

**THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK**



**CORDELL CLEARE  
SENATOR, 30<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT**

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163 West 125th St., Rm. 912  
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August 2, 2024

Janno Lieber, Chair and CEO  
Metropolitan Transit Authority  
2 Broadway,  
New York, NY 10004

RE: Elevator Installation at 125th Street #1 Line Station -- Requesting Funding in MTA 2025-2029 Capital Plan

Dear Chairman Lieber,

I greatly appreciate the MTA's ongoing commitment of time and resources in working closely with local community organizations and developing a trail-blazing partnership with Columbia University to jointly fund, design and install a 125th Street Station Elevator. Morningside Heights and Manhattanville, areas I represent, are homes to naturally occurring retirement communities housing our older New Yorkers as well as many adults throughout the community who have disabilities and families in need of full transit accessibility. I respectfully request assurance to my constituents that the project will be approved as part of the MTA 2025-2029 Capital Plan.

As you are aware, the recent development of Columbia's Manhattanville campus, and the resulting tremendous institutional, residential and commercial growth compels greater access to the station. Currently, escalators provide limited accessibility to the mezzanine level, with only staircases available to reach the station platforms. However, MTA Construction is actively reviewing Columbia's consultant's design plans, already 60% completed, for the street-to-mezzanine elevator ride. To complete the project, it is my understanding that the MTA will commence design plans for the mezzanine-to-platform elevator once Capital Plan funding is assured.

I know that your MTA Construction teams, and Accessibility Officers have shown true, heartfelt cooperation at meetings with community organizations and venerable Morningside Heights educational institutions, and with senior citizens, and individuals with limited mobility in attendance. In parallel, Columbia University has invested considerable resources and consulting dollars towards this "public/private partnership" with the MTA.

As Chair of the Committee on Aging, I am particularly concerned for our growing aging population and all New Yorkers who need that station to travel. Thank you in advance for your support and commitment to this project. You can contact me or my staff member Lucas Pasquina at 212-222-7315, or email Lucas at [pasquina@nysenate.gov](mailto:pasquina@nysenate.gov) if you have any questions and/or responses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cordell Cleare". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cordell" and last name "Cleare" clearly distinguishable.

Cordell Cleare  
Senator | 30th District  
(212) 222 7315  
State Senator Cordell Cleare

CC: Jamie Torres-Springer, President, MTA C&D  
Quemuel Arroyo, Chief Accessibility Officer, MTA  
Sean Fitzpatrick, Deputy Chief of Staff, MTA C&D  
Robair Reichenstein, Director of Transactions, MTA TOD