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IMMEDIATE

MTA Launches MTA+Bike Website

New Website Consolidates and Clarifies Information About Traveling With Bicycles

In celebration of National Bike-to-Work Day, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) today launched a website aimed at encouraging New York and Connecticut residents to combine transit use with bicycling for an inexpensive, healthy and climate friendly way to travel. Through an enhanced Web presence known as "MTA+Bike," the authority has consolidated bicycle travel information for each of its transit systems onto one convenient location.

On this website, available at www.mta.info/bike, travelers can obtain information about policies for bringing bikes on board the New York City Subway, Long Island Rail Road, Metro-North Railroad and Staten Island Railway and can learn about the availability of bike lockers near regional railroad stations and bike lanes on bridges operated by MTA Bridges & Tunnels.

The website also announces two policies governing bicycles that have recently been clarified.

- Folding bikes, appropriately folded, are considered luggage and not subject to rules governing standard frame bicycles. Therefore, folding bicycles can be brought on board local buses as if they were a backpack or suitcase. They can also be brought aboard LIRR trains at any time without a permit. Conventional bikes are not allowed on board buses operated by New York City Transit, the MTA Bus Company or Long Island Bus.
- Bicycles can be brought aboard the Staten Island Railway except on rush-hour trains traveling in the peak direction.

MTA+Bike complements and supports the goals of the blue ribbon Commission on Sustainability and the MTA, which released a series of interim recommendations last month on ways the MTA can reduce its environmental impact and promote transit-oriented development.

"This initiative highlights our commitment to creating a greener MTA and a greener region," said Elliot G. Sander, MTA Executive Director and CEO. "We are always pleased to be able to accommodate and encourage bicycling to the extent that we can without inconveniencing other customers."

Cyclists may bring standard frame bikes aboard the New York City Subway at any time, but are discouraged from bringing them aboard trains that are crowded. If the only available space is near the door, cyclists are advised to wait for the next uncrowded train.