



Testimony Regarding the MTA's 2015-2019 Capital Program: Evaluating Transit Priorities for Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island

Assembly Standing Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions

Hearing Date: Thurs. Aug. 7, 2014

Location: Assembly Hearing Room, 250 Broadway, Rm 1923, New York, NY

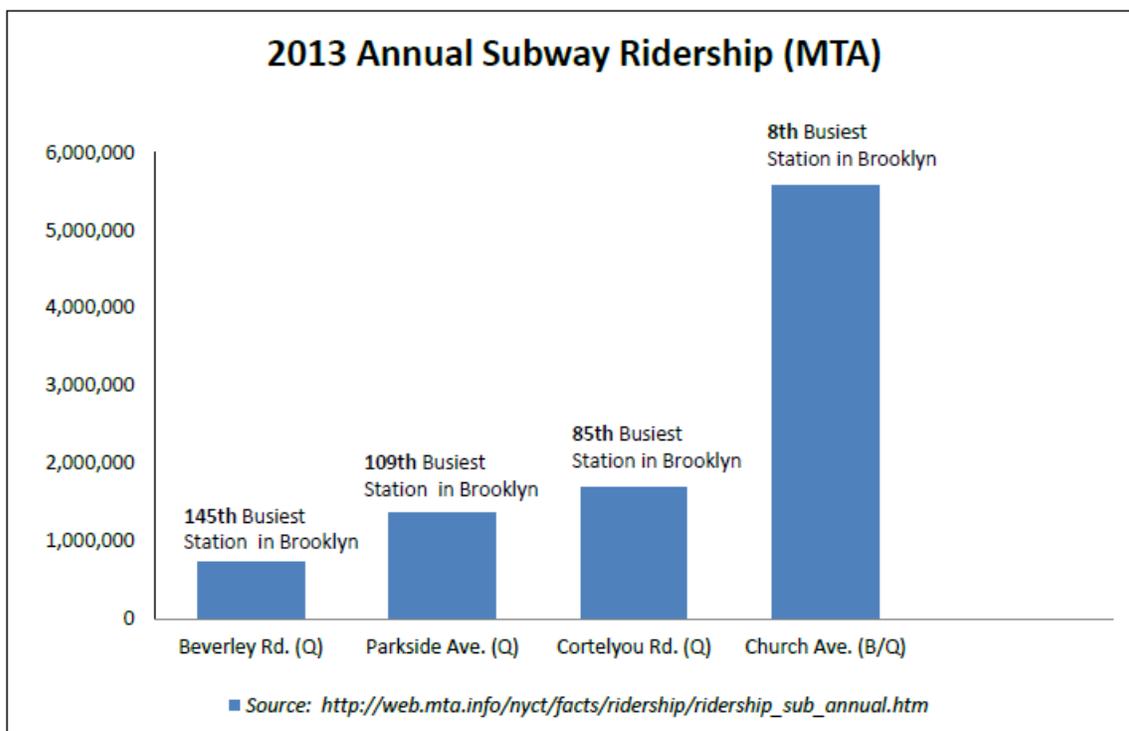
Submitted by: Lauren Elvers Collins, Executive Director, Church Avenue BID

My name is Lauren Elvers Collins and I am the Executive Director of the Church Avenue Business Improvement District in Flatbush, Brooklyn. The Church Avenue B/Q subway station is in serious disrepair and in need of a major overhaul. We urge the MTA to include rehabilitation of this station in the MTA's 2015-2019 Capital Program.

About the Station:

The Church Avenue B/Q station is a major hub in the low-income, CDBG-eligible community of Flatbush, Brooklyn. It is located in the center of an active commercial strip of primarily mom-and-pop stores, a district which depends on public transportation to get employees and shoppers to and from the area. The station is plagued by broken and missing tiles, leaking ceilings, peeling paint, crumbling cement, and numerous other problems (*I have attached several photos at the end of this testimony*). While it should be a welcoming entryway to this bustling area, its condition is an insult to this neighborhood which relies heavily on public transportation and it counteracts local attempts to improve the community.

For years, the Church Avenue BID, local groups, and Flatbush residents have been meeting with and pleading with MTA officials and elected representatives on the State and City levels to repair and renovate the exterior and interior of this station. Most recently, in February of this year, Assemblymembers Brennan and Jacobs wrote MTA President Prendergast requesting that the station be included in the MTA's Capital Plan for 2015-2019. Yet year after year, priority has been given to improvements on the much less trafficked Q line stations of Cortelyou Road, Parkside Avenue, and Beverley Road stations (*see chart on following page*). Improvements to those three stations have been done. Now is time to bring the Church Avenue station up to a much improved level.



The Church Avenue B/Q station had 5,603,898 riders annually, a 13% increase from 2012 to 2013 and an increase in one year of 621,283 additional riders.

We strongly urge the MTA to include renovation of this station in its 2015-2019 Capital Program. If this station is put back on the MTA’s priority list, the Church Avenue BID would be more than happy to do a walk through with MTA representatives to identify the most pressing problems which would make the most impact. Thank you for your consideration.



Church Avenue B/Q station at Church Avenue and E. 18th Street (8/1/14).



Broken tiles going several layers deep at corner of station at Church Ave. and E. 18th Street (8/1/14).



Wall of stairwell leading to Brooklyn-bound platform inside Church Ave. entrance (8/5/14).



Cracked paint on Brooklyn-bound platform (8/1/14).