

STAFF SUMMARY

Subject						Date			
Temporary Fare Promotions during the Rockaway Line Rehabilitation & Resiliency Project						December 18, 2024			
Department						Vendor Name			
Policy & External Relations						N/A			
Department Head Name						Contract Number			
John McCarthy						N/A			
Department Head Signature						Contract Manager Name			
						N/A			
Project Manager Name Lucille Songhai						Table of Contents Ref # N/A			
Board Action						Internal Approvals			
Order	To	Date	Approval	Info	Other	Order	Approval	Order	Approval
1	Finance	12/16/24				1	Chief Financial Officer		
2	Board	12/18/24				2	Legal		
						3	Chief of Staff		
Narrative									

Purpose: To obtain Board approval to launch temporary fare promotions during the Rockaway Line (A Train) service outage as part of the Rockaway Line Rehabilitation and Resiliency Project, beginning January 17, 2025. These fare promotions would be in effect during the A Train outage to provide alternative forms of transportation between the Rockaway Peninsula and the rest of New York City.

Discussion: The Rockaway Line, served by the A and S Shuttle trains and carrying over 9,000 average weekday riders, is a vital link between the Rockaway Peninsula in Queens and the rest of New York City. In 2012, the line suffered extensive damage from Superstorm Sandy, and A Train service was suspended for seven months. While MTA was able to complete emergency repairs to restore service, more work is needed to make significant permanent repairs and protect the line from future storms.

The Rockaway Line Rehabilitation & Resiliency Project invests \$393 million to safeguard the bridges and viaducts on the Rockaway Line, guaranteeing the reliability of these critical connections for the next 50+ years. Beginning January 2025 and ending May 2025, MTA will reconstruct the elevated Hammels Wye and rehabilitate electrical and mechanical systems on the South Channel Bridge. Construction cannot be completed in piecemeal outages, and a 17-week outage is necessary to complete the work safely and cost-efficiently.

The MTA is proposing two temporary fare promotions to mitigate the effects of this long-term service outage and provide alternate forms of transportation between the Rockaway Peninsula and the rest of New York City.

- LIRR will discount the peak and off-peak Far Rockaway Ticket—currently \$7 in the peak and \$5 in the off-peak—to \$2.75 for trips to and from the Far Rockaway LIRR Station. Far Rockaway Tickets can be purchased at Far Rockaway Station or in the TrainTime app if customers share their location with the app to confirm they are near the station. This will allow customers who normally travel on the A Train to utilize LIRR service.
- S – Rockaway Park Shuttle service between Broad Channel and Rockaway Park – Beach 116 Street will be suspended during the 17-week outage and will be replaced by a special fare-free S Shuttle train serving all stations on the peninsula between Far Rockaway – Mott Avenue and Rockaway Park – Beach 116 Street. The special S Shuttle service will not operate during the first and last weekends of the 17-week outage and will be replaced by a modified free shuttle bus operation on those two weekends.

Impact on Funding: The revenue impact is estimated to be up to \$375,000.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the MTA Board adopt these temporary fare promotions.