

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



SENATOR
CHARLES J. FUSCHILLO, JR.

February 5, 2010

Mr. Jay Walder, Chairman
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
347 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Chairman Walder:

I am writing to share my strong opposition to the proposed MTA service cuts.

Many commuters have contacted me expressing their opposition to the proposal combining several AM & PM peak trains on the LIRR's Babylon branch. Peak trains are already overcrowded, with many commuters unable to find a seat. Combining trains will only add to this problem and decrease the level of service for commuters. Commuters on the Ronkonkoma line would face similar conditions because the plan proposes reducing the length of two trains by two cars each and eliminates one PM peak train.

In addition, residents are upset about the pending elimination of several Long Island Bus lines, including the Merrick train station shuttle bus (N53) and the lines which provide summer service to Jones Beach (N87 & N88), a destination which attracts approximately 8 million people each year. Cutting mid day service on the N64 line would negatively impact families in the Freeport community. Discontinuing service on the N67 line would force residents traveling between Roosevelt and Hicksville to make three separate transfers as an alternate route. Eliminating the N95 line, which serves Farmingdale State College, will put an undue hardship on students who depend on the bus to get to and from the campus.

Riders got hit with a 10% fare increase last year, the second in two years, and are facing an additional 7.5% increase in 2011. Our communities are also being burdened by the MTA payroll tax, which has been forced upon all business owners, non-profit organizations, and municipalities. Asking them to bear these higher costs in return for less service will only drive people further away from using the LIRR and Long Island Bus.

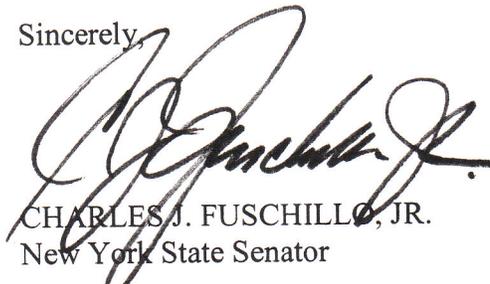


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I urge you to explore other alternatives to reducing or eliminating service to ratepayers. The MTA's recently released report, "Making Every Dollar Count," noted that "the MTA is long overdue for a major, top-to-bottom overhaul of the way it does business." I agree and applaud you for taking such steps to make the MTA more efficient. I believe that this type of comprehensive review will yield the additional savings required to offset the need for such painful service reductions.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. I look forward to working with you to help the MTA improve the level of service it provides to Long Islanders.

Sincerely,



CHARLES J. FUSCHILLO, JR.
New York State Senator

Cc: Helena Williams, President, Long Island Rail Road
Joseph Smith, President, Long Island Bus