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**Statement by Bradley Brashears, PCAC Planning Manager  
Extension of the Atlantic Ticket Pilot Program  
At the MTA Board Meeting  
MTA Headquarters, 2 Broadway, New York, NY 10004  
June 26, 2019**

Good morning Board members, I'm Bradley Brashears, Planning Manager at the PCAC, speaking on behalf of the New York City Transit Riders Council. We are happy about the extension of the Atlantic Ticket Field Study, which was generated from our Council's Freedom Ticket proposal. Atlantic Ticket has discounted fares by as much as 51% and has drastically reduced some 2+ hour commutes down to just 45 minutes.

Atlantic Ticket has paved the way for equitable fares in far-flung areas of the city that are priced out of commuter rail service and not close to subways. This is especially important as fares have recently risen and much-needed congestion pricing is on the horizon. Riders need options, like those embodied in the Freedom Ticket model.

Since its June 6, 2018 launch, Atlantic Ticket has increased daily ridership at Atlantic Terminal by 5%, providing much needed revenue in a corridor that was operating over half empty during peak hours – getting more out of an underutilized asset. From what we understand, over 870,000 tickets have been purchased, and continuing to grow - now at about 20,000 tickets sold per week.

With this success, we are looking beyond Atlantic Ticket to address commuting needs elsewhere in the MTA region to include MNR. Meanwhile, current capacity constraints going in and out of Penn Station during peak hours, has made this concept challenging, but once East Side Access (ESA) is complete and the East River tunnels are repaired, Penn Station LIRR must too have a Freedom Ticket type fare structure, which will be made easier with OMNY. Until then, applying the Freedom Ticket model to the Bronx for MNR riders will help make for faster and more affordable commutes.

Therefore, we welcome the opportunity to advance discussions regarding a pilot program for the Bronx. Thank you for your time.