



## MTA Press Releases

[Select Language](#) | ▼

Press Release

September 24, 2007

[MTA Headquarters](#)

IMMEDIATE

### MTA to Expand Public Participation Process

#### *Interactive Public Forum and Webinar Supplement Mandated Fare Hearings*

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority today announced plans to expand its dialogue with the public by holding a unique public forum allowing MTA customers to weigh in on proposed fare/toll increases and ideas for the future of the nation's largest transportation network. The forum, which will also include an online component, or webinar, will be held in November as a supplement to the public hearings required on the proposed increases.

"The MTA has begun to make a concerted effort to hear directly from our customers, be it through NYC Transit's rider report cards or our Meet the Manager sessions throughout our system," said Elliot G. Sander, MTA Executive Director and CEO. "Adding a more interactive forum to the public hearings we'll be holding this fall will further the dialogue and help us understand customer priorities and concerns."

The forum will be co-hosted by the Empire State Transportation Alliance, a coalition of civic groups that includes Regional Plan Association, the General Contractors Association, the NYPIRG Straphangers Campaign, the NY Building Congress and many others. ESTA members will help screen questions for the day and ensure that the forum will provide substantive public input to the MTA's budget and planning processes.

The date of the forum has not yet been finalized, but it will likely be held on a weekend in November. There will also be an interactive online version of the forum, known as a "webinar", for customers who aren't able to attend the in-person session.

A contract for organizing the forum will be presented to the MTA Board for approval on Wednesday. CirclePoint, a public engagement consultant, would oversee and facilitate the forum and webinar, as well as training MTA employees as facilitators so that future events could be organized in-house.