the ultimate benefits to the East Side as a whole, the immediate reality is that this project continues to wreak havoc on the residents and businesses in and around the construction zone. My community is frustrated and the constant shifting of the timeline has created understandable anxiety.

Construction timetables for projects that have so high a negative quality of life impact on a community should be conservative and as close as possible to reality so that residents and businesses whose lives are disrupted can plan accordingly. The idea that MTA had released what it knew to be “optimistic” construction timetables (as one of your spokespeople recently stated to the press) is unacceptable, as is the idea that the periodic announcement of further delays is the way the MTA does business.

The benefits of the Second Avenue Subway, once completed, will be long-lived, and the project continues to have my full support. That said, Upper East Side residents and businesses—who have already made significant sacrifices for the good of the City—deserve to have their patience, home life, and livelihoods treated with more respect. I would like an explanation as to why these delays have continued to occur, as well as credible assurances that the current timeline

▫ 834 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248 • (518) 455-5676, FAX (518) 455-5282

▫ 315 East 65 Street, New York, NY 10065 • (212) 860-4906, FAX (917) 432-2983

is not “optimistic,” but rather firm, and that all the financing to complete Phase I is in place. I would greatly appreciate an opportunity to meet and discuss these issues as soon as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your response.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Micah Z. Kellner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Micah Z. Kellner
Assembly Member

MZK/aer

cc: Second Avenue Subway Taskforce, Manhattan Community Board 8
Second Avenue Subway Business Association
Marcus Book, Government and Community Relations, MTA