



NYPIRG

## **Straphangers Campaign**

a project of the New York Public Interest Research Group Fund

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# **STATEMENT OF THE NYPIRG STRAPHANGERS CAMPAIGN ON THE MTA'S FARE INCREASE PROPOSAL**

**Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

The Straphangers Campaign does not support the MTA's proposal to increase subway, bus, and commuter fares on a biannual cycle. Public hearings on the proposal start in December, and the increase would likely take effect in March.

If the MTA continues down this path, New York City riders will find themselves increasingly crushed with by far the highest "fare box burden" in the nation - and growing. In plain English, New York City riders will be forced to pick up a great deal of the agency's \$15 billion annual operating costs.

We have been here before. Several years ago, we were among the community leaders fighting a proposed 8% increase. Research by the New York State Comptroller and the New York City Independent Budget Office (which we commissioned) clearly demonstrated that the MTA had inflated its costs to justify the increase.

Like many of our transit colleague organizations, we support discounting the fare for the lowest income riders.

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