



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Craig M. Johnson

Senator Johnson Announces Hearing/ Web Site To Involve Public in MTA Capital Plan

CRAIG M. JOHNSON October 13, 2009

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Senator Craig M. Johnson, the Senate Majority's representative to the MTA Capital Program Review Board, announces two ways that will give the public unprecedented opportunities to comment on the MTA's proposed 2010-2014 Capital Plan.

A public hearing on the MTA Capital Plan will be held from 1 p.m to 4 p.m. on Oct. 29 in the chambers of the Nassau County Legislature, 1550 Franklin Ave., Mineola.

Announcements on similar hearings in the Hudson Valley and New York City are forthcoming.

Additionally, Senator Johnson has launched a Web site; <http://www.nysenate.gov/committee/mta-capital-program-review-board-cprb>, where residents living in the MTA's service area can read the proposed Capital Plan and provide their feedback. A link to the site can also be found at www.craigjohnson.nysenate.gov.

"Traditionally, there has not been much of an opportunity for the public to have input on these plans," said Senator Johnson, who was appointed to the CPRB in July. "I am very concerned about the size of this current proposal and how its projected funding gap will be filled. Making sure that every voice is heard will help ensure that we end up with the best possible – and most responsible -- five-year game plan for the Long Island Rail Road, Metro-North and the rest of the MTA."

The MTA Board approved their proposed five-year \$28.1 billion Capital Plan last month. The plan included a \$10 billion funding gap.

In order to be enacted, the proposal must first unanimously pass the Capital Program Review Board, which is made up of appointees by the Senate and Assembly Majorities, the Governor and the Mayor of New York City. The board also includes non-voting representatives from the Senate and Assembly Minorities.

Senator Johnson must submit his approval, or veto, by December 30.

Copies of the plan, and its supporting documents are also available at Senator Johnson's District Office, which can be reached at 516.746.5923

Written feedback can also be sent to: MTA Capital Plan Feedback, C/O Senator Craig M. Johnson, 151 Herricks Road, Suite 202, Garden City Park, NY 11040.