



THE LEGISLATURE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

July 6, 2021

Patrick J. Foye
Chairman and CEO
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Re: MTA Transition to Cashless System and Impact on Minority Communities

Dear Chairman Foye:

We write to express our opposition to the proposed MTA transition to a cashless system. As discussed below, we oppose this due to the adverse impact this change in policy and practice would have on significant sectors of our communities: people living in poverty, those with limited English proficiency, people with disabilities, communities of color, and our essential transit workers.

As with every move to modernize and introduce new technology to the masses of consumers, thoughtful review of the negative impacts is required. Complicating these decisions are the stark realities of the huge existing economic, social, and access disparities facing mass transit users in the MTA's service area.

Many mass transit users are unbanked or underbanked, and others do not have access to cell phones. High rates of poverty in New York City and the surrounding areas must be properly taken into account as the MTA considers moving towards a cashless transportation system. With over 25% of New York City residents considered unbanked or underbanked, with that percentage significantly higher in many communities, the proposed cashless fare-paying system raises deep concerns. This proposal will be financially burdensome and detrimental to many of our constituents.

In addition, huge numbers of mass transit users are limited English proficient, demonstrating the necessity of maintaining station agents in booths to assist in customer service, safety and security. Pre-pandemic, over 63 million tourists visited New York City each year from all over the world. The likely loss of a significant number of jobs in the transit system if this plan is implemented is also unacceptable. Not only are our transit workers frontline heroes for their work during the pandemic, but the full complement of employees in the stations providing assistance, guidance, safety and security to all transit users is essential.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss these key issues with you and how they impact our communities, and to have these concerns addressed prior to the implementation of the transition away from cash and Metrocards. It

is vitally important to the well-being of our constituents and their families that these concerns are deliberated and examined before the MTA rolls out any cashless system.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you to ensure that the MTA wholly fulfills its mandate to provide accessible and affordable mass transit access to all our communities.

Sincerely,



Julia Salazar
New York State Senate, 18th District



Catalina Cruz, Esq.
Member of Assembly
39th A.D.



Timothy Kennedy
New York State Senate 63rd District



Jessica Ramos
New York State Senate 13th District




Jamaal T. Bailey
New York State Senate 36th District



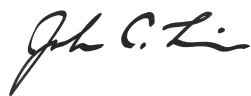
Jabari Brisport
New York State Senate 25th District



Jose Serrano
New York State Senate 29th District



James Sanders Jr.
New York State Senate 10th District



John C. Liu
New York State Senate, 11th District



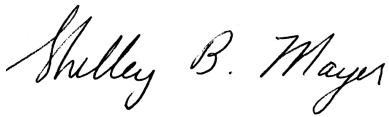
Toby Ann Stavisky
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Gustavo Rivera
New York State Senate 33rd District



Zellnor Myrie
New York State Senate 20th District



Shelly B. Mayer
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Jeremy Cooney
New York State Senate 56th District



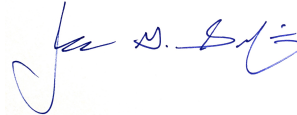
Robert Jackson
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Andrew Gounardes
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73rd A.D.



Kenneth Burgos
Member of Assembly
85th A.D.



Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn
Member of Assembly
42nd A.D.



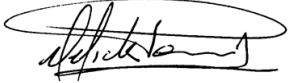
Catherine Nolan
Member of Assembly
37th A.D.



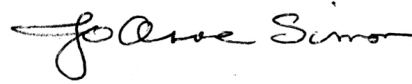
Marcela Mitaynes
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