

NYPIRG Straphangers Campaign
9 Murray Street | New York, New York 10007 | (917) 575-9434

STATEMENT ON METROCARD DISCOUNTS

September 12, 2012

Today, MTA Chairman Joe Lhota said his agency was considering eliminating the 7% discount on purchases of \$10 on a MetroCard.

The Straphangers Campaign has concerns about such a proposal and appreciates Mr. Lhota's comment that this is the start of a public debate.

Among the group's concerns were:

- the 7% discount on \$10 purchases is more accessible to low-income riders, while the seven-day (\$29) or 30-day (\$104) are a lot of money to have to put up front.
- eliminating the discount is no different than a fare hike. Currently, the base fare is \$2.25 for riders buying less than \$10 on a MetroCard. With the 7% discount, the cost per ride is \$2.10.
- providing incentives to make bulk purchases of transit encourages greater subway and bus ridership.

In mid-November, the MTA will be holding hearings on its plan to raise fares and tolls by \$450 million annually. By October, the MTA will make its complete proposals on fares and tolls.