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Press Release

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MTA Headquarters

IMMEDIATE

Subway and bus ridership highest in 30 years

MTA Chairman E. Virgil Conway announced today that average daily ridership on MTA New York City Transit subways and buses rose above the seven million rider mark -- the highest ridership in nearly three decades -- during September, attributing it to a strong economy and the continued success of the unlimited ride MetroCard.

Chairman Conway said, "The realization of over seven million daily riders on our subways and buses during September is a confirmation of Governor George E. Pataki's vision that providing seamless mass transportation to the entire MTA region would pay significant dividends in increased ridership. Furthermore, while boosting ridership of environmentally friendly mass transit, MetroCard discounts have made riding mass transit even less expensive, with the average ride costing customers about \$1.07."

NYC Transit President Lawrence G. Reuter said, "The average daily ridership during 1996, the year before MetroCard discounts were introduced, was over 5.2 million riders while in September of this year it is over 7.1 million rides. Our increase in ridership of over 1.8 million rides a day by itself exceeds the total daily transit ridership of individual cities like Chicago (1.5 million), Los Angeles (1.3 million), Philadelphia (1.2 million), and Boston (1.0 million). To meet this remarkable increase in demand for our services since 1996, NYC Transit has spent hundreds of millions of dollars on rolling stock and service increases. We are extremely proud of the invaluable service that this agency renders to New York City on a daily basis."

	September 2000	Average in 1996	Change
Subways	4,745,000	3,684,000	+ 1,061,000
Buses	2,402,000	1,604,000	+ 798,000
TOTAL	7,147,000	5,288,000	+ 1,859,000

The average daily ridership for September was 7.1 million, 10.6% over September, 1999. It represents the highest average weekday ridership of any month since December, 1971.