

Suggested Questions for Transportation Budget Hearing

Reinvent Albany
Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee to the MTA (PCAC)
Tri-State Transportation Campaign

January 24, 2024

MTA

Open Data

1. When will you provide complete capital project data on the NYS open data portal, as required by the MTA Open Data Act and the law codifying the dashboard from last year's budget? (See your [open data catalog](#) which shows a timeline of Q3 of 2023 for dashboard data improvements). We appreciate that you have published [specific tabs for ADA and resiliency projects on the dashboard](#), as required by last year's budget.
2. When will we see data on the fare free bus pilot?

Congestion Pricing

3. What specific projects are at risk if congestion pricing is further delayed? Can you explain what other kinds of issues transit riders may face?
4. What further service improvements could be added as congestion pricing begins, if additional funding is provided in the budget this year?
5. What open data will you be releasing about the implementation of congestion pricing?
 - a. How will this inform your administration of the program overtime?
 - b. MTA open data has a good daily set on existing toll collection that is broken out by day which makes it manageable and differentiates between EZ Pass and other collection measures. Congestion pricing pay points could be added to the universe of toll plazas in the existing set.
6. In the Environmental Assessment (EA) for Congestion Pricing, there were projections of increased truck traffic in certain communities. Given that the final EA includes a commitment from Governor Hochul, the MTA, and other program sponsors to reduce truck traffic and emissions in neighborhoods, such as the South Bronx where all the scenarios showed an increase in truck traffic, through a mitigation plan, **can the MTA provide an update on the roll out of this plan, how are the agencies coordinating this mitigation plan, and whether the funding for these mitigations are reliant on the raised revenue or has the mitigation plan already begun?**

Capital Plan/Climate Goals

7. How are you going to speed up work on the 2020-2024 capital plan? You were only able to *spend* \$6B total on all capital projects in 2022 – how much better was 2023?
8. In late 2022, the MTA was awarded a grant for zero-emission hydrogen fuel cell buses. Given that the deployment of buses is scheduled to operate in passenger service by the

end of 2024, can the MTA provide an update on the rollout for these buses? Can the MTA provide any insight as to why it is seeking this out when the agency has already committed to electrifying the entire bus fleet by 2040, especially since electric bus adoption in public transport urban fleet is growing all over the world?

9. How does the MTA track and report its progress on achieving climate and environmental goals?

Service/OMNY

10. What's the status of OMNY's rollout to the railroads? What do you need to expedite it, and what is causing the delay?
11. How much has the Outer Borough Transit Account raised? What are the next steps in implementation?
12. Have you been able to reach all of the service increases that were promised and funded last year? Do you have any additional plans for the coming year?
13. Will the MTA consider the proposal to restore passenger train service on the Rockaway Beach Branch between Queens Center Mall and the Rockaways in addition to a new greenway, as proposed by the QueensLink?

NYS DOT

1. Why isn't your 2022-2027 capital plan project list released as open data on data.ny.gov pursuant to Executive Order 95 of 2013, and the DOT's stated commitment to transparency in your 2021 Transparency Plan?
2. How does level of service factor into your state environmental quality review analysis?
3. Yes or no, are you operating under the assumption that widening freeways will reduce congestion and therefore benefit the environment?
4. How do you consider mode shift and VMT during SEQR?
5. Do you currently track VMT across state?
6. Have you ever flexed any funds to transit?
7. Does your capital program include funding for infrastructure to support medium-heavy duty vehicle and transit electrification projects?
8. How does the agency track and report its progress on achieving climate and environmental goals?