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Press Release

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IMMEDIATE

MTA Begins Live Broadcast of Meetings on Internet

*All Meetings Live and Archived with Captioning for Hearing Impaired;
Agency Meets Executive Order Ahead of Schedule.*

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority today began live broadcasting of all of its public meetings on the agency's website, www.mta.info. The broadcasts comply in advance with Governor Spitzer's Executive Order 3, which requires all public agencies to broadcast meetings by July 1. Every meeting is broadcast with closed captioning for the hearing impaired.

"The MTA shares Governor Spitzer's focus on transparency and access, and we are thrilled to be able to offer this service before the mandated deadline," said Elliot G. Sander, Executive Director and CEO of the MTA.

The webcasting service had a busy first day with seven meetings broadcast live. All meetings subject to the Open Meetings Law, which average approximately 10 each month for the MTA, will be available both live and archived online for 30 days. After the 30-day period, archived copies of meetings will be available on DVD.

The one-time setup cost for establishing the webcasting service is \$45,834, which includes video encoder purchase, electrical wiring and other small hardware purchases. The recurring annual cost to the MTA is \$51,268, which includes \$25,000 for hosting service, \$4,768 for encoder maintenance and \$21,000 for captioning. Webcasting will also be provided to MTA employees, at an additional one-time cost of \$16,000 and \$7,000 annually.