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Press Release

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IMMEDIATE

MTA Holds First-Ever Interactive Workshop With Riders

Session Fosters a Two-Way Dialogue on Fare Proposals and MTA's Future.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) today held a special interactive workshop to engage its customers and seek their input on a range of topics, including fare and toll levels and ideas for the future of the nation's largest transportation network. The workshop, the first such event ever held by the MTA, supplemented the eight public hearings held around the region earlier this month on the proposed increases. More than 200 people registered to participate in the forum.

"The MTA is committed to a continuing dialogue with our customers and today's forum was an important milestone in that conversation," said Elliot G. Sander, MTA Executive Director and CEO. "Adding this interactive forum to the public hearings helps us understand customer priorities and concerns so that we can plan accordingly. I hope that we can build on today's event to provide more and more opportunities for our customers to impact policy decisions."

Participants in today's session, held at New York University's Kimmel Center, heard a number of presentations on MTA finances and planning issues from senior MTA staff. Participants then took part in roundtable discussions reacting to the presentations. A facilitator took notes at each table that will be shared with MTA Board members, along with the transcripts from previous public hearings, to help inform their decision-making.

Today's forum was co-hosted by the Empire State Transportation Alliance (ESTA), 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 helped prepare the day's agenda to ensure that the forum provided substantive public input to the MTA's budget and planning processes.

There will also be an interactive online version of today's workshop in the coming weeks, known as a "webinar," for customers who aren't able to attend the session in person.