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Press Release

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IMMEDIATE

MTA to Hold Online Forum on Financial Plan

Special "Webinar" to Gather Public Input, Share MTA Priorities; Last Event in MTA's Strengthened Public Outreach Process

The MTA today announced that it will hold a special first-ever online forum to gather public input on its financial plan and priorities for the future. The forum is the last in a series of ten public meetings leading up to December 19, when the MTA Board will vote on the agency's budget for 2008. The financial plan is designed to fill \$6 billion in projected deficits over four years while increasing service to meet demand. The plan includes a fare and toll increase expected to increase revenue from those sources by 3.85%, down from an earlier 6.5% expected increase.

The online forum will be held on Monday, December 10, 2007, from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. It is a follow-up to the special public engagement workshop that was held on Saturday, November 17, and is being scheduled to accommodate people who were not able to attend that workshop or one of the eight public hearings held throughout the region in November.

"We're very excited to host our first-ever online forum," said Elliot G. Sander, the Executive Director and CEO of the MTA. "While the debate over the MTA financial plan can be contentious at times, we have made every effort this year to expand the dialogue with broader outreach in new ways. The public workshop on November 17 allowed us to engage our customers in an extended conversation, and this webinar will grow that dialogue to the Internet."

At this online forum, participants will be able to see and hear, in real time, presentations that will be given by MTA executive staff on the MTA's financial situation, the proposed fare and toll increases, and the state of the MTA's capital plan. Participants will be able to submit written questions in real time to the presenters, who will answer them orally at the end of the presentations. This forum will be accessible to anyone with an Internet connection and a phone line.

Participants must register in advance online at mta.info.

A record of the event will be made and posted on the MTA website.