3/24/2010

TO: John Leon, Senior Director, NJ Transit
FR: Mayor Dawn Zimmer
RE: Hoboken’s West Side Bus Lines

Dear Mr. Leon:

As you know, thousands of Hoboken residents rely on the 126 NJ Transit bus route from Hoboken to the Port Authority Bus Terminal every morning. Unfortunately, for many residents in the Northwest section of Hoboken, expeditiously boarding a bus during peak times has proved to be a near impossibility since the buses are frequently at capacity once they reach the northern end of Hoboken. Our City needs additional service in the form of added buses or an additional bus route west of Clinton Street.

The 2010 Census states Hoboken’s population at 50,000, up from 38,000 in 2000. The number of new residents using the 126 bus route in the mornings has clearly overwhelmed the current system. Not only are the lives of countless residents inconvenienced every day, but the long queues provide a disincentive for residents to rely on mass transit and lead a car-free lifestyle. Additional service for these residents could also increase NJ Transit’s revenues in this area.

Our transportation engineer has recently conducted an analysis of queues and wait times at peak periods throughout Hoboken. The study is attached via email, and will be mailed to your office. The findings clearly show what one can see by simply walking down the street: queues for the 126 bus line are too long throughout Hoboken. Further uptown, as many as five buses can go by without having room to allow a single rider to board. This study shows lines up to 52 riders long at peak periods.

Due to an increased population and in order to ease the crowded mornings for thousands of commuters, I ask that NJ Transit either considerably increase the number of buses in the mornings or consider adding an additional rush hour route west of Clinton Street. The northwestern section of Hoboken experienced significant development, and the western edge is currently going through the redevelopment process, which will mean more demand and even longer lines. In light of this, the 2010 Census numbers and the current queuing problems, I hope we can work together to provide the residents of Hoboken with a long-term solution.

Thank you,

Mayor Dawn Zimmer