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Press Release

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[MTA Headquarters](#)

IMMEDIATE

MTA Board Approves Fare Policy Changes Changes Made After Public Hearing Process

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) board today approved a series of fare policy changes that are expected to yield a 7.5% increase in fare revenue. This fare revenue increase, along with one planned for 2013, was agreed upon with the Legislature as part of the MTA rescue package enacted in May 2009.

Last winter, the agency learned that despite the rescue legislation, a \$900 million funding gap existed caused by shortfalls in the new and dedicated State taxes as well as cuts to State aid. Despite a shortfall of this magnitude, the MTA was able to hold to the 7.5% revenue increase by undertaking the largest and most comprehensive cost cutting initiative in the MTA's history. A series of internal cost cutting actions taken this year will save \$380 million in 2010 and generate more than \$525 million in annual recurring savings that will grow to more than ¼ of a billion dollars by 2014.

"Given the magnitude of the budget shortfall the MTA faced in 2010, this fare increase would have been much larger if our efforts to fundamentally overhaul the MTA's cost structure had not been successful," said MTA Chairman and CEO Jay H. Walder. "While we cannot avoid this increase, we have listened to the comments of hundreds of customers and others about how they use the MTA's services and how dependent they are on it."

New Fares

The new fare structure takes into account customer feedback that the MTA received at a series of nine public hearings held throughout the MTA's service territory in September. It is designed to raise the needed revenue while minimizing ridership loss and keeping impacts on low-income customers to a minimum.

MTA New York City Transit, MTA Long Island Bus and MTA Bus Company

Fare	Current	Adopted
Base subway and local bus fare	\$2.25	\$2.25
Base express bus fare	\$5.50	\$5.50
Single Ride Ticket	\$2.25	\$2.50
Pay-per-ride MetroCard bonus discount	15% when adding at least \$8.00	7% when adding at least \$10.00
30-day unlimited MetroCard	\$89.00	\$104.00
7-Day Express Bus Plus unlimited MetroCard	\$45.00	\$50.00
7-day unlimited MetroCard	\$27.00	\$29.00

- The 1-day unlimited "Fun Pass" and the 14-day unlimited ride MetroCard will be eliminated. These passes together were used by less than 3% of customers, and the Fun Pass was involved in a disproportionate share of MetroCard fraud cases.
- To help reduce expenses of printing MetroCards and to reduce litter in stations, the MTA will begin charging a \$1 surcharge to purchase a new MetroCard. There will be no such charge for customers turning in a recently expired MetroCard.

MTA Long Island Rail Road and MTA Metro-North Railroad

- Most commuter rail tickets will increase between 7.6% and 9.4%, depending on ticket type and distance traveled.
- The discount offered for purchasing a monthly commuter rail ticket / unlimited MetroCard via Mail&Ride program will be reduced to 2% (from 4%).
- Other Mail&Ride discounts and all WebTicket fare discounts will be eliminated. (This program will be retained for tickets to, from or within the State of Connecticut.)
- The validity period for one-way and round-trip tickets will be reduced to 14 days (from six months).
- The validity period for all other non-commutation tickets will be reduced to six months (from one year).
- The MTA will institute a \$10 charge for processing refunds for unused or partially used tickets, and will reduce the length of time a refund request will be honored to 30 days from the date the ticket is purchased.
- One-way fares on the Newburgh-Beacon Ferry and the Haverstraw-Ossining Ferry will increase by 25¢.

Implementation

The new fare charges and the commuter railroad ticket policy changes will go into effect beginning December 30, 2010. The MetroCard re-use incentive surcharge will begin later in 2011 at a date to be announced.

Tolls

The MTA Board did not take action on toll policy today. The MTA board is expected to address toll policy at the MTA's next regularly scheduled board

meeting, on October 27.