



Queens Civic Congress

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Queens Civic Congress to MTA: Fare Hike Just Plain Unfair

Statement to the MTA

Presented by Vice President and Transportation co-chair Kathy Masi (Glendale Civic)
December 17, 2008

Queens Civic Congress, an umbrella organization of more than 100 neighborhood based civic organizations representing property owners, including those owning coops and condos, and tenants who reside in every part of Queens County, urges the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) to hold the line on any fare hike and take further steps to introduce efficiencies and raise revenues from sources that do not plunder the riding public. Queens Civic Congress submits with the proper government actions, NO need exists to raise any fare on our buses and subways, and existing service levels must be maintained and IMPROVED.

The impending changes in Washington and the clout of our federal legislators makes clear need for a plan to capture appropriate federal aid and relief. And the State and City should do their part, even in these tough times. Enough alternative revenue options exist to empower City Hall and Albany to step up. The supposedly independent MTA board needs to stand up and make a statement. Doomsday cuts may catch the public's attention but the MTA must speak out on the glaring shortfalls.

The Congress finds the financing the City's transit system by both the MTA and the state grossly unfair to residents of the City. It disproportionately calls on New York City residents and commuters to pay more than non-city residents.

In past testimonies, the Queens Civic Congress and others noted the discordant variance in funding for mass transit when the City accounts nearly seven out of every eight state riders moved by some form of mass transit. The ridership continues to increase without a concomitant investment by government at ALL levels. This has to change.

Queens Civic Congress, as part of the long debate on MTA Financing, proposes revenue reforms that make sense and add certainty of funding. The MTA should press our legislators to deliver these goods rather than capitulate to the same old fare hike.

Thank you.

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Queens Civic Congress Members may be found below and on the web at:
<http://queensciviccongress.org/organization/members.php>