



**Senate Standing Committee on Transportation
Senate Standing Committee on Corporations, Authorities & Commissions
Assembly Standing Committee on Corporations, Authorities & Commissions**

NOTICE OF ONLINE PUBLIC HEARING

Subject: Impact of COVID-19 on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and public transportation

Purpose: To investigate the impact of COVID-19 on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), as well as seek input to avoid further spread of the virus in its facilities, and evaluate best practices for virus containment and emergency management that have emerged.

August 25, 2020
10:00 a.m.

Web link: <https://www.nysenate.gov/events>
<https://www.nyassembly.gov/av/live/>

Oral Testimony by Invitation Only

Before COVID-19, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) network served approximately 8.6 million riders per day. By late May, at least 123 MTA employees had died due to COVID-19 and thousands had been quarantined. Further, the MTA continues to argue it faces a dire financial calamity due to lost ridership, other diminished revenues, and increased costs incurred to fight the virus. The MTA has already received \$3.9 billion, nearly its full initial request, in federal CARES Act assistance. The Authority argues it needs at least an additional \$3.9 billion of federal assistance to continue operating through the end of 2020. Without that funding, the MTA announced it would have to take extraordinary actions that might include significant cost-cutting actions or raising fares and tolls.

This hearing will explore the effects of COVID-19 on the MTA's infrastructure, employees, and riders, and investigate potential policy changes to prepare the system for future pandemics and determine what steps are needed to ensure the MTA's continued operations. The hearing will also explore the MTA's existing policies and guidance on pandemic and emergency response and modifications in response to COVID-19 and their effectiveness, as well as distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE), safety protocols, employee training, and the effectiveness of public awareness during the State of Emergency. Finally, the hearing will examine how the MTA has used the financial and legislative assistance provided over the last several months by governments at the federal, state, and local levels.

Persons invited to present pertinent testimony to the Committees at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified of means by which to testify and/or in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be limited to 5 minutes' duration. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committee will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak and to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the attached reply form or communicated to Committee staff as early as possible.

Attendees and participants at any legislative public hearing should be aware that these proceedings are video recorded. Their likenesses may be included in any video coverage shown on television or the internet. In order to further publicize these hearings, please inform interested parties and organizations of the Committee's interest in hearing testimony from all sources.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Legislature, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to the Senate's facilities and activities.

Senator Timothy Kennedy
Chair, Committee on
Transportation

Senator Leroy Comrie
Chair, Committee on
Corporations

Assemblymember Amy Paulin
Chair, Committee on
Corporations

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Persons invited to present testimony at the public hearing on COVID-19's impact on the MTA are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible and send it to:

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- I have been invited to make a public statement at the hearing on COVID-19 impact on the MTA conducted by the New York State Senate Committees on Transportation, Corporations, Authorities and Commissions and Assembly Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions on Tuesday, August 25, 2020. My statement will be limited to 5 minutes, and I will answer any questions that may arise.

My remarks will focus on the following:

- I do not plan to attend the above hearing.
- I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. **Please specify the type of assistance required:**

All information below must be completed:

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Title: : _____

Address: : _____

E-Mail: : _____

Telephone: _____