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Press Release

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[NYC Transit](#)

IMMEDIATE

MTA New York City Transit Subway and Bus Ridership Continues Impressive Gains in 2006

Fueled by the continued boom in the city's economy, service and infrastructure improvements, and the ongoing value of MetroCard discounts, the total annual ridership on MTA New York City Transit's subways and buses climbed to 2.2 billion, a level not seen since 1969.

"These impressive ridership gains are a ringing endorsement of our continued efforts to provide safe and reliable subway service," said Elliot Sander, MTA Executive Director & CEO. "Our customers are also taking full advantage of the value of MetroCard discounts, which remain a fantastic bargain, with the average ride costing about \$1.29."

Historically, there has been a strong correlation between City employment and mass transit ridership. It is hardly a coincidence that the current expansion in the City's economy has been echoed by strong ridership gains along NYC Transit subway and bus routes.

With that in mind, however, it is important to note that there are several other key factors driving up ridership to historic levels. MetroCard discounts, ongoing infrastructure improvements, the introduction of new technology and the reliability of our subway car and bus fleets have all contributed to ridership increases.

The total number of customer trips was up by 54.6 million (2.5%) over the 2005 totals. Subway rides alone accounted for 1.5 billion trips in 2006, up 49.7 million (3.4%) from 2005 -- the highest level since 1952. Total average weekday ridership was 7.2 million, a 134,000 ridership increase (1.9%) over 2005.

The Brooklyn segment of the N (Sea Beach) subway line saw the greatest ridership gain, 13 percent, due likely to population growth and the residual impact of faster service generated by the implementation of full train service across the Manhattan Bridge back in 2004.

Four other lines showed gains of eight to six percent, including the White Plains Road segment of the 2 and 5 Line, the Myrtle Avenue segment on the M, Central Park West on the A, B, C and D, and the West End segment of the D.

Average weekday subway ridership, which was stronger than weekend growth, increased by 128,000 trips (2.7%) over 2005 levels - the highest since 1953. Weekend subway usage on average increased by 106,000 (2.2%) over 2005 levels, rising to 4.8 million trips - the highest in over 35 years.

NYC Transit Acting President Millard L. Seay said, "As we continue to make significant investments in improved facilities and new rolling stock, customers are responding favorably."

Last year's bus ridership rose 4.9 million trips (0.7%) to 741.4 million customers, while the average weekday ridership increased by 5,000 trips (0.2%) to 2.4 million. Average weekend bus ridership was off slightly to 2.5 million, a decrease of 47,000 trips (1.8%) from 2005.

Coinciding with these gains in ridership, pay-per-ride MetroCard market share was 44.5% in 2006, up from 43.2% in 2005. Similarly, the 30-day pass market share rose to 29.6% in 2006, an increase of 2.2% from 2005. This is the highest 30-day ride market share on record. Overall, discounted fare media usage in 2006 hit a record high of 84.8% -- 48.7% using unlimited ride cards and 36.1% using bonus pay-per-ride.