

NYPIRG Straphangers Campaign  
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## **STATEMENT ON HIGHEST SUBWAY RIDERSHIP SINCE 1960 Monday, April 20, 2015**

Some riders will see the record ridership as the curse of more crowding to come.

Many others – including the Straphangers Campaign – will acknowledge that a growing system is playing the role it should in the life of our city.

New York City's subways are giving us a degree of mobility unparalleled in America, with access to jobs, family and what makes New York City so appealing. So whether it's a hipster going clubbing along the L line or tourists from Texas trying a new budget hotel in Queens, we welcome you – and demand that transit officials take action to make our commuting lives bearable.

The MTA says they view the surging ridership as a challenge. Can they run a system reliably that is beyond its capacity on so many lines and at so many times? The Straphangers Campaign and many others will be watching.

Why is ridership booming? Clearly the strength of the economy is central, with the subway ridership closely correlated to employment.

The Straphangers Campaign would point to three other critical factors.

First, the MTA's Five-Year Capital Program, which has made it possible to spend \$75 billion since 1982 to buy new subway cars, rehab stations, replace aging track and signals and to modernize stations.

Second, fare discounts, especially unlimited-ride MetroCards, which create a key incentive to use the subways and buses regularly.

Lastly, there has been a huge drop in crime, going from 19,000 reported felonies in 1990 to 2600 in 2013.