



OFFICE OF THE BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

**New York City Department of Transportation Rules Hearing
Testimony of Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams
Re: Allowing certain Access-A-Ride vehicles to use bus lanes and to clarify express lane requirements
April 11, 2019**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony to the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) rules hearing concerning the allowance of certain Access-A-Ride (AAR) vehicles to use bus lanes and to clarify express lane requirements.

The proposed rule amendments being heard today would allow certain AAR vehicles to use bus lanes in order to provide a faster service to people with disabilities and to clarify express lane requirements for AAR vehicles.

I have long supported efforts to expand access to bus lanes for AAR vehicles and have worked closely with Council Member Diana Ayala to have legislation introduced on my behalf to do just this. In lieu of passing this legislation at this time, I am pleased to support today's proposed rule change and believe that, as it stands, it strikes the right balance in improving high-quality transit access for those living with disabilities who rely upon wheelchair accessible AAR vehicles and the need to ensure that New York City's bus lanes remain exclusive to transit vehicles.

I am also pleased with DOT's commitment to analyze the impacts of these changes and study the ability to expand access to bus lanes for different classes of AAR vehicles, namely sedans, in six months' time. I thank DOT for their commitment to taking proactive measures to improve mobility for those with disabilities even though New York City does not run the AAR program and especially as the app-based program run by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) faces an uncertain expansion future.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony today, and I look forward to continuing to partner with my colleagues in government and the DOT to improve mobility for all New Yorkers.