



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Monica R. Martinez

## Senator Monica R. Martinez Sends Bi-Partisan Letter of Opposition to Recent Proposed MTA Fare Hikes to Acting MTA Chairman

MONICA R. MARTINEZ March 14, 2019

In response to the recent action taken by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board, such as the Commuter Rail Fare Increases, Senator Monica R. Martinez authored a letter of opposition to Acting Chairman Fernando Ferrer and obtained bipartisan support from colleagues in all levels of government.

Under this proposed plan, LIRR fares are expected to increase by approximately 4% over the next two years, which will result in an increased cost to commuters of approximately \$150-180 per year. Long Islanders are already burdened with an increasingly high cost of living, and these fare increases coupled with the congestion pricing proposals, will make it all the more difficult for working class residents.

This proposal stands in direct contrast to the recent decision by the MTA Board to raise Subway and Bus fares by a significantly lower magnitude in terms of real-cost dollars. Therefore, the proposed rate increases will disproportionately increase fares for LIRR commuters, the majority of which travel from Long Island, with the overall goal of increasing revenues for the MTA.

As a state, we understand the need to improve infrastructure but it should not be on the backs of our taxpayers. "I stand with the residents of Long Island in the fight for fair and

equitable treatment when it comes to fare increases and funding for infrastructure improvements. We ask the MTA Board to reconsider their decision and allow riders an opportunity to be heard.” Stated Senator Martinez.

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