



NYPIRG

Straphangers Campaign

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STATEMENT ON GOVERNOR'S PLAN TO CUT \$65 MILLION IN PROMISED FUNDS TO THE MTA

Tuesday, February 21, 2017

In 2011, Governor Cuomo made a promise to transit riders in New York City, that any funds lost from the 2011 MTA payroll tax reduction would be completely covered by the state, “dollar for dollar”.¹ Until this year, the Governor has kept his promise. Yet this year’s budget reflects a significant cut, \$65 million, a costly promise to break.

Subway service is seeing a steady decline despite record ridership, with more frequent breakdowns, overcrowding, and delays that have doubled in the past five years alone. Bus service has suffered a tremendous drop in ridership, over 16% since 2002, due to slow speeds and unreliable service.

While the MTA may be able to maintain its current level of service without these funds, it’s arguable that the current level of service provided to riders is insufficient. Just ask any A train rider during rush hour whether or not they would like to see an improvement in service to their daily commute. The answer, most likely, a resounding “yes”.

Fixing our transit system is key to New York’s economic health and quality of life, and ultimately, you get the transit you pay for. Particularly in light of the most recent fare hike, riders are already doing their part to fund transit. We expect that the State do the same.

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¹ Hamilton, Colby, “NY Governor Cuomo Signs MTA Tax Reduction Into Law,” WNYC, December 12, 2011, see: <http://www.wnyc.org/story/283886-ny-governor-cuomo-signs-mta-tax-reduction-into-law/>.