

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

MAY, 2024

Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Reported: The Central Business District Tolling, the country's first congestion pricing program, will begin in the Congestion Relief Zone early on Sunday, June 30, at 12:00:01 a.m. Manhattan below 60 St is one of the most congested districts in the United States, with average traffic speeds of just 7mph. Excess traffic today means the average New Yorker wastes 117 hours a year sitting in gridlock, costing the regional economy \$20 billion a year. The toll will result in 100,000 fewer vehicles entering the Congestion Relief Zone every day, resulting in less traffic and cleaner air, while providing \$15 billion in funding for critical transit investments to improve the lives of the millions of people who rely on the MTA every day.

Eighty percent of the revenue generated will go to capital improvements on NYC Transit subways and buses, ten percent to Metro-North Railroad and ten percent to Long Island Rail Road. Projects to be supported by congestion pricing include ADA upgrades, purchase of zero-emission buses, new subway and commuter railroad cars, system wide state-of-good-repair work, and expansion projects like Second Avenue Subway Phase 2. For a sample of projects, [view this map](#).

The MTA today also opened the application portals for discount and exemption plans, with detailed information on who qualifies and how to apply. Together with the website, they are part of a comprehensive public education campaign that includes a multi-platform advertising campaign, in-person community events, civic and business outreach, virtual webinars, email campaigns and much more. This builds on months of engagement and hundreds of public meetings over the past several years, including:

- More than 25,000 comments and nearly 400 verbal testimonies at four public hearings received in just the most recent public comment period earlier this year;
- Dozens of meetings with different stakeholder groups, with a special focus on environmental justice communities;
- An extensive public comment period after the release of the draft Environmental Assessment in August 2022 that included six public hearings and resulted in more than 22,000 individual comments and more than 55,000 form submissions;

Those who wish to learn more about eligibility for discounts or exemptions, and/or apply can visit this [webpage](#). Discount and exemption plans include:

- **Low-Income Discount Plan:** Households earning less than \$50,000 a year who travel frequently into the zone may apply to enroll for a discount on the peak toll;
- **Individual Disability Exemption Plan:** As [previously announced](#), individuals who have disabilities that prevent them from using transit may apply to enroll a designated vehicle that would be exempt via E-ZPass;

- **Organizational Disability Exemption Plan:** As previously announced, organizations that operate vehicles that transport people with disabilities, such as Access-A-Ride, ambulette services, or schools and special education facilities may apply to enroll a vehicle that would be exempt via E-Z Pass;
- **Emergency Vehicles:** Organizations that operate qualifying authorized emergency vehicles may apply to enroll a vehicle that would be exempt via E-Z Pass;
- **Buses and Commuter Vans:** Organizations that operate school buses contracted with the NYC Department of Education, commuter vans licensed with the NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission, and buses providing scheduled commuter services open to the public may apply to enroll a vehicle that would be exempt via E-Z Pass;
- **Specialized Government Vehicles:** Organizations that operate publicly owned vehicles specifically designed to perform public works other than general transportation, and directly engaged in a core agency purpose, may apply to enroll a vehicle that would be exempt via E-Z Pass;

In addition, New York State will offer a tax credit for low-income drivers who live in the Congestion Relief Zone. More information about the tax credit will be issued by the NYS Department of Finance in Fall 2024.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) today announced customers aged 65 and over can now enroll in the Reduced-Fare program and receive their new Reduced-Fare MetroCards on the same day at Customer Service Centers (CSCs) across New York City. Customers with disabilities can also sign up for the Reduced-Fare program and receive in-person, individualized assistance from a station agent at CSCs and receive temporary Reduced-Fare cards while their applications are processed. Once fully enrolled, customers receive a Reduced-Fare MetroCard valid for two years and can reload their cards with either value or time. Station agents are available to assist customers who have lost their cards or are experiencing problems by resolving the issue or issuing temporary Reduced-Fare MetroCards at the CSCs. Reduced-Fare customers can head to the below CSCs in all five boroughs.

In addition to visiting their nearest CSCs, customers can receive assistance at Mobile Vans, the New York City Transit Customer Service Center located at 3 Stone St in Lower Manhattan or apply via mail or online. All current Reduced-Fare MetroCard customers will receive a Reduced-Fare OMNY card at a later date.

New York City Transit also announced that as part of ongoing customer service enhancements, Group Station Manager (GSM) office hours will begin in May. GSMs, staff and partners from throughout the MTA will be available to meet with customers and answer any questions. Each GSM will hold office hours twice a month at select stations in their zones between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Dates and times will be advertised via digital screens in stations and marketing materials.

DSNY Reported: As part of the Adams administration's efforts to get the streets cleaner, faster, trash collection will begin no later than 5am Citywide; residents are reminded to place waste out

for collection by midnight ahead of their collection day. Under Mayor Adams' leadership, New York's Strongest have reoriented towards substantially reducing the time trash occupies public space.

As part of the ongoing efforts to ensure that 24 million pounds of residential waste spend as little time in our public spaces as possible, the largest New York City Department of Sanitation shift was moved an hour earlier effective Monday, April 22nd. This shift will now run from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Today, residential waste may go out no earlier than 6pm in a bin or 8pm if placing bags on the curb. Substantial amounts are now collected at midnight, mere hours after the trash is set out, and the old 4pm trash shift has been completely eliminated.

Con Edison Reported: Gas Upgrade work within district is expected starting May 2nd through and including August 31st.

Locations and Work Schedules:

Roadway-Broadway (bet. W. 152nd St & W. 153rd)

Mon – Fri. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Sat – 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Reported: Upcoming Rat Academy Trainings are underway on the following day(s):

Virtually:

- Tuesday, May 21, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.;
- Tuesday, June 18, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.;

In-Person:

- NY; Thursday, May 23, 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m., Location: 1554 Minford Place, Bronx, NY

If interested in working with the Health Department to sponsor a virtual or in-person training, contact the Health Department at <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6886844/Speaker-Request-Form> and select Pest Control as a Health Topic.

Office of Emergency Management Reported: May is National Pet Month and for many, pets are more than just animals they are a part of the family and as members of your family, they should be included in your emergency planning process. Make sure your disaster plan addresses what you will do when an emergency requires you to leave your home, leave your pet a home, or

prevents you from returning home. A few simple steps to ensure your pet's safety can go a long way when disaster strikes. For more information visit:

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/em/ready/pets.page>.

Did you know????

- **Small Business Services (SBS) Reported: Applications for the Commercial Revitalization Grant Programs are OPEN for Avenue NYC Commercial Revitalization Grants.** Preliminary applications for all programs are due on **May 20, 2024, learn more and apply here:** <https://smallbusinessservices.smapply.io/>
- **Deadline to Register to Vote in the Primary Election** is Saturday, June 15th for more election information visit www.vote.nyc or call 866-Vote-NYC;
- **HEAP Cooling Assistance Benefit for Eligible New Yorkers** applications are now open, click the following link to apply: <https://www.silive.com/news/2024/05/ny-is-giving-out-free-air-conditioning-units-how-do-i-apply.html>

Respectively Submitted by,

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District Manager
05/16/24