

## **Tell the State Senate How: To Save the Fare and Avoid Tolling Free Bridges**

This State Senate website solicits our ideas to fund the MTA. Seize this opportunity to suggest alternatives to fare hikes and unfair, inequitable and inefficient tolls on our free East River and Harlem River Bridges, including our own Queensborough Bridge. Queens Civic Congress [testified](#) and issued [statements](#) that proposed fair and sound revenue [alternatives](#). The [coalition](#) we joined to oppose congestion tax and the tolls developed additional [proposals](#) (and included our revenue reforms). Please use these as guides to advise the State Senate how best to finance mass transit.

- Transportation Committee Chair James Trent

<http://www.senate.state.ny.us/sws/mtaideas/index.html>

## **New York State Senate**

[www.nyMTAideas.org](http://www.nyMTAideas.org)

### **Share Your Ideas on How to Fix the MTA Budget Shortfall**

After years of mismanagement and fiscal irresponsibility, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) has accumulated a staggering budget shortfall which now threatens the millions of New Yorkers who rely on mass transit. While it is absolutely essential that we take immediate and decisive action to reduce proposed fare hikes and potential loss of services and jobs, many members of the New York State Senate have concerns about some of the proposals which have thus far been offered to address the budget gap.

Some members of the Senate will be submitting amendments to the draft legislation prepared by the Governor, to provide for greater measures of public oversight and transparency. The MTA must provide the honest accounting that New Yorkers deserve for the public to have a sufficient say in how that money is being used and full knowledge of what it is being used for.

While the proposal to modify the recommended tolls on the East River Bridges from \$5 to \$2 warrants strong consideration and will be discussed within the Senate, many Senators would find it unacceptable if straphangers were forced to bear the burden of the reduced toll. Additionally, it is unclear if that plan would achieve the necessary financial targets of reducing the proposed fare hike from 23% to 8%, increasing services, especially bus service outside of Manhattan and protecting jobs. If reducing the proposed East River Bridges toll results in higher fare increases, fewer service add-ons and layoffs then it may not achieve the intended goals any toll would have to meet for it to be a prudent option.



[Click here to read the draft legislation submitted by the Governor.](#)

We invite your comments on how to achieve the necessary investment in the infrastructure of the MTA which will preserve access to services, protect jobs and enhance the public's confidence that state resources will be spent wisely, while maintaining the principle of shared sacrifice among all sectors.

Thank you for your participation!

Let Us Know Your Opinion

**Email Your Ideas:**  
[nymtaideas@senate.state.ny.us](mailto:nymtaideas@senate.state.ny.us)

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[nysenatorfinder.org](http://nysenatorfinder.org)