



PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NEW YORK STATE SENATE



Notice of Public Hearing

Subject: Governor Paterson appointed a 13 member commission on MTA financing on June 10, 2008. The Commission was lead by Richard Ravitch, former Chairman of the MTA. In light of large projected budget deficits, the Commission was charged with reviewing MTA capital needs and operating budget and examining options to meet these demands. On December 5th the Commission provided the Governor with their recommendations to address the MTA's operating and capital needs.

Purpose: To examine recommendations of the Ravitch report and receive testimony from members of the commission and MTA stakeholders on the MTA fiscal crisis, proposed cuts, reductions in service, additional savings and revenue proposals.

The MTA and the State are facing historic financial challenges, including declining revenues, increased operating expenses and capital costs. These stark financial realities will require concomitant reductions in state expenditures. This will also require a sobering reassessment of funding as the state faces a multi-billion dollar deficit in both the current fiscal year and an additional \$13 billion deficit in 2009-10. However, we also recognize the need to keep state services strong during difficult economic times, when more New Yorkers will rely on public-sector services than ever before. Towards that end, this hearing will gather testimony to assist the State as it considers the Ravitch Commission's recommendations.

Senate Standing Committees

On

Corporations, Authorities and Commissions

Senator Bill Perkins, Chair

Transportation

Senator Martin Malave Dilan, Chair

Elliot Sander, MTA Executive Director/CEO and
Richard Ravitch, Former Chair of MTA will be testifying.

Location - Manhattan

February 19, 2009 – 3:00 PM

Adam Clayton Powell State Office Building

163 West 125th Street, 8th floor

New York, NY 10027

“We want to get clarification on this project, how it works, how the resources are going to be used and how services are going to be impacted. This is a big idea and a big project. The decision on this is going to be sort of a signature decision for us in the Senate and in the Legislature. In making such an important decision we critically need input from the public. We hope to obtain that valuable input from this hearing.”

Senator Bill Perkins, New York Times, February 5, 2009

Oral testimony will be limited to 10 minutes in duration.

Issues to Which Witnesses May Direct Their Testimony

- What local institutions, individuals, groups or interests may be especially vulnerable to the proposed recommendations in the areas service cuts, increased fares or tolls?
- What alternatives exist to mitigate proposed service cuts?
- Are there areas of the MTA budget where cuts could be made that have not previously been explored?
- Are there areas where MTA service can be made more effective or efficient without impacting safety?
- What cost savings are possible and realistic for non-profit and governmental service providers?
- What are the long term effects and any potential unintended costs of delaying capital projects or service as those proposed by the MTA?
- Are there other steps that could be taken to ensure sustainable revenue and financing structure for the future?

Statewide membership organizations are encouraged to provide this hearing notice to local members and affiliates in the areas where hearings are scheduled.

Reply Form: Testimony is by invitation only. Persons who require assistance or wish to be added to the Committee mailing list for the Senate Standing Committee on Transportation and the Senate Standing Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions are requested to complete this form, and submit it to:

Cordell Cleare, Office of Senator Bill Perkins, Chair
Corporations, Authorities and Commissions Committee
163 West 125th Street, New York, NY 10027
Phone: 212-222-7315, Fax: 212-678-0001

I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. **Please specify the type of assistance required:** _____

I am unable to attend, but will be submitting written testimony.

Oral testimony will be accepted by invitation only. Persons attending the event are asked to submit electronic copies of their testimony to cclare@senate.state.ny.us or bring 10 paper copies of testimony to the hearing.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____