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Press Release

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[MTA Headquarters](#)

IMMEDIATE

MTA Board Approves 2008 Budget

Fare and Toll Increases to Take Effect in March

The board of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) today approved the agency's budget for 2008, including a fare and toll increase expected to generate a 3.85 percent increase in revenue from these sources. The budget also includes significant service improvements, many of which have already been put in place. Funding for additional enhancements is also included in the budget for service that will begin in the second quarter of 2008, assuming the agency's revenue projections are met.

"The budget approved today allows us to begin to tackle \$6 billion in projected deficits over the next four years while actually increasing service," said Elliot G. Sander, MTA Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer. "This is the first step in putting the MTA on firm fiscal footing, and I look forward to working with the Board and our government partners to find critical capital funding to upgrade and expand the transit network."

The new fares and tolls are outlined below and will take effect in March as described.

SUBWAYS AND BUSES

New fares, including those for the Staten Island Railway, Long Island Bus and MTA Bus, take effect March 2, 2008:

- Cash/Single Ride Ticket: Remains \$2
- Base MetroCard Fare: Remains \$2
- MetroCard Bonus Percentage and Buy-in: The Bonus is reduced from 20% to 15%, but the buy-in is also reduced from \$10 to \$7*. The average bonus ride increases from \$1.67 to \$1.74.

*The Board approved a public hearing on this change, after which it will be asked to approve the reduction in the buy-in.

- 1-Day Fun Pass: Increases from \$7 to \$7.50
- 7-Day Pass: Increases from \$24 to \$25**
- New 14-Day Pass: \$47**

**Current 7-Day Pass users who switch to the new 14-Day Pass will actually enjoy a fare reduction.

- 30-Day Pass: Increases from \$76 to \$81
- Express Bus Base Fare: Remains \$5
- Express Bus 7-Day Pass: Remains \$41

RAILROADS

New Long Island Rail Road and Metro-North Railroad fares take effect March 1. New fares do not affect trips that begin or end in Connecticut, which are set by the Connecticut Department of Transportation.

- The vast majority of monthly and weekly commuter rail tickets will increase between 3.76% and 4.25%.
- Increase ticket prices for one-way, round-trip, and ten-trip travel between other stations (intermediate travel) up to 7.7 percent, previously 11.1 percent. (Increases of more than 5.5 percent will be held to a maximum of 25 cents per ride.)
- Retain the Mail&Ride fare discount on the joint monthly railroad/Unlimited Ride MetroCard.
- Increase the CityTicket price for one-way weekend travel within New York City from \$3.00 to \$3.25.

BRIDGES AND TUNNELS

New tolls take effect March 16.

E-ZPass users will benefit from lower increases as follows:

- E-ZPass tolls for cars will increase up to 3.8 percent as compared to about 6.5 percent.
- Trucks that use E-ZPass will benefit from a 25 percent rather than a 20 percent discount off the cash toll for trucks.
- Staten Island and Rockaway resident E-ZPass tolls will increase by up to 3.7 percent.

Cash customers will experience the same increases as in the original proposal -- 50 cents each way on the major facilities and 25 cents on minor bridges. The increases on the Henry Hudson Bridge will continue to mirror those on the higher-volume facilities (i.e. a 50 cent increase for cash users).