



Queens Civic Congress, Inc.

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www.queensciviccongress.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Thursday, November 21, 2002

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QUEENS CIVIC CONGRESS URGES MTA TO HOLD THE LINE ON BUS AND SUBWAY FARE

With the Metropolitan Transportation Authority considering hikes as much as 33% in the bus and subway fare, the Queens Civic Congress, a coalition of over 100 civic, community, cooperative and tenant organizations in the borough of Queens, again questions the need for a fare hike when the agency effectively controlled by the Governor runs a surplus and the agency and the state continue to discriminate in favor of wealthier suburban commuters in the apportionment of fare subsidies and transit and transportation revenues.

A simple message today: Hold the line on transit fare through at least 2004.

The Congress has followed the financing of the City's transit system by both the MTA and the state and finds the current system grossly unfair to residents of the City. Frankly, the funding scheme discriminates. Just as New York State needs to address the inequity in its financing of New York City's public schools, the discriminatory funding of the City's transit system as operated by the MTA, disproportionately calls on New York City residents and commuters to pay more than non-city residents. Under the current financing scheme for mass transit, any fare hike would represent nothing less than a very regressive tax hike in excess of \$750 on many New Yorkers who struggle to make ends meet.

Let's look at the facts:

- *New York City accounts for 84% of all state riders moved by some form of mass transit;
- *New York City buses and subways receive only 63% of state transit aid, an annual shortfall of \$325 million, equivalent to about \$0.35 cents in the cost of the \$1.50 fare;
- *The LIRR and MetroNorth move only five percent of all state riders;
- *The LIRR and MetroNorth combined receive 23% of state transit aid, an annual windfall of \$275 million.
- *Bus and subway fare generate from \$2.0-2.1 billion annually since the 1997 fare hike;
- *New York City contributes \$300 million annually to MTA operations, including -\$158 million to match NYS aid;

- \$67.6 to maintain LIRR and MetroNorth stations within the five boroughs;
- \$45 million for student bus and subway fare passes;
- 13.8 million for reduced fare cards for seniors;
- 17.2 million for reduced fare cards for the disabled;
- * Since 1996 subway ridership increased 29% but service increased only 11%;
- * Since 1996 bus ridership increased 50% but service increase only 27%;
- * NYC transit riders fares pay 60% of operating costs; this compares to 54% for MetroNorth; 44% for LIRR, 37% for PATH (in 2000) and 48% for New Jersey Transit (in 2000); nationally this compares to 44% for Chicago, 41% for Philadelphia, 32% for Los Angeles and Miami-Dade, and 29% for Boston (in 2000).

An investment in New York City mass transit means more than repairs, new cars and buses and routes, it means a stable, affordable fare that encourages mass transit and provides an affordable means for workers and visitors to get around. New Yorkers look to you to show leadership and a commitment – NOW! – to hold the line of transit fares.

Tina Chan, Vice-President
 Chairwoman / Transportation Committee

View the entire Queens Civic Congress Platform at: www.queensciviccongress.org

Queens Civic Congress Members

Assoc. of Old Forest Hills Bayside Hills Civic Assoc. Bayswater Civic Assoc. Bay Terrace Community Alliance Beachside Bungalow Preservation Assoc. Bellaire/Belvill Civic Assoc. Belle Harbor Property Owners Bellerose-Commonwealth Civic Assoc. Bellerose-Hillside Civic Assoc. Bell Park Manor-Terrace Community Council Bowne Park Civic Assoc. Briarwood Community Assoc. Cambria Heights Civic Assoc. Cedar Grove Civic Assoc. College Point Civic Taxpayers Assoc. COMET Creedmoor Civic Assoc. Doug-Bay Manor Civic Assoc. Douglaston Civic Assoc. Douglas Manor Assoc East Flushing Civic Assoc. Federation of Laurelton Block Associations Floral Park Community Council Flushing on the Hill Civic Assoc. Flushing Heights Civic Assoc. Flushing Suburban Civic Assoc. Forest Hills Chamber of Commerce Forest Hills Community & Civic Assoc. Forest Hills Crescents Assoc. Forest Hills-Van Court Assoc. Fresh Meadows Homeowners Assoc. Georgetown Mews Glen Oaks Village Owners Greater Whitestone Taxpayers Civic Association Harding Heights Civic Assoc. Harrison Place/Sunnyside Gardens Hillcrest Estates Civic Assoc. Hilltop Village Co-op #4 Hollis Hills Civic Assoc. Holliswood Civic Assoc. Hollis Park Gardens Assoc. Holly Civic Assoc. Howard Beach Civic Forum Hunters Point Community Coalition Hyde Park Gardens Jackson Heights Beautification Group Jamaica Estates Assoc. Jamaica Hill Community Assoc. Joint Community Council College Point Juniper Park Civic Assoc. Kew Forest Neighborhood Civic Assoc. Kew Gardens Civic Assoc. Kew Gardens Hills Civic Assoc. Kissena Park Civic Assoc. Little Neck Bay Civic Assoc. Little Neck Community Assoc. Little Neck Pines Assoc. Locust Manor Neighborhood Civic Assoc. Lost Community Civic Assoc. Malba Civic Association Middle Village Property Owners Mitchell-Linden Civic Assoc. 97 Place Block Assoc. Newtown Civic Assoc. North Bellerose Civic Assoc. North Flushing Civic Assoc. North Hills Estates Civic Assoc. North Queens Homeowners Civic Assoc. North Star Civic Assoc. Oakland Terrace/Gardens Council Off Broadway Homeowners Ozone Tudor Civic Assoc. Parkway Village Coop. Queens Braddock Civic Assoc. Queens Colony Civic Assoc. Queens Community Civic Corp. Queens Village Civic Assoc. Ramblersville-Hawtree Civic Assoc. Richmond Hill Historic Assoc. Ridgewood Property Owners Assoc. Robinwood Property Owners Rockaway Action Committee Rockaway Beach Civic Assoc. Rocky Hill Civic Assoc. Rosedale Civic Assoc. Royal Ranch Assoc. Sagamore Douglaston Civic Assoc. Southeast Queens Coalition of Concerned Neighbors Southeast Queens Federation of Civic Associations South Ozone Park Coalition of Block Associations South Ozone Park West Civic Assoc. Springfield/Rosedale Community Assoc. Sunnyside Gardens Harrison Place Surrey Estates Civic Assoc. The Concerned Citizens of Laurelton The Property Civic Assoc. Union Turnpike Merchants Assoc. United Forties Civic Assoc. United Neighbors Civic Assoc. of Jamaica Utopia Estates Civic Assoc. Utopia Improvement Assoc. Village Mall at Hillcrest Waldheim Neighborhood Assoc. Wayanda Civic Assoc. West Cunningham Park Civic Assoc. Westmoreland Assoc. Woodside Community Council