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Press Release

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NYC Transit

IMMEDIATE

MTA NYC Transit Expands Access-A-Ride Service Into Nassau and Westchester Counties

Customers who depend on MTA New York City Transit's paratransit service, Access-A-Ride, will soon be able to take trips across the city line to nearby areas of Nassau and Westchester Counties during an eight-month pilot program for supplemental cross-border transportation service to and from locations just beyond the borders of Queens and the Bronx. Trips will be available to all points within a 3/4-mile corridor into the adjacent counties.

NYC Transit received MTA Board approval today to award non-competitive contracts in order to begin the pilot program, designed to use providers outside of the existing and already maximized pool of providers, and to give NYC Transit the opportunity to observe and evaluate for future planning the quantity and need for cross-border paratransit services.

For the same \$2.00 fare as a bus or subway ride, Access-A-Ride is available to eligible customers who, through disability, are unable to use the MTA's bus or subway network. The service will be expanded to include portions of Nassau County, including North Shore University-LIJ Medical Center in Manhasset and areas in Great Neck and Lake Success. Likewise, Access-A-Ride users will now be able to travel into Yonkers and Mount Vernon.

"We are pleased to offer this service to our Paratransit customers who are unable to use our bus and subway service," said Howard H. Roberts, Jr., president of New York City Transit. "Making certain that we provide an accessible and affordable transit alternative is core to our mission at MTA New York City Transit, and we are also pleased that we will now be able to expand our service area to places that will be prime destinations for many of our customers."

Although the regulations stipulated by the Americans with Disabilities Acts require a 3/4 mile service corridor beyond fixed route service, Access-A-Ride will exceed this requirement when accommodating trips to North Shore Hospital as an acknowledgement to Senator Frank Padavan and Assemblyman Mark Weprin's efforts on behalf of Queens residents' needs to travel into Nassau for doctor visits and medical care.

Access-A-Ride provides transportation for people with disabilities who are unable to use public bus or subway service for some or all of their trips. It offers shared ride, door-to-door paratransit service, operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Further information about Access-A-Ride service may be obtained by calling 1-877-337-2017, the Access-A-Ride toll-free number, or accessing the MTA website www.mta.info