



February 3, 2020

Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
United States Representative  
55 Hanson Place  
Brooklyn, NY 11217

Honorable Andrew Gounardes  
New York State Senate  
8018 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11209

Honorable Mathylde Frontus  
New York State Assembly  
8525 3rd avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11209

Honorable Chaim M. Deutsch  
New York City Council  
2401 Avenue U  
Brooklyn, NY 11229

Bright Water Towers Condominium Residents  
501 Surf Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11224

**Re: F Line Noise Mitigation Petition from Residents of Bright Water Towers**

Dear Representative Hakeem Jeffries, Senator Andrew Gounardes, Council member Mathylde Frontus, Council member Chaim M. Deutsch, Bright Water Tower Residents:

This letter responds to your recent petition, requesting that MTA New York City Transit address excessive noise levels emanating from the elevated **F** train tracks—more specifically, the guarded curve sections of track on the Brighton and Culver lines at the West 8th Street Station.

In response to your concerns, our engineering and maintenance teams have conducted a joint investigation of the track area in question, confirmed the conditions you reported, and determined that the heightened noise is related to the normal wear and tear of subway cars continuously grinding to a slow-down on curved sections of the track. While the comprehensive, long-term remedy for this noise issue is to replace the curved sections of track—a capital project undertaking on the Culver line scheduled to begin in 2021—we have devised a short-term noise mitigation plan to generate some immediate reduction in the level of noise you are experiencing.

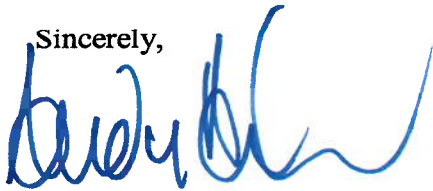
Our inspection revealed that the rail lubrication systems which are designed to moderate track noise are operational, however, we identified some repairs that will improve their functionality. This initiative has begun and is scheduled to conclude by the end of the first quarter 2020. When this work is complete, we will provide inspections on a weekly basis, to ensure continued trouble-free operation of the equipment. We also identified track work that can help mitigate the noise, which we also anticipate to be completed during the first quarter of 2020.

To minimize service interruptions to our customers, the capital project to replace the Culver line track curves is scheduled to piggyback on the Culver line Communication Based Train Control (CBTC) project during the third quarter of 2020. However, due to conflicts with the CBTC project, the rehabilitation of the Brighton line track curves must be scheduled for the second quarter of 2021. Once the rehabilitation work is completed the noise levels will be significantly reduced:

- Loud banging at the rail ends due to worn rails will be eliminated.
- The routine wheel “clicking” at the rails' ends will be reduced by half, as the new rails will be 78 ft. long compared to the existing 39 ft. long rails.
- New resilient plates will absorb vibration generated by the trains' wheels and transmitted to the supporting elevated structure. Noise generated by vibrations will be reduced significantly. Existing plates are rigid steel plates that do not absorb any vibration.
- New rails will eliminate the action of the train wheels damaging the grease applicators. The existing rails are worn to the point that the wheels are hitting the grease applicators.
- New and more efficient grease dispensing equipment will be installed allowing for a more effective and better controlled application of lubricant.
- The top of rail friction modifier will be more effective on a new track. This component is essential in controlling the proper steering of the wheels and therefore reducing loud screeching noises.
- New advanced technology Fiber Reinforced Foam Urethane ties will extend the life expectancy of the track.

Thank you for bringing your concerns about **F** line operations near your residence to our attention. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Robert Marino, Vice President of Government and Community Relations, at 646-252-2660.

Sincerely,



Andy Byford  
President

cc: Sally Librera  
Alok Saha  
Sarah Meyer  
Abbey Collins  
William Schwartz

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Bcc: Robert Marino  
Charvey Gonzalez  
Frank Jezycki

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