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NASSAU COUNTY BUS TRANSIT COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC MEETING

- - - - -x  
700 Commercial Avenue  
Garden City, New York

April 4, 2019  
5:06 p.m.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

- COMMITTEE MEMBERS:  
SHELDON SHRENKEL, Chairman  
JOEL BERSE, Member  
DAWN FALCO, Member  
LIVIO ROSARIO, Member

PETER DISILVIO  
Assistant County Attorney

JACK KHZOUZ, CEO of NICE

- Public Speakers:  
Richard Colory (phonetic)  
Joseph Torcivia  
Yuki Endo

1                   Proceedings

2                   MR. SHRENKEL:    Good afternoon.  
3                   Will the meeting, please, come to  
4                   order?

5                   Welcome to NICE Transportation,  
6                   Nassau County Bus Transit Committee.  
7                   I'm Sheldon Shrenkel.  I'm the  
8                   Chairman of the Committee.

9                   As part of our roll call, I  
10                  would like to introduce our  
11                  membership.  On my far left is Joel  
12                  Berse.  To my immediate left is Dawn  
13                  Falco.  To my immediate right is Livio  
14                  Rosario.  To my far right is the  
15                  Committee's counsel, Mr. Peter  
16                  Disilvio.  And we have with us a court  
17                  reporter, Ms. Susan Bartlett.

18                  We do expect one other member  
19                  coming shortly.  Nevertheless, we have  
20                  a quorum to conduct all the necessary  
21                  business right now.

22                  Our basic agenda for today is we  
23                  are going to hear a presentation by  
24                  the CEO of NICE Transportation,  
25                  Mr. Jack Khzouz.  He'll be talking

1                   Proceedings

2           about various issues, including the  
3           2019 Budget and requesting an approval  
4           from the Committee.

5                   We will be also given a  
6           presentation on a requirement to  
7           acknowledge the FTA Title VI Plan and  
8           there may be some additional  
9           information that Mr. Khzouz wants  
10          authorization from the Committee on.

11                   After Mr. Khzouz's presentation,  
12          I will ask you first to put your cell  
13          phone on silent and we will take  
14          public comments.

15                   If you are here for the first  
16          time, we conduct this similar -- as a  
17          public hearing and we ask you to limit  
18          your comments to three minutes.

19                   What I ask you to do is frame  
20          them -- design your thoughts so that  
21          you can complete them within a three  
22          minute timeframe.

23                   If you have some additional  
24          thoughts, if Mr. Khzouz is available  
25          after the meeting, perhaps, you can

1                   Proceedings

2           speak with him or he can give you a  
3           telephone number to contact him at a  
4           subsequent time.

5                   That's pretty much our agenda  
6           today.

7                   With that, I would like to  
8           introduce the Chairman of NICE  
9           Transportation, Mr. Jack Khzouz.

10                   MR. KHZOZ: Thank you, Mr.  
11           Shrenkel.

12                   MR. SHRENKEL: You're welcome.

13                   MR. KHZOZ: We have a few  
14           points of business to conduct today.

15                   Not unlike what we have done in  
16           the past years, we will talk a little  
17           bit about the Budget. We'll be voting  
18           on the Budget to approve the Budget.

19                   There is also an additional  
20           funding resolution that we will talk  
21           about.

22                   We'll be showing a score card  
23           for the fourth quarter of the year and  
24           then we'll be asking you to approve  
25           and acknowledge acceptance of the

1                   Proceedings

2           Title VI Plan, the FTA Title VI Plan.  
3           I'll explain what it is a little later  
4           on.

5                   With that, we'll go ahead and  
6           get started.

7                   So our available funding this  
8           year, this is how the funding laid  
9           out. As we know, the State Operating  
10          Assistance Fund, the STOA Fund, is our  
11          largest portion of our Budget. This  
12          year with the support of our State  
13          Senators and Assembly people and the  
14          Governor, we were fully funded up and  
15          beyond our expectation. The funding  
16          this year came out to 74 Million  
17          dollars and change.

18                   That allows us to have  
19          everything else line up correctly.  
20          Nassau County required the STOA match  
21          and then additional discretionary  
22          funds; the FTA Grant, that's a capital  
23          cost grant, the FTA match, the  
24          Passenger Revenue and the Nonuser  
25          Revenue makes up the 133 million

1                   Proceedings

2           dollars we need to run service.

3                   Again, the State Operating  
4           Assistance Fund is the largest portion  
5           of our funding that was in question up  
6           until just recently. The State just  
7           past their Budget this last weekend.  
8           We found out about that number just  
9           recently.

10                   So I'll take questions as I go  
11           through, but let me go through  
12           everything else.

13                   So the way the funding lays out,  
14           it allows us to go ahead and assign  
15           the monthly -- both the monthly fixed  
16           fee and the variable rate fee.

17                   The monthly fixed fee is as  
18           shown. This year against last year,  
19           it's relatively flat. It's a slight  
20           increase.

21                   The fix variable rate rises just  
22           a little bit and that's mostly due to  
23           wages. You'll see that in a second.

24                   Then the para transit rate is  
25           flat.

1                   Proceedings

2                   Generally, it comes to a flat  
3 number or a slight increase over the  
4 previous year.

5                   So, how does that translate into  
6 revenue hours? As I mentioned, the  
7 133 million dollars allows us to  
8 sustain the service that we had  
9 established last year. We're very  
10 fortunate in having that service  
11 established.

12                   As you can see, the revenue  
13 hours in para transit stayed virtually  
14 flat. Those vary based on demand.  
15 That is our projection.

16                   The fixed hours you see pick up  
17 just slightly. You see 800,000  
18 revenue hours last year to 816 this  
19 year.

20                   The reason that's different is  
21 there are some service adjustments.  
22 There is a service that we launched in  
23 Port Washington in January as a pilot.  
24 And then there is a little bit of a  
25 restored service on the 78/79 on

1                   Proceedings

2           Saturday that begins in April. There  
3           also will be some other small  
4           adjustments as we go forward with our  
5           revenue hours. Those are revenue  
6           hours that are fully paid for by the  
7           Budget as it sits now.

8                   As you can see, our wages and  
9           benefits, again, this is not a new  
10          chart, 64 percent of our expenses go  
11          to wages and benefits. It's a very  
12          people driven service. So...

13                   This is how the Budget lays out  
14          in detail. I'll go right to the  
15          bottom line. Last year our Budget to  
16          run this service was about  
17          \$130,129,848. This year it's 133.  
18          That's a two percent increase.

19                   The majority of that increase  
20          comes from operators' wages.

21                   It also comes from an increase  
22          in our maintenance costs. We're  
23          really trying to get the fleet up to  
24          where it should be.

25                   Additionally, what you see in



1                   Proceedings

2           the fleet, a lot of the current fleet  
3           is coming off of warranty. Now those  
4           costs are being born by us directly.  
5           So you'll see the number go up.

6                   The other area that you saw an  
7           increase in here is in casualty and  
8           liability. I'm proud to say that our  
9           safety numbers have improved year  
10          after year after year. We continue to  
11          run an extremely safe operation  
12          considering our operating environment.

13                   But being in New York State, the  
14          cost of each claim has gone up. There  
15          are less claims, but per claim cost  
16          has risen. We are trying to be much  
17          more aggressive because we can't  
18          sustain a great service in growth with  
19          that number growing out of control.

20                   It's not a number -- not an  
21          issue unique to us. It's unique to  
22          New York Metro, the MTA. It's unique  
23          to the County. We are all trying to  
24          get our arms around that. We here in  
25          New York and California both kind of

1                   Proceedings

2           suffer from this issue, but I wanted  
3           to point it out.

4                   Again, it's about a two percent  
5           increase in costs. It keeps up with  
6           our contractual agreement with our  
7           Union.

8                   Before I go on to Capital Plan  
9           Highlights, does anyone have any  
10          questions regarding the actual Budget  
11          numbers?

12                   MR. ROSARIO: No.

13                   MR. KHZOUZ: So I'll go on and  
14          just interrupt me if you have any  
15          questions.

16                   The Capital Plan Highlights, I'm  
17          very happy to report that we'll have  
18          14 new para transit vehicles here very  
19          shortly. Those are well overdue.  
20          We're glad to have them in our  
21          service. That will certainly help our  
22          delivery for our para transit folks.  
23          We're anticipating those starting to  
24          come in early May, late June.

25                   The installation of additional

1                   Proceedings

2           bus cameras also is another capital  
3           expense.

4                   Upgrade of the Mitchell Field  
5           fuel area, as you know, we have  
6           pressed natural gas. We just  
7           completed a huge -- I believe an 11  
8           million dollar upgrade to that  
9           facility. It's currently, probably,  
10          the highest pressed natural gas  
11          fueling facility in the country. It  
12          also allows us to fuel buses much more  
13          efficiently, much quicker. So buses  
14          can get in and out of the fuel line.  
15          Again, when you are trying to fuel 300  
16          vehicles every night or twice a day,  
17          getting them in and out is very  
18          important.

19                   This garage is going through  
20          installation of new overhead doors.  
21          They are high speed safety doors that  
22          open automatically. That is happening  
23          right now.

24                   The Hempstead Transit Center, we  
25          are -- this Spring we will begin a

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2 refresh at the Hempstead Transit  
3 Center. The whole Transit Center will  
4 be repainted, power washed, new bird  
5 netting going up. We already  
6 installed new security cameras and  
7 security lighting. A lot of rust  
8 mitigation will go on. That whole  
9 facility will see a facelift.

10 We'll go from there. This is  
11 hard to read but it's our -- actually,  
12 it's the Improvement Plan, the Capital  
13 Improvement Plan over the next year or  
14 so by the particular project. It just  
15 lays it out. There is two pages of  
16 very small print here and I apologize  
17 for that. There is no better way to  
18 do this.

19 So, that is the Budget, as I  
20 mentioned. It allows us, again, at  
21 the current level of funding to  
22 provide the same level or slightly  
23 more service than last year. Again,  
24 we're very happy and very thankful and  
25 grateful to all those that worked on

1                   Proceedings

2           that Budget.

3                   Any other questions?

4                   CHAIRMAN SHRENKEL:   Just leave  
5           that up for a minute.

6                   MR. KHZOUZ:    Sure.

7                   CHAIRMAN SHRENKEL:   Thank you.

8                   MR. KHZOUZ:    At this point, I  
9           would like the Chairman to ask for a  
10          vote to approve the Budget.

11                   At the same time we're doing  
12          something a little unique here.   That  
13          is we're asking for a resolution that  
14          allows NICE Bus to increase the Budget  
15          up to \$300,000 at the current rate  
16          should additional funding become  
17          available.   I'll speak a little bit to  
18          that.

19                   There may be some opportunities  
20          to get funding directly from local  
21          villages or private companies to  
22          provide service independently of the  
23          County and State Budget.   So what we  
24          would like is the approval from the  
25          Board to go up to that 300,000 dollar

1 Proceedings

2 level so that we don't have to come  
3 back to you again before we can get  
4 that implemented. That's why this is  
5 in here. That's really the mechanism  
6 that we are trying to solve here.

7 CHAIRMAN SHRENKEL: It sounds  
8 reasonable.

9 MR. BERSE: Point of  
10 information?

11 MR. KHZOUZ: Yes.

12 MR. BERSE: I'd actually like a  
13 question answer.

14 Last year the Chairman that  
15 preceded you and our former counsel  
16 told us that we were mandated to vote  
17 on the Budget by the end of March,  
18 even though the STOA money was in  
19 flux. And I had made a motion that  
20 everybody knock down and would not  
21 allow to ask us to extend 20 days. As  
22 it turned out, the money came through  
23 in that amount of time.

24 Here we are past March 31st  
25 being asked to vote on the Budget just

1                   Proceedings

2           the way we did last year, but what  
3           happened to that contractual  
4           obligation to do it by the end of  
5           March?

6                   This now creates a vicious  
7           inconsistency in my opinion that may  
8           or may not be your fault because it  
9           was predecessors of yours, but I want  
10          an explanation.

11                   MS. FALCO: It could be the  
12          timeframe that it took for the MTA to  
13          resolve their finances.

14                   MR. BERSE: No, we were told  
15          that we had to vote on it by the  
16          contract between the County and NICE.  
17          That was the reason we were compelled  
18          to vote.

19                   And now we're not compelled to  
20          meet before the end of March and vote.  
21          What changed?

22                   MR. KHZOUZ: What changed is  
23          last year we were under an umbrella of  
24          potential service reductions because  
25          we didn't know what the Budget was

1                   Proceedings

2                   finally going to be. There was a lot  
3                   of messaging to us that said, you're  
4                   not going to get the full Budget you  
5                   need to run the service that you  
6                   expect.

7                   In order to effect that Budget  
8                   correctly, those service changes had  
9                   to go into effect in April. In order  
10                  to have those service changes done in  
11                  April, we had to vote early enough so  
12                  that we could make those changes. So,  
13                  that's why.

14                 It's a calendar issue. We don't  
15                 have that issue this year. We may  
16                 have that issue again some day soon,  
17                 but that's why. The State Budget  
18                 doesn't come out until the end of  
19                 March, early April.

20                 Our first opportunity to adjust  
21                 service is late April and in order to  
22                 take advantage of that, we have to  
23                 vote early. That's not the case this  
24                 year.

25                 MR. BERSE: Well, I still



1                   Proceedings

2           think and I thought so last year that  
3           asking for an additional 20 days to  
4           see what would happen with the STOA  
5           was proper.

6                   And now the STOA money came out  
7           after March in this past weekend, we  
8           know that, so this is the way that it  
9           should have been done last year.

10                   But I object to the fact that it  
11           is being an inconsistency thing for  
12           this panel and I wanted that on the  
13           record.

14                   MR. KHZOUZ: I understand that,  
15           Mr. Berse. Again, it's a calendar  
16           issue. If we would have waited and it  
17           went the other way, the cuts would  
18           have been doubled because we would  
19           have to wait until June to effectuate  
20           those cuts. It's not ideal. I  
21           understand your frustration. I  
22           certainly do.

23                   MR. DI SILVIO: Chairman?

24                   CHAIRMAN SHRENKEL: Sure.

25                   MR. DI SILVIO: Point of

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2 information, questions from the Board  
3 should be raised as a point of inquiry  
4 and points of information should be  
5 points of information, just to keep  
6 the record straight.

7 MR. SHRENKEL: Thank you,  
8 counsel.

9 MR. KHZOUZ: No other questions?

10 MR. BERSE: I think counsel this  
11 year knows what he is doing, instead  
12 of like last year.

13 Thank you, Peter.

14 MR. DI SILVIO: No problem,  
15 Joel.

16 MR. KHZOUZ: If there are no  
17 questions, I would like to go ahead  
18 and ask to go ahead and approve the  
19 Budget and also the Resolution.

20 CHAIRMAN SHRENKEL: We're going  
21 to take this vote after the public  
22 comments, if it's okay with you.

23 MR. KHZOUZ: Yes. I would like  
24 to continue then.

25 MR. SHRENKEL: Please, finish

1                   Proceedings

2           your presentation.

3                   Then I'll give you time before  
4           the vote if you think it's appropriate  
5           and necessary to address any issues  
6           raised through the public comments.

7                   MR. KHZOUZ:   Yes.

8                   The other thing to cover is the  
9           Score Card on the agenda.  This is I  
10          feel a little bit late in our covering  
11          it.  It is the Fourth Quarter Score  
12          Card.  But we will cover it now.

13                   I will tell you that I'm not  
14          necessarily proud of the Score Card.  
15          And I know the team isn't proud of the  
16          Score Card.

17                   We had some very cold weather in  
18          the fourth quarter.  And in the third  
19          quarter, we had a lot of construction.  
20          So, in the very first line, the on  
21          time performance really suffered.  As  
22          you can see, it's 64.91.  I will tell  
23          you that our current on time  
24          performance is closer to 75.  So it's  
25          bounced back quite a bit.  As you can

1                   Proceedings

2           see, we did receive a penalty on that  
3           line.

4                   Missed pullouts, the number of  
5           vehicles that don't pull out because  
6           of mechanical or personnel issues were  
7           right on target. Nothing happened  
8           there.

9                   Accidents for 100,000 miles,  
10          again we were within our goal so  
11          nothing transpired there.

12                   But, again, that OTP, that on  
13          time performance number, we really --  
14          I have a really hard time -- our whole  
15          team has a hard time with that. We're  
16          trying to correct and have corrected  
17          that.

18                   On the Para Transit side, you  
19          saw in the fourth quarter, our calls  
20          answered ratio dropped. That was a  
21          staffing shortage. We are fully back  
22          on staff. We paid a penalty there.

23                   Our on time performance on the  
24          Para Transit side, it continues to  
25          stay steady. It needs to improve.

1                   Proceedings

2                   It's at 80 at the fourth quarter.  
3                   Currently it's running at 84 percent.  
4                   Again, we are seeing improvement  
5                   there.

6                   Missed pullouts, we were within  
7                   our goal. So there was no penalty  
8                   there. Then accidents, we actually  
9                   performed better than the goal. So we  
10                  received a \$5,000 award there.

11                  And productivity, passengers per  
12                  hour, again within the goal so there  
13                  was no LD or award.

14                  So that's the Fourth Quarter  
15                  Score Card. I promise you a better  
16                  Score Card in Q1. Like I said, we had  
17                  some serious work to do on it and it  
18                  did come out much better.

19                  We'll talk a little bit now  
20                  about the Title VI Program. The Title  
21                  VI Program is a federally mandated  
22                  program by the FTA.

23                  I'll just read what it says  
24                  here. I can't say it any better.

25                  Title VI. The Civil Rights Act

1                   Proceedings  
2           of 1964 protects people from  
3           discrimination based on race, color  
4           and national origin in programs and  
5           activities receiving federal financial  
6           assistance.

7                   The Federal Transit  
8           Administration works to ensure  
9           nondiscriminatory transportation in  
10          support of our mission to enhance the  
11          social and economic quality of life  
12          for all Americans.

13                  So this is a large program that  
14          you have in front of you. It's also  
15          on our website. We update it every  
16          three years with new information and  
17          data on how we distribute service, how  
18          we distribute even stock assets,  
19          things like that. It's an important  
20          plan. How we take care of people who  
21          maybe don't speak English as their  
22          first language. All those things are  
23          very important to us and important to  
24          the FTA. They require us to update  
25          the plan every three years.

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Proceedings

The plan is in front of you.  
Assuming your approval, then it will go to our County Executive for their approval also.

Any questions on the Score Card?  
That's all I have.

CHAIRMAN SHRENKEL: There were no material changes to the Title VI as opposed to in the past?

MR. KHZOUZ: Exactly.

Any questions?

MS. FALCO: I have a couple of questions, not necessarily related to what you gave us.

By the way, thank you.

First, I was wondering, was there any feedback that you can provide regarding the Port Washington shuttle?

MR. KHZOUZ: The Port Washington Shuttle is a shuttle that we engineered and committed to for a year. We launched it in January. It is servicing people from the Port

1                   Proceedings

2           Washington Railroad Station, to the  
3           North Shore Road, down to Roslyn  
4           Railroad Station.

5                   It's being used.   It's being  
6           used very lightly.   We are just in the  
7           process of reengineering the service  
8           so it actually extends up into Manor  
9           Haven and picks people up at the end  
10          of block pick-ups and takes them to  
11          the train station and then does the  
12          loop.

13                   MS. FALCO:   Okay.

14                   MR. KHZOUZ:   So it's actually  
15          going to serve two separate types of  
16          customers.   We're working on that plan  
17          now.   Hopefully, we will have it  
18          rolled out sometime in June.

19                   But it's a lightly populated  
20          area.   It's not as dense as the rest  
21          of the County.   So the expectations  
22          are a little bit lower there.   It's a  
23          smaller vehicle.   And the headway for  
24          service frequency is very light.   You  
25          may wait an hour between service.   So



1                   Proceedings

2                   -- but it is a trial. It is a test.  
3                   It's a pilot.

4                   MS. FALCO: How do you think  
5                   residents will find out about it?  
6                   Will there be advertising?

7                   MR. KHZOUZ: We just had the  
8                   meeting yesterday with the local  
9                   politicians in the area. We are --  
10                  John Feldman here, who is our Manager  
11                  of Service and Planning, is just  
12                  starting to engineer it. So, over the  
13                  next 30 days, we'll have a final and  
14                  then we'll go out with marketing.

15                  MS. FALCO: Thank you.

16                  Totally off topic, I have  
17                  another unrelated question. Have your  
18                  guys given any consideration to  
19                  increasing the number of locations  
20                  where there are Metro card kiosks?

21                  MR. KHZOUZ: Unfortunately, we  
22                  don't have that. They are a product  
23                  of the MTA. We have lobbied and  
24                  pushed hard.

25                  MS. FALCO: They are /#45RD hard

1                   Proceedings

2           to find.

3                   MR. KHZOUZ:   Right.   The MTA is  
4           very hesitant to expand the  
5           distribution of them.   There are  
6           retailers that sell the card also.

7                   The MTA has begun a process of  
8           migrating from the Metro card to  
9           what's called the Omni card.   The Omni  
10          card is a smart card embedded, a  
11          re-loadable system.   So, over the next  
12          three years, the next five years, that  
13          will start becoming the prevalent fare  
14          medium.   Obviously, they don't want to  
15          invest in the old and still introduce  
16          the new.   That's a challenge.

17                   UNIDENTIFIED PUBLIC SPEAKER:  
18          That sucks.

19                   MR. KHZOUZ:   That's a challenge.

20                   MS. FALCO:   Thank you.

21                   CHAIRMAN SHRENKEL:   Thank you  
22          very much, Mr. Khzouz, for such a  
23          detailed presentation.

24                   I would like to at this time ask  
25          if any of you folks would like to

1 Proceedings

2 address the Committee.

3 When you come up, please,  
4 identify yourself with your name,  
5 whether you represent an organization  
6 or an institution or you're simply  
7 representing yourself. Please, try to  
8 keep it to three minutes. Thank you.

9 Richard?

10 MR. COLORY (phonetic): To the  
11 members of the Committee. My name is  
12 Richard Colory. I am the current  
13 President of the Long Island Bus  
14 Drivers Union. I would like to ask a  
15 couple of questions.

16 Well, I guess there's no point  
17 of me asking about the State Budget.

18 Let's move on to question 2.  
19 Why are we meeting here? Do you know  
20 that the Bus Union and I would like  
21 you to move the location of these  
22 meetings to a more accessible  
23 location, like Mineola because this  
24 place is almost inaccessible to those  
25 who use public transportation.

1                   Proceedings

2                   For some reason, the past couple  
3 of times we had it here. Why is that?  
4 You don't want to hear people's  
5 comments? Is it that difficult to  
6 hold it like at the city building?  
7 Come on. Let's be honest with each  
8 other.

9                   It must be you simply want to  
10 represent all the recommendations that  
11 NICE has sent to you regarding the  
12 consequences of people that use the  
13 buses everyday. Why don't you guys  
14 and girls -- I mean, why are we here?  
15 Is it really that difficult?

16                  Also, I want to ask you guys  
17 something about the NICE bus service.  
18 I tried looking it up to see what the  
19 current service is, if they are going  
20 expand it or not. It just disappeared  
21 from the Internet, like it didn't  
22 exist at all. I know it was in the  
23 pilot stage. I wasn't sure if someone  
24 decided to discontinue it.

25                  Look, I live in an area that

## 1 Proceedings

2 used to be populated by the n47 and  
3 the n55 buses, but it's no longer -- I  
4 am just wondering if at all you guys  
5 plan to restore it. If you are, are  
6 you going to increase the weekend  
7 service? Because it would really help  
8 a lot of good people out there.  
9 People who can't drive well, among  
10 other things.

11 Look, all I'm asking is that, A,  
12 that you guys try to figure out the  
13 n47 and n55 buses. That way I can  
14 fully participate -- right now I  
15 depend on Uber if it rains or snows.  
16 Do you know what I am saying? Don't  
17 get me wrong, I like Uber but I want  
18 to save money too. Do you know what I  
19 am saying?

20 Look, guys, if you are going to  
21 have more meeting, can we try, A, to  
22 get it at a city building? B, can you  
23 advertise it on-line and off line so  
24 that way people know and can actually  
25 come and do what they need to do? You

1 Proceedings

2 get the idea.

3 MS. FALCO: Thank you, Richard.

4 MR. ROSARIO: Thanks, Richard.

5 MR. COLORY: Thank you.

6 Have a good day.

7 CHAIRMAN SHRENKEL: Anyone else  
8 who would like to comment?

9 MR. TORCIVIA: Not counting this  
10 against my time, but you can get here  
11 on the n35 and the n16 with a very  
12 short walk. That's the way I prefer  
13 to do it rather than the 27, which is  
14 the advertised way. So, it's really  
15 not inaccessible at all.

16 CHAIRMAN SHRENKEL: Richard, sit  
17 down.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. TORCIVIA: 35 and 16. Okay.

20 My name is Joe Torcivia. I  
21 speak for myself.

22 And my first topic is, once  
23 again, the reduced service on the  
24 Newbridge Road n49. I'm too far south  
25 of Old Country Road and too far north

## 1 Proceedings

2 of Hempstead Turnpike to have any  
3 other option. And as I so often say  
4 not long ago, weekday service was  
5 every 30 minutes between the 49 and  
6 the 50 and then it became every hour  
7 with the 49 only and in the last round  
8 of cuts, the weekday intervals are one  
9 hour and ten minutes. Saturday  
10 service used to be hourly. Now it's  
11 every 90 minutes. Hourly was the  
12 standard in 1970. Why would it be 75  
13 minutes -- 70, 75 minutes on weekdays  
14 and 90 minutes on Saturdays today?

15 The last time I proposed that  
16 the existing n49 be augmented by a  
17 shuttle that could operate between  
18 Broadway Mall, Hicksville Railroad  
19 Station and Newbridge Road and  
20 Hempstead Turnpike to take up that  
21 slack. It would be a short run that  
22 would only require mini buses used for  
23 NICE link, maybe even take it as a  
24 loop and travel down Newbridge to  
25 Hempstead Turnpike, where you can

## 1 Proceedings

2 transfer to 70, 71, 72 and continue to  
3 Hempstead and travel back up to  
4 Hicksville, being that you abandoned  
5 the 73 and 74 routes in alternating  
6 directions. It need only be like from  
7 9:00 to 5:00 or 9:00 to 6:00 Monday  
8 through Saturday. Hopefully, somebody  
9 might take that into consideration.

10 Final topic for today, the n24  
11 between Hicksville and Jamaica was  
12 recently split into two parts with a  
13 free transfer between the two. But  
14 when the same thing was previously  
15 done to the n20 between Hicksville and  
16 Flushing, there was no free transfer.  
17 There still isn't.

18 Since the n20 was split some  
19 years ago, this became problematic  
20 because unless I use a Metro card,  
21 which allows two transfers, I am no  
22 longer able to make a trip that I  
23 frequently make from Levittown,  
24 Newbridge Road on the 49 to Hicksville  
25 and Hicksville to Flushing on the n20



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2                   because cash fare only allows one  
3                   transfer.

4                   In addition, especially on  
5                   Saturday, when the n49 runs at 90  
6                   minute intervals, once again, even  
7                   when I use a Metro card and get the  
8                   second transfer, which was not  
9                   necessary before the n20 was split. I  
10                  rarely make the n49 within the two  
11                  hour timeframe for transfers after  
12                  waiting for both the n20g and the n20h  
13                  in Hicksville.

14                  In short, can the free transfers  
15                  at Great Neck --

16                  MR. SHRENKEL: You're running  
17                  out of time.

18                  MR. TORCIVIA: Yes, I'm good.

19                  Can free transfers at Great Neck  
20                  between the n20h and the n20g be  
21                  considered, as NICE has already done  
22                  for the n24?

23                  I thank you for your time.

24                  MS. FALCO: Thank you.

25                  MR. ROSARIO: I thank you.

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2 CHAIRMAN SHRENKEL: Anybody  
3 else?

4 Yuki, I am going to ask you to  
5 introduce yourself and what have you,  
6 the protocol. We will ask Mr. Berse  
7 to read your comments to everyone if  
8 that's okay with you.

9 Introduce yourself and tell us  
10 who you're with.

11 My name is Yuki Endo. I am a  
12 resident of Jackson Heights.

13 MS. FALCO: I have seen your  
14 comments on that.

15 CHAIRMAN SHRENKEL: Mr. Berse,  
16 please. Thank you.

17 MR. BERSE: My name is Yuki  
18 Endo, resident of Jackson Heights,  
19 Queens and organizer of Facebook group  
20 NOT NICE with NICE Bus, SCT Bus and  
21 Hudson Link and member of Long Island  
22 Failroad Facebook group. Failroad  
23 Facebook, that's correct?

24 MS. FALCO: Yes.

25 I'm also asking Nassau County

1                   Proceedings

2           Executive Laura Curran to put more  
3           funding for NICE Bus for maintenance  
4           because Nassau Hub will not be  
5           successful without NICE Bus.

6                   I do not support fare hike, but  
7           NICE Bus need to be same fare as MTA  
8           in order for Unlimited Metro Card to  
9           be accepted. Before NICE Bus adopt  
10          MTA fare hike, which is already  
11          approve, NICE Bus need to restore  
12          following buses fully like n79, n45,  
13          n50, n73, n36 and n19 buses and  
14          restoration of n72 bus back to/from  
15          Babylon as well.

16                   We also need full restoration of  
17          n27 bus on weekend. Instead of  
18          terminating n27 bus at Roslyn Station,  
19          n27 bus should terminate/originate at  
20          Roosevelt Field.

21                   n22X bus stop at Mineola Station  
22          during rush hour should be at same  
23          stop as Hofstra University/Adelphi  
24          University on west side of Mineola  
25          Station for Jamaica-bound and taxi

## 1 Proceedings

2 pickup on east side at  
3 Hicksville-bound because it is forcing  
4 passenger to cross over pedestrian  
5 overpass to get to n22X bus stop at  
6 Mineola Boulevard/Second Street.

7 Also if n36 bus cannot be  
8 restore, reinstate back as  
9 Freeport-Lynbrook Shuttle Bus via  
10 Atlantic Avenue serving East Rockaway  
11 and Central Avenue station during rush  
12 hour. Also why Shore Road Shuttle Bus  
13 does not serve directly into Port  
14 Washington and Roslyn Station. Most  
15 Bee-Line Community Shuttle Bus and  
16 Loop Bus are directly outside  
17 Metro-North Railroad Station.

18 I also suggest NICE Bus to make  
19 new update NICE Bus System Map for  
20 passengers who want NICE Bus Map.

21 I also suggest NICE Bus to make  
22 same times table PDF format for Shore  
23 Road Shuttle Bus and n88 bus service.

24 Respectfully yours truly, Yuki  
25 Endo.

1 Proceedings

2 MS. FALCO: Thank you, Mr. Endo.

3 CHAIRMAN SHRENKEL: Thank you.

4 Thank you, Mr. Berse.

5 Mr. Khzouz, do you have a copy  
6 of Mr. Endo's recommendation?

7 MR. KHZOUZ: Yes, I do.

8 MR. SHRENKEL: Does Mr. Khzouz  
9 have a copy of your recommendations?

10 MR. TORCIVIA: I could send it  
11 to him or just give him these?

12 MR. SHRENKEL: Did you get his  
13 notes?

14 MR. KHZOUZ: Yes.

15 CHAIRMAN SHRENKEL: Sometimes  
16 the public comments do influence  
17 changes that NICE can implement. In  
18 other cases, obviously, they cannot.  
19 We appreciate your thoughts. And  
20 sometimes they are very worthwhile.

21 Is there anyone else who would  
22 like to address the Committee with  
23 public comments? No one else?

24 MR. BERSE: Don't be shy.

25 CHAIRMAN SHRENKEL: At this time

1 Proceedings

2 I'd like to ask any Member of the  
3 Committee if they would adopt a  
4 resolution to approve the 2019 Annual  
5 Budget for NICE Transportation?

6 MS. FALCO: So move.

7 MR. ROSARIO: I'll second that.

8 MR. SHRENKEL: I can do this  
9 without a roll call, but just a show  
10 of hands.

11 Does everyone agree to approve  
12 the Budget?

13 (All Board members raise their  
14 hands.)

15 MR. SHRENKEL: Please, let the  
16 record show the vote is unanimous from  
17 all the Members today.

18 Next I would like to ask someone  
19 to make a motion to act on -- as far  
20 as the FTA Title VI Plan so we can  
21 adopt that resolution.

22 MR. ROSARIO: I'll make the  
23 resolution.

24 MS. FALCO: I second.

25 MR. SHRENKEL: Again, with a

1 Proceedings

2 show of hands, will the Committee  
3 adopt the resolution for the FTA Title  
4 VI Proposed Plan for NICE  
5 Transportation?

6 (All Board members raise their  
7 hands.)

8 CHAIRMAN SHRENKEL: Please, let  
9 the record show it's a unanimous  
10 consent.

11 In addition to the agenda today,  
12 Mr. Khzouz has also asked the  
13 Committee for some additional support.

14 And would anybody like to vote  
15 to adopt the resolution for NICE  
16 Transportation at their current rates  
17 to increase the Budget for \$300,000  
18 for additional funding for additional  
19 service?

20 MR. BERSE: Question first.

21 MS. FALCO: Yes, I have a  
22 comment also.

23 MR. BERSE: Would we have any  
24 sort of oversight on how they would  
25 amend the Budget if we would approve

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Proceedings

this?

It would be nice if they got this additional funding to maybe be able to take some of the suggestions that the public has spoken about today and implement them with that \$300,000.

MR. KHZOUZ: May I?

MR. SHRENKEL: Yes, I think it would be better if you answer it because I have some idea of what this is. These are designated similar to grants for specific items.

MR. KHZOUZ: Right. The way this resolution is worded is specifically addressed to funding that is earmarked separately than the County funding. So, if a village comes to us and says, we would like a shuttle to help take our residents from their home to the Long Island Railroad Station or if a private business comes to us and says, we would like a shuttle to take our employees back and forth to two



1                   Proceedings

2                   different campuses.

3                   It's not general funding for  
4                   regular service, but it does need a  
5                   Budget approval vote. So though we  
6                   would love to be able to add more  
7                   service in or add more service, we  
8                   will look for creative ways to do it  
9                   as we have been creative in the past.

10                  Right now there is no  
11                  necessarily clear path forward on some  
12                  of those ideas, but we'll continue to  
13                  look for ways to get that done.

14                  As mentioned, the current Budget  
15                  Resolution is the County funded Budget  
16                  and State funded Budget allows us to  
17                  keeps this level of service stable,  
18                  but not additional service.

19                  CHAIRMAN SHRENKEL: I think that  
20                  answers the question.

21                  With that, would someone like to  
22                  move to adopt the Resolution for NICE  
23                  Transportation to increase the Budget?

24                  MS. FALCO: I'll so move.

25                  CHAIRMAN SHRENKEL: Will someone

1 Proceedings

2 second it?

3 MR. ROSARIO: I'll second it.

4 CHAIRMAN SHRENKEL: With that  
5 said, we will take a vote again by a  
6 show of hands.

7 (All Board members except Mr.  
8 Berse raise their hands.)

9 MR. SHRENKEL: Mr. Berse, do you  
10 abstain or negative?

11 MR. BERSE: No, I'm negative.

12 CHAIRMAN SHRENKEL: Please, note  
13 for the record, we have one negative  
14 vote and three to adopt this  
15 resolution. Therefore, this  
16 resolution shall be considered passed  
17 given a forum with a majority vote.

18 MS. FALCO: I do commend NICE  
19 Bus' efforts to tap into additional  
20 resources in trying to expand and  
21 additional resources for either  
22 specific additions and/or general as  
23 those referenced by Mr. Berse. Thank  
24 you.

25 CHAIRMAN SHRENKEL: Any other

1                   Proceedings

2           questions or comments from the  
3           Committee Members?   Mr. Berse?

4                   MR. BERSE:   What was the  
5           increase in the STOA amount year to  
6           year?

7                   MR. KHZOUZ:   STOA amount  
8           increase was roughly 5.2 million.

9                   MR. BERSE:   Okay.

10                   MR. KHZOUZ:   The local  
11           contribution was level flat.

12                   MR. BERSE:   That I saw.

13                   Are there any particular State  
14           Legislators that we could commend and  
15           thank for helping us with this?

16                   MR. KHZOUZ:   All of them.  
17           Senator Kaminsky, obviously, was very  
18           pivotal in pushing the funding  
19           through, but both the Senate and  
20           Assembly were very supportive of all  
21           State systems, both Upstate and  
22           Downstate systems, every system in the  
23           State of New York, including the MTA.  
24           So we have a lot of Thank-You notes to  
25           write.

1 Proceedings

2 MS. FALCO: Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN SHRENKEL: Thank you.

4 MR. COLORY: I want to ask --

5 CHAIRMAN SHRENKEL: Excuse me,  
6 Richard. You had your three minutes  
7 in public comments.

8 MR. COLORY: I understand.

9 MR. ROSARIO: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN SHRENKEL: At this  
11 point, this Committee has heard the  
12 Budget presentation. We have taken  
13 the appropriate votes that are  
14 necessary. And all three have passed.

15 So, with no further business  
16 with the Committee, I would like to  
17 make a motion that someone make a move  
18 to adjourn our meeting.

19 MS. FALCO: So move.

20 MR. BERSE: I second.

21 CHAIRMAN SHRENKEL: Everyone  
22 agrees?

23 MR. ROSARIO: Yes.

24 MS. FALCO: Yes.  
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MR. BERSE: Yes.

(Time noted: 5:50 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATION

I, Susan C. Bartlett, a Notary Public for and within the State of New York, do hereby certify:

That the witness whose testimony as herein set forth, was duly sworn by me; and that the within transcript is a true record of the testimony given by said witness.

I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 16th day of April, 2019.



Susan C. Bartlett

<b>1</b>	<b>6:00</b> 32:7	13:16 17:3 39:13 39:18,18 40:4 41:18 42:19,21	<b>amount</b> 14:23 43:5,7
<b>100,000</b> 20:9	<b>7</b>	<b>additionally</b> 8:25	<b>annual</b> 38:4
<b>11</b> 11:7	<b>70</b> 31:13 32:2	<b>additions</b> 42:22	<b>answer</b> 14:13 40:10
<b>130,129,848</b> 8:17	<b>700</b> 1:5	<b>address</b> 19:5 27:2 37:22	<b>answered</b> 20:20
<b>133</b> 5:25 7:7 8:17	<b>71</b> 32:2	<b>addressed</b> 40:16	<b>answers</b> 41:20
<b>14</b> 10:18	<b>72</b> 32:2	<b>adelpi</b> 35:23	<b>anticipating</b> 10:23
<b>16</b> 30:19	<b>73</b> 32:5	<b>adjourn</b> 44:18	<b>anybody</b> 34:2 39:14
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<b>1970</b> 31:12	<b>78/79</b> 7:25	<b>administration</b> 22:8	<b>appropriate</b> 19:4 44:13
<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>adopt</b> 35:9 38:3,21 39:3,15 41:22 42:14	<b>approval</b> 3:3 13:24 23:3,5 41:5
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<b>20</b> 14:21 17:3	<b>800,000</b> 7:17	<b>advertise</b> 29:23	<b>april</b> 1:6 8:2 16:9 16:11,19,21 46:18
<b>2019</b> 1:6 3:3 38:4 46:18	<b>816</b> 7:18	<b>advertised</b> 30:14	<b>area</b> 9:6 11:5 24:20 25:9 28:25
<b>27</b> 30:13	<b>84</b> 21:3	<b>advertising</b> 25:6	<b>arms</b> 9:24
<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>afternoon</b> 2:2	<b>asked</b> 14:25 39:12
<b>30</b> 25:13 31:5	<b>90</b> 31:11,14 33:5	<b>agenda</b> 2:22 4:5 19:9 39:11	<b>asking</b> 4:24 13:13 17:3 27:17 29:11 34:25
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<b>4</b>	<b>acceptance</b> 4:25	<b>ahead</b> 5:5 6:14 18:17,18	<b>assuming</b> 23:3
<b>4</b> 1:6	<b>accepted</b> 35:9	<b>allow</b> 14:21	<b>atlantic</b> 36:10
<b>45rd</b> 25:25	<b>accessible</b> 27:22	<b>allows</b> 5:18 6:14 7:7 11:12 12:20 13:14 32:21 33:2 41:16	<b>attorney</b> 1:17
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