

Fare Change Hearing Testimony  
Karen Hamilton, NYCTRC Member  
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Hello. I am Karen Hamilton, a member of the NYC Transit Riders Council, a SE Queens resident, and a life-long rider of the bus, subway, & LIRR.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed fare changes. Fare increases are generally not popular. I also recognize fares are one of the sources of funding needed to sustain transit operations.

The following policy changes cause a considerable financial burden on riders and should be reconsidered.

- Discontinuation of the 30-day unlimited MetroCard could amount to a fare increase of up to 18% for monthly riders.
- The four-hour activations window for railroad tickets does not articulate train delay and cancellation policies.
- Loss of the 10-trip on the railroads also results in “hidden” fare increase. The proposed free 11th trip limits ticket options and travel flexibility by reducing the duration of use from two months to 2 weeks.

There are additional changes the MTA can implement which demonstrate commitment to riders.

- A 30-day fare cap for transit riders.
- Transfers to regular buses and subways with a capped weekly City Ticket, which is very successful.
- More flexibility on paper railroad tickets for riders who want to travel outside of the days/times designated by the 11th trip free and daily tickets. This means keeping the 10-trip and round-trip tickets.

The relationship between transit and riders is symbiotic. The needs of both must be considered and addressed in a fairly balanced manner. The proposed recommendations will help reduce the financial impact by providing great value for the increased cost.

Thank you.