

STATE OF NEW YORK

9861--A

IN ASSEMBLY

February 14, 2018

Introduced by M. of A. LENTOL, DAVILA, BARRON, MOSLEY -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. NIOU -- read once and referred to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the public authorities law and the vehicle and traffics law, in relation to mitigating the closure of the L subway line in the city of New York; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Legislative intent. The L subway line is of vital impor-
2 tance to commuters, the local community, and businesses within the
3 service area of the line. Hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers ride the
4 line on a daily basis, and such ridership volume is essential to the
5 economic vitality of nearby businesses. Officials from the metropolitan
6 transportation authority (MTA) have indicated that portions of the L
7 subway line will be temporarily closed for repair work beginning in
8 April of 2019. The closure is anticipated to last fifteen months and
9 affect all L subway line stations west of, and including, the Bedford
10 Avenue and 1st Avenue Station. The temporary closure of the L subway
11 line will cause individual and economic hardships for those who rely on
12 the line for transportation and economic opportunities. Currently,
13 there is no statutory requirement that would mandate the MTA to develop
14 a plan to address the impacts of such a closure, allow for public feed-
15 back, and provide the plan to the community. It is the intent of the
16 legislature that there be a legal requirement for the MTA to consider
17 and address all of the impacts of such a significant closure and provide
18 a plan to the public in a timely manner. Such plan shall require the MTA
19 to address timelines involved with the proposed closure, transportation
20 alternatives to accommodate diverted riders, transportation facility
21 improvements and expansion, the authority to utilize bus lane cameras to
22 facilitate alternative forms of transportation, and provide for public
23 input throughout the planning process and the L subway line closure.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 Public notice and involvement throughout the process is essential so
2 that everyday riders are able to adjust their commuting habits and busi-
3 nesses are able to adapt to such a change as a result of the closure.
4 The legislature hereby finds and declares that the L subway line closure
5 and its impacts are a significant concern. The legislature further finds
6 and declares that the MTA shall be required to have a plan, prior to the
7 L subway line closure, that would mitigate the effects of, and accommo-
8 date those affected by, the closure. Finally, the legislature finds and
9 declares that such plan shall provide for public input and be provided
10 to the community.

11 § 2. The public authorities law is amended by adding a new section
12 1279-e to read as follows:

13 § 1279-e. L subway line closure mitigation plan. 1. The authority, in
14 consultation with the New York city department of transportation, the
15 New York city economic development corporation, the permanent citizens
16 advisory committee to the authority and any other entity the authority
17 deems relevant, shall develop a plan to mitigate the individual and
18 economic hardships due to the L subway line closure. Such plan shall
19 include but not be limited to the following:

20 (a) an anticipated timeline for the L subway line closure, including
21 the anticipated start time and date for the closure and the anticipated
22 end time and date for the closure;

23 (b) an analysis of the anticipated increase in ridership on alterna-
24 tive routes, including but not limited to, alternative bus routes,
25 alternative subway routes and all other forms of alternative transporta-
26 tion utilized to accommodate diverted L-riders as a result of the L
27 subway line closure;

28 (c) identification of the specific corridors and related transporta-
29 tion modes that will be impacted and disrupted by the L subway line
30 closure;

31 (d) identification of the specific impacts and disruptions caused by
32 the L subway line closure at alternative routes, corridors and related
33 transportation modes to accommodate diverted L-riders;

34 (e) identification of specific mitigation measures to lessen the iden-
35 tified and anticipated impacts and disruptions at alternative routes,
36 corridors and related transportation modes;

37 (f) identification of surface and subway transportation improvements
38 and restrictions to prepare for the disruption and impacts of the L
39 subway line closure;

40 (g) a determination of the timing and scope of each individual
41 improvement and restriction to surface and subway transportation;

42 (h) commencement, advertisement and publication of public hearings
43 before, during and after the closure of the L subway line;

44 (i) an extensive community outreach process before, during and after
45 the L subway line closure;

46 (j) additional station turnstile, stair and control area capacity and
47 service at the numerous stations on the alternative subway lines to
48 accommodate diverted L-riders as a result of the L subway line closure;

49 (k) additional L-alternative subway line service and capacity on week-
50 ends and overnights;

51 (l) shuttle bus service to accommodate diverted L-riders as a result
52 of the L subway line closure in the L subway line closure area;

53 (m) free transfers for ferry, bus and subway lines to accommodate
54 diverted passengers as a result of the L subway line closure;

1 (n) increased ferry capacity and service connecting Brooklyn and
2 Manhattan to accommodate diverted L-riders as a result of the L subway
3 line closure;

4 (o) increased bus service and capacity to accommodate diverted L-rid-
5 ers as a result of the L subway line closure within the L subway line
6 closure area;

7 (p) increased subway service and capacity on L alternative route
8 subway lines to accommodate diverted L-riders as a result of the L
9 subway line closure;

10 (q) identification of subway station improvements at L-alternative
11 route subway lines to accommodate diverted L-riders as a result of the L
12 subway line closure;

13 (r) fare parity between ferry, bus and subway lines for diverted
14 L-riders as a result of the L subway line closure;

15 (s) contract incentives and penalties for the contractors to encourage
16 the completion of the L subway line closure project within fifteen
17 months;

18 (t) the implementation of bus lanes in order to move buses quickly and
19 not add to congestion and to accommodate diverted L-riders as a result
20 of the L subway line closure;

21 (u) the implementation of high occupancy vehicle(HOV) lane
22 restrictions in order to move high occupancy vehicles quickly and not
23 add to congestion and to accommodate diverted L-riders as a result of
24 the L subway line closure;

25 (v) the identification of appropriate placement of HOV lanes through-
26 out the impacted area to accommodate diverted L-riders as a result of
27 the L subway line closure;

28 (w) determination and evaluation enforcement measures of HOV lanes;

29 (x) the periodic review of the effectiveness of HOV lanes;

30 (y) analysis of the impact of the Williamsburg Bridge restrictions on
31 the other East River crossings;

32 (z) mitigation of an outsized shift of diverted L-riders to for-hire
33 vehicles that could lead to massive congestion at East River crossings;

34 (aa) development of robust plans for bicycle use to accommodate
35 diverted L-riders as a result of the L subway line closure;

36 (bb) expanded access to pedestrians, bus riders and cyclists along
37 L-alternative route transportation corridors to ensure quick and effi-
38 cient movement for diverted L-riders as a result of the L subway line
39 closure;

40 (cc) rush hour restrictions to assist buses in traveling along L-al-
41 ternative transportation routes to accommodate diverted L-riders as a
42 result of the L subway line closure;

43 (dd) bus lanes to assist buses in traveling along L-alternative trans-
44 portation routes to accommodate diverted L-riders as a result of the L
45 subway line closure;

46 (ee) select bus service to assist buses in traveling along L-alterna-
47 tive transportation routes to accommodate diverted L-riders as a result
48 of the L subway line closure;

49 (ff) upgrading of select bus service to assist buses traveling along
50 L-alternative transportation routes to accommodate diverted L-riders as
51 a result of the L subway line closure;

52 (gg) temporary bus bulbs to assist buses traveling along L-alternative
53 transportation routes to accommodate diverted L-riders as a result of
54 the L subway line closure;

1 (hh) offset bus lines to assist buses traveling along L-alternative
2 transportation routes to accommodate diverted L-riders as a result of
3 the L subway line closure;

4 (ii) sidewalk expansion along the L-alternative transportation routes
5 to accommodate diverted L-riders as a result of the L subway line
6 closure;

7 (jj) new pedestrian space along the L-alternative transportation
8 routes to accommodate diverted L-riders as a result of the L subway line
9 closure;

10 (kk) an analysis and determination of the impact on daily cycling
11 volume along the L-alternative transportation routes to accommodate
12 diverted L-riders as a result of the L subway line closure;

13 (ll) two-way protected crosstown bike lane to accommodate diverted
14 L-riders as a result of the L subway line closure;

15 (mm) pedestrianized street features along the L-alternative transpor-
16 tation routes to accommodate diverted L-riders as a result of the L
17 subway line closure;

18 (nn) new bike parking hubs along the L-alternative transportation
19 routes to accommodate diverted L-riders as a result of the L subway line
20 closure;

21 (oo) new ferry routes along the L-alternative transportation routes to
22 accommodate diverted L-riders as a result of the L subway line closure;

23 (pp) increased services and capacity for community bicycle-sharing
24 programs to accommodate diverted L-riders as a result of the L subway
25 line closure;

26 (qq) identification and implementation of the placement of additional
27 crosswalks along the L-alternative transportation routes to accommodate
28 diverted L-riders as a result of the L subway line closure;

29 (rr) additional bicycle parking along the L-alternative transportation
30 routes to accommodate diverted L-riders as a result of the L subway line
31 closure; and

32 (ss) the periodic briefing of elected officials on the status of the
33 subway line closure before, during and after the closure.

34 2. In developing the plan referenced in subdivision one of this
35 section, the authority shall consider but not be limited to the follow-
36 ing actions and measures for inclusion in said plan:

37 (a) discounted advertising on all authority advertising mediums within
38 the L subway line closure area;

39 (b) signage within the L subway line closure area in the vicinity of
40 above-ground work sites which state that nearby businesses are open;

41 (c) the commissioning of public art to be installed within the L
42 subway line closure area for the purpose of drawing visitors to neigh-
43 borhoods in the L subway line closure area;

44 (d) a free or reduced fare shuttle bus service for diverted passengers
45 in the L subway line closure area;

46 (e) methods to encourage the patronage of businesses within the L
47 subway line closure area;

48 (f) in consultation with the urban development corporation, providing
49 financial assistance to businesses within the L subway line closure
50 area, including grants and rental and utility assistance; and

51 (g) in consultation with the New York city economic development corpo-
52 ration, identifying state owned property in Manhattan which may be used
53 as temporary showrooms for businesses within the L subway line project
54 area.

55 3. For purposes of this section "L subway line closure area" shall
56 mean an area approved by the board of the authority that is adjacent to

1 or affected by the temporary closure of portions of the L subway line
2 for repairs.

3 4. The L subway line closure mitigation plan required pursuant to this
4 section shall, no later than sixty days before the commencement of the L
5 subway line closure, be submitted to the governor, the temporary presi-
6 dent of the senate and the speaker of the assembly, be posted on the
7 authority's website and also be made readily available to the public.

8 5. The authority shall not charge a fare or fee for any shuttle bus
9 service to accommodate diverted L-riders as a result of the L subway
10 line closure in the L subway line closure area.

11 § 3. Paragraph 5 of subdivision (c) of section 1111-c of the vehicle
12 and traffic law, as amended by section 6 of part NNN of chapter 59 of
13 the laws of 2018, is amended to read as follows:

14 5. "bus rapid transit program" shall mean up to ten routes designated
15 by the New York city department of transportation in consultation with
16 the applicable mass transit agency, a route designated by the New York
17 city department of transportation on Grand Street, Delancey Street and
18 the Williamsburg Bridge from the Grand Street station to the Delancey
19 Street station, and a route designated by the New York city department
20 of transportation on Fourteenth Street between Third and Ninth Avenues
21 eastbound and Third and Eighth Avenues westbound, in addition to the Bus
22 Rapid Transit Phase I plan routes, that operate on designated bus lanes
23 and that may include upgraded signage, enhanced road markings, minimum
24 bus stop spacing, off-board fare payment, traffic signal priority for
25 buses, and any other enhancement that increases bus speed or reliabil-
26 ity.

27 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be
28 deemed repealed September 1, 2020; provided, however, that the amend-
29 ments to paragraph 5 of subdivision (c) of section 1111-c of the vehicle
30 and traffic law, made by section three of this act, shall not affect the
31 repeal of such section and shall be deemed repealed therewith.