

**NYPIRG STRAPHANGERS CAMPAIGN
PERMANENT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE MTA
TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES
TRI-STATE TRANSPORTATION CAMPAIGN**

November 29, 2011

Andrew Saul
Acting Chair
MTA
347 Madison
New York, NY 10017

Joseph Lhota
Executive Director
MTA
347 Madison
New York, NY 10017

Re: \$20 Million Service Restoration Fund

Dear Chairman Saul and Director Lhota:

We write to express our strong support for the \$20 million service restoration fund recently proposed by several MTA Board Members.

At the November 16th MTA Board meeting, Member Mitch Pally argued that the MTA should set aside a \$20 million service restoration to split among New York City Transit, the Long Island Rail Road and the Metro-North Railroad.

He suggested that the agency presidents decide what services to bring back that had been cut in June 2010. "I believe a portion of them should be – and can be – funded in this plan," said Board Member Pally during a discussion of the MTA's proposed 2012 budget. Allen Cappelli, another board member, agreed. "There are services that need to be provided, and it's all over the region."

As you know, in June of 2010, the MTA implemented the harshest transit service cuts within memory. These cuts included:

- killing 20 local and 12 New York City express bus routes;
 - axing weekend service on 12 local and 2 express routes;
 - cutting the hours of operation to 39 local bus routes;
 - eliminating 570 bus stops;
 - condemning millions of subway riders to longer trips and waits, more crowding and extra transfers;
 - reducing service on the Long Island Rail Road's Port Washington Branch;
 - eliminating year around weekend service on the Greenport Branch;
 - eliminating all weekend service on the West Hempstead Branch;
 - ending late night service at the newly-built Atlantic/Flatbush terminal in Brooklyn; and
 - reducing service on Metro-North's Harlem, Hudson, New Haven and Pascack Valley lines.
- MTA officials acknowledge that these cuts have resulted in "less convenient service for 15% of bus and subway riders." Our groups strongly recommend that the MTA Board restore as much convenient service for its riders as it can and establish a \$20 million fund for service restorations.

We urge you to act when you adopted your 2012 budget.

Sincerely,

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