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Saturday, January 7, 2012

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It Takes a Lot to Laugh, It Takes a Train to Cry

The [ex-MTA chair](#) who chased the riches in the Far East and left straphangers, no really all of us, holding the bag, might be a decent manager but his biggest legacy remains faulty choices that continue to set us back.

[Talk](#) of no [money boggle](#) the mind when one thinks back to [hurtful](#) – and frankly [dumb](#) – service [cuts](#) he imposed. Contrast those [cuts](#) against the investment in transportation and economic development outlined just one day ago by our Governor.

Here and [elsewhere](#) find discussions of Jay Walder's outright [refusal](#) to [re-invest](#) in service when answering where he would apply any new funding provided by the legislature.

The now [Far East Man](#)¹ transit boss also structured a capital budget that prevented the legal application of available federal [funding](#) to restore those service [cuts](#).

The [Q79](#) – no one questions its under-capacity – covered an important corridor in northeast Queens and never got [extended](#) less than a quarter mile south to the main line of the LIRR. Doing that would connect the main line and the Port Washington lines.

¹ Lyrics fyi [here](#) to this George Harrison-Ron Wood composition that appeared on Wood's LP, "I've Got My Own Album To Do."

Think a bit further.

As jobs already exist off various location off or a few blocks east or west along Little Neck Parkway and former Q79 bus stops, folks could use either rail line to begin their trek to work (at hospitals, various retailers, offices, restaurants, etc.). Not to mention the [Queens County Farm Museum](#) attraction that generates huge amount of traffic and could market a transit alternative if it existed. Ditto as a developer seeks to promote reuse of the former Leviton site in Little Neck.

Absent the bus option, traffic concerns might limit options that might otherwise make sense there.

*I don't wanna be your boss.
Don't say I never warned you
When your train gets lost.²*

See [Ex-MTA chief has harsh words for transit system](#) (WABC-TV)

See [Former MTA Head Recalls Agency's "Terrible Condition"](#) (NY1 News)

See [Former M.T.A. Chief Recounts His Ups and the System's Downs](#) (New York Times)

See [Former MTA head slams system, saying it's in 'terrible condition'](#) (amNewYork)

See [MTA was falling apart when I took over, says former chairman Jay Walder](#) (New York Post)

See [Throwing NY under the bus](#) (New York Post)

² from [It Takes a Lot to Laugh, It Takes a Train to Cry](#)