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Press Release

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IMMEDIATE

MTA Makes Permanent Service Additions to Q103 Bus Route

Pilot Program Deemed Success after Positive Community Feedback, Increased Ridership

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) announced today that weekend and increased weeknight service on the Q103 route has been permanently added after the success of a pilot program implemented in June 2014.

The Q103 local route serves the western Queens waterfront between Astoria and Long Island City and runs along Vernon Boulevard, through areas that have recently experienced tremendous population growth amid new residential developments and expanded cultural attractions such as the Noguchi Museum and Socrates Sculpture Park. The Q103 route is the only public transportation option along the Vernon Boulevard corridor serving those neighborhoods and connects those areas to two subway stations:  21 St-Queensbridge and  Vernon Blvd-Jackson Av.

Following MTA guidelines on adding days of service, MTA Bus implemented weekend service and extended weekday evening service hours on an experimental basis in June 2014. A December 2014 public hearing on the increased service yielded unanimous community support. Ridership levels increased on weekdays by 6.8 percent compared to the five-month period before the pilot program's implementation, and by 30 percent compared to the average weekday average in 2013. Current weekday ridership is 1,100 customers; average Saturday ridership is approximately 300 customers, and 250 customers on Sundays.

The service additions implemented during the 2014 pilot include extending weeknight hours from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., and adding service on Saturdays and Sundays from approximately 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. The operational cost of the permanent service changes is approximately \$315,000 annually and has been incorporated into the budget.