



STEVEN M. FULOP
MAYOR OF JERSEY CITY

CITY OF JERSEY CITY OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Aug 1, 2023

Jersey City Statement Regarding Planned Cessation of A&C Bus Corp. Operations

Jersey City has significant concerns regarding the planned cessation of bus service provided by A&C Bus Corp. as the company will no longer operate as of October 31, 2023. A&C Bus Corporation is a private carrier which operates the following lines in Jersey City:

- No. 30 (Society Hill) connects the Society Hill neighborhood to Journal Square via West Side and Sip Avenues
- No. 31 (Montgomery & West Side) provides service from West Side Avenue to Montgomery Street, taking residents to the downtown commercial districts and Newport Mall.
- No. 32 (440 Shopper) serves the west side along Route 440, connecting residents to the Acme supermarket, Hudson Mall, Marion and West Duncan neighborhoods along Duncan and Sip Avenues to Journal Square.
- No. 33 (Bergen Avenue) connects residents in Bayonne and the Greenville neighborhood to Journal Square via Old Bergen Road and Bergen Avenue

This transit option has provided an affordable alternative to driving for residents of the City for more than a century, with regular bus fares of \$1.60 each way and only \$0.80 each way for seniors. These routes have daily averages of hundreds of passengers.

The A&C lines service 34 census tracts that meet the United States Department of Transportation's definition of being a disadvantaged community. These four lines provide vital service to over 150,000 residents that live in neighborhoods within ¼ mile that also have a low car ownership rate (nearly 40% of households own zero personal vehicles), with 33% of residents in this area with household incomes below the poverty line and nearly 80% of these residents identifying as a minority group.

In addition to the day-to-day impact on the lives of existing A&C customers who have come to rely on this service, transit service is also critical for the City's goals to reduce traffic, pollution, and noise. Among the City's goals are a decrease in vehicle miles traveled (VMT), reducing greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by the year 2050, and other outcomes that prioritize safety, health, and environmental sustainability. Moreover, these goals are aligned with NJ TRANSIT's 10-Year Strategic Plan to promote a more sustainable future for our planet through supporting Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) and increasing system ridership. This is further reflected in Together North Jersey's Focus Area 5 to connect people and places with safe, convenient, and reliable transportation in order to support a system in which the transportation networks connect seamlessly. The loss of public transit will only exacerbate these issues and present a risk to our collectively achieving these long-term outcomes.

The West Side of Jersey City continues to develop at a rapid pace with large-scale, mixed-use, transit-friendly projects that have significant transportation needs. As of January 2023, a total of 6,492 new housing units, 54,044 square feet of office, and 180,626 square feet of retail have been recently completed, are under construction, are approved, or in the process of being approved within ¼ mile of these lines, with additional development in the pipeline. With limited alternative public transportation options within reasonable walking distance for most people, there is a need to identify a viable solution for residents to provide connectivity to work, grocery stores, leisure activities, and schools, including for public university students at New Jersey City University.

While A&C has cited low ridership on these routes, NJ TRANSIT's recent improvements in service frequency and reliability on the routes it operates in Hudson County has shown that even modest investments in service have resulted in ridership gains. Based on the existing core ridership of A&C buses and the continued population growth on the West Side in Jersey City, we would expect that reliable transportation options would be well-utilized by a growing segment of the population.

We respectfully request that NJ TRANSIT identifies a solution to fill this transit gap and/or provides a similar service that provides the critical transportation necessary for our community to function as soon as possible. Jersey City needs a sustainable, long-term solution to meet the travel needs of its residents, especially those who rely on public transit and have no other affordable options.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Fulop', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steven Fulop
Mayor