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August 22, 2001

Peter Kalikow
Chairman
Metropolitan Transit Authority
347 Madison Ave
New York, NY 10017

Dear Chairman Kalikow:

We would like to express our deep concern and interest in MTA's planning study of the #7 Extension to the Javits Center Area, contained in the MTA 2000-2004 Capital Program that was adopted in April 2000. It is our understanding that a preliminary scope of service is being prepared and that consultants have been invited to submit qualifications.

We are not endorsing any specific proposal. We are interested in seeing that a full range of alternatives are genuinely considered. We would especially stress the importance of including light rail options in the analysis. The 42nd Street light rail proposal, as approved by the City Council in 1994, certainly merits full and fair review. We also would request that a variation of this proposal, in which the 42nd Street light rail line is placed in the middle of an auto-free street, be given equal, fair and impartial consideration. We understand this proposal has been presented to the MTA. We urge the MTA to consider other light rail options as well, in particular the Midtown Crossing Plan contained in the Regional Plan Association's Third Regional Plan. The RPA proposal calls for extending the 42nd Street LRT line south to 34th Street along 12th Avenue, and then east to Broadway, and north to Lincoln Center.

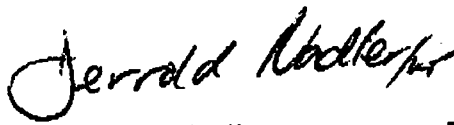
While light rail may or may not be the preferred alternative, we urge the MTA to keep an open mind on alternatives as it begins this study. Our constituents certainly expect all relevant alternatives to be explored. It is especially important for the MTA to develop the comprehensive database necessary for exploring these alternatives carefully—including traffic volumes and

capacity analyses. Too often, in the past, planning studies have focused on a single proposal, and given only cursory attention to very credible alternatives. We feel certain that, under your leadership, a careful assessment of light rail options will be included in this MTA study.

Very truly yours,



Richard N. Gottfried
Assembly Member



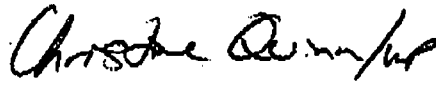
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Coalition for Light Rail in an Auto-Free 42nd Street
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Frederic S. Papert
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