Assembly Resolution No. 1465

BY: M. of A. Seawright

COMMEMORATING the 50th Anniversary of the Roosevelt Island Tramway

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to support the preservation and commemoration of historical landmarks which express and preserve the social and cultural origins of this great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the 50th Anniversary of the Roosevelt Island Tramway on May 17th, 2026; and

WHEREAS, In September of 1971, Manhattan Community Board 8 proposed an aerial tramway to run between the Motorgate parking garage on Roosevelt Island and 72nd Street on the Upper East Side; and,

WHEREAS, On May 17th, 1976, the Roosevelt Island Tramway became the first commuter aerial tramway operating in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Prior to the operation of the Tramway, Roosevelt Island was only accessible through the Roosevelt Island Bridge from Queens, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Roosevelt Island Tramway was rebuilt and renovated in the 2010's to provide for upgrades and faster service; and

WHEREAS, The Roosevelt Island Tramway one of twenty operational aerial tramways within the United States and the only mass transit aerial tramway dedicated to commuter use; and

WHEREAS, The Roosevelt Island Tramway has seen rapidly increasing ridership, serving anywhere between 5,500 and 6,500 passengers per day and around 2.7 million passengers per year, making it the busiest aerial tramway in North America; and

WHEREAS, The trip across the East River takes approximately 3 to 4 minutes and travels 3,140 feet that provides a 360-degree view of New York City; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Roosevelt Island Tramway and celebrate its remarkable history; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Roosevelt Island Historical Society and the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation.