

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3211

February 15th, 2019

Andy Byford
President, MTA New York City Transit
2 Broadway
New York, New York 10004

Dear President Byford:

We write to you today regarding the R-Train and the issues our constituents continue to experience on a daily basis. For years, the R-Train has suffered from inexcusable delays, poor service, and sudden schedule shifts. With the funding shortfalls and similar problems plaguing the rest of the city's subway system, we know that the MTA is pressed to deliver solutions everywhere, quickly, and at a massive cost. That is not what we propose. Instead, we believe we have a solution that is relatively cheap, quick to implement, and has successfully reduced delays in the past.

In 2013, the Montague Street Tunnel was closed for Hurricane Sandy repairs and the R-Train line was split between Brooklyn and Manhattan from August 2013 to September 2014. Many commuters braced themselves for what they thought would be a truly miserable commute. However, the split at Court Street insulated the Southern Brooklyn line from traffic delays occurring earlier along the line, improving reliability and commute times for constituents in our district. By bifurcating the R-train, Bay Ridge commuters were no longer being delayed due to a sick passenger up in Queens.

As per the MTA's Fast Forward Plan, South Brooklyn is not scheduled to receive signal upgrades for over a decade. Putting South Brooklynites through another ten years of a commuting nightmare is simply not an option. It's time for us to think outside the box. We are asking you to study the possible bifurcation of the R-line at Court St as it had been from August 2013 to September 2014. Considering that this was put in place before -and it was an unexpected success - we expect the MTA to move quickly to reimplement this program permanently if it was determined to be a possible long-term solution.

We look forward to your response and are eager to sit down to discuss this idea, and any others the MTA may have to end our commuting nightmare.



Max Rose
Member of Congress



Justin Brannan
City Councilman



Andrew Gounardes
State Senator



Mathylde Frontus
State Assemblywoman