

RANKING MEMBER
CHILDREN & FAMILIES
CRIME VICTIMS, CRIME & CORRECTIONS

COMMITTEE MEMBER
AGING
ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT, LABOR
(845) 229-0106

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



ROB ROLISON
39th District

ALBANY OFFICE
ROOM 613
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
(518) 455-2945

DISTRICT OFFICE
3 NEPTUNE ROAD
SUITE N22
POUGHKEEPSIE, NY 12601

September 12, 2025

MTA Government and Community Relations
2 Broadway, 16th Floor
New York, NY 10004

Dear MTA Government and Community Relations,

I write to you today in strong opposition to the proposed fare hikes by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Board of Directors. The proposed fare and toll hikes for Metro-North services are a slap in the face to commuters from my district in the Hudson Valley who have already been hit with increased costs, but reduced services.

Earlier this year, the MTA began collecting an additional tax on commuters from the Hudson Valley through congestion pricing, forcing my constituents to rely heavily on public transit or pay an additional tax. Now, after many have made that shift and ridership on the commuter rails and subways has increased, these same riders are being asked to shoulder even more by paying higher fares.

This is particularly unfair to the Hudson Valley, where affordability is already a daily struggle. Orange County residents still do not have a single-seat, continuous rail option into New York City, leaving them with fewer choices and longer commutes than their neighbors. Most recently, the MTA even discontinued the Newburgh-Beacon ferry service — a decision that stripped riders of another reliable connection. The MTA keeps taking away, while at the same time charging more, and that is simply unacceptable.

At a time when riders are being asked to pay more for less, and when trust in public institutions is already fragile, the MTA must be held accountable for how it spends public dollars. New Yorkers deserve a transit system that works for them, not one that enriches private firms at the expense of transparency and efficiency.

Instead of continually shifting costs onto the commuters of our region, the MTA must first address its irresponsible spending and poor decision-making. Only then can we have a serious conversation about funding. For the sake of hard-working New Yorkers and the long-term health of our state, the focus should be on making life here more affordable — not less.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. G. Rolison".

Robert G. Rolison
New York State Senate
39th District

Phone: 845-229-0106

Email: Rolison@nysenate.gov