

November 8, 2004

Chairman Peter S. Kalikow
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
347 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Re: Proposed Metrocard fare increases and service cutbacks

Dear Mr. Kalikow:

At its meeting of November 3, 2004, Manhattan Community Board No. 4 voted to oppose the Metrocard fare increases and subway and bus service cutbacks proposed for 2005. We are very concerned that this message of *pay more and get less* will decrease the use of mass transit and reverse the positive trend in ridership and service that has occurred over the last few years.

The proposed fare increases for Metrocards, coming on top of fare hikes in May, 2003, will mean increases of 33% for Monthly Metrocards, 41% for Weekly Metrocards, and doubling the cost for daily Metrocards in less than 2 years. We believe this will lead to a reduction in subway and bus usage.

We are concerned that the fare increases are a further burden on the mass transit riders - particularly given that NYC's mass transit system is funded 53% by fare revenues - substantially above the national average of 40% and higher than any other major city mass transit system. Given the importance of the mass transit system to the city and state economy, our government officials should be more active participants in funding the mass transit system.

The proposed 2005 subway booth closings will affect 9 subway stops in our area. We are concerned about the access problems this will create, the confusion it will cause (particularly given the high number of tourists that use stations in our Board area) and the security concerns it will create. The cutbacks in off-peak bus service are also concerning - in our district it is likely to lead to more taxi usage and thus worsened traffic after evening theater performances and will make life more difficult for the off-peak hour commuters in the midtown area.

We applaud the system improvements that have occurred over the last several years and share the MTA's concerns about the projected deficits. Community Board No. 4 stands ready to work with the MTA in its efforts to encourage the City and State to commit their fair share to address mass transit needs, but feel that the proposed mass transit fare increases and service cutbacks will discourage usage and create larger deficits.

Sincerely,



Walter Mankoff
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4

Jay Marcus
Chair
Transportation Planning Committee