

Press Kit

About Us

What began as a blog titled "7 Train Blues," Founder and Executive Director Melissa Orlando chronicled her daily commute on the 7 Train as it was plagued by delays, signal problems, and overcrowding. After it was turned into a social media campaign, it quickly became popular among other riders, so much that Access Queens was formed in May of 2015 as the advocating force for ethical residential development, city infrastructure, and transit needs that affect Queens.

Today, 7 Train Blues has over 3,000 followers and was followed up by 2017's launch of N Train Blues. Since its formation, Access Queens has appeared in the media over 80 times, received a Citizens Committee for New York City (CCNYC) grant, partnered with the New York Transit Museum to commemorate a 7 train centennial, and has held a handful of other public rallies.

Access Queens works toward building constructive and strategic partnerships with transit agencies and elected official to ensure those needs are met. Our work has brought a wider awareness to overpopulation and transit pitfalls, and provided new tools to activate Queens residents.

MELISSA ORLANDO, Executive Director
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JEREMY ROSENBERG, Legal Advisor
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Accomplishments

2015

- Established 7 Train Blues on Facebook and Twitter.
- Launched Access Queens website.
- Established data-vis tools to convey ridership data.
- Co-sponsored a town hall with City Council Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer and NYCT/MTA officials.

2016

- Participated in Waterfront Alliance Symposium panel titled, "Population Pressures."
- Launched 7 Train Survival Guide.
- Received grant from Citizens Committee for New York City for outreach to non-English speaking riders.

2017

- Authored and submitted a proposal with solutions to the affects of the L Train shutdown.
- Supported City Comptroller Scott Stringer at a press conference on the failings of the MTA.
- Launched N Train Blues on Facebook and N Train Survival Guide ahead of weekend service closures.
- Partnered with the New York Transit Museum to commemorate the centennial of the Corona Extension of the 7 Line.
- Penned letter to city and state officials with jurisdiction in areas that rely on the 7 Train.

Future Goals

- Advocate for improved customer service and communication
- Increase transit capacity in Queens, including select bus service
- Expanded social media networks for transit riders
- Build partnerships with additional community organizations and elected officials

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