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Alliance

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KeepNewYorkMoving.org

Invest in Transportation, Invest in New York

NEWS RELEASE

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Comptroller Thompson, Groups Urge Subway Riders to Speak Up Against Threatened Fare Hikes and Service Cuts

Also Urge More Transit Rebuilding Funds

New York City Comptroller William C. Thompson, Jr. and four civic groups handed out leaflets to morning rush-hour subway riders, urging them to speak up against threatened subway fare hikes and service cuts – and for more funds to rebuild the transit system.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority is facing both a huge capital shortfall – with no money in hand for its next \$25 billion-plus five-year rebuilding plan – and a projected \$1.2 billion operating deficit for 2009.

The front of the leaflet says, “I ride the subways and I vote” and features the circular logos of the subway lines. It continues on back: “\$2.50 fare? \$105 for a 30-day MetroCard? \$0 to fix and rebuild transit?” The flyer goes on to read: “In tough times, it’s time to invest in transit.”

The leaflets were handed out to riders at the 34th Street-Herald Square subway station (B, D, F, N, Q, R and V), which is the third busiest station in the system, with 118,000 daily riders in 2007. The leaflets urge riders to visit a website – www.KeepNewYorkMoving.org – which lets them sign a petition in support of transit.

New York City Comptroller William C. Thompson, Jr. said: “I’m here because if we are to save transit, all of us who ride the City’s subways and buses must speak up loudly to our State leaders.”

–more, more, more–

Thompson has proposed a weight-based vehicle registration fee to raise \$1 billion annually to meet metropolitan transportation needs.

A commission appointed by Governor David Paterson has recommended a mobility tax on the region's payrolls – along with tolls on East River and Harlem Bridges – to provide new funds to the MTA.

The groups distributing the flyers were the Campaign for New York's Future; the Empire State Transportation Alliance; the Straphangers Campaign, and the Regional Plan Association.

"Riders are looking to Governor Paterson and the legislature to come to our rescue," said Gene Russianoff, senior attorney for the Straphangers Campaign. "We urge them to agree on new revenue sources to make sure the costs and benefits of transit are shared fairly."

"There's no better way to get the economy moving, provide the jobs we will need in the coming years and lay a foundation for growth than to invest in transportation for our region and for New York," said Bob Yaro, President, Regional Plan Association and Co-chair of the Empire State Transportation Alliance.

"Friends don't let friends pay more for worse transit. KeepNewYorkMoving.org is one great way to speak out and support the transit funding New York needs to stay on track to a greener, healthier, more prosperous future, especially as we add a million more people in the years to come," said Michael O'Loughlin of the Campaign for New York's Future.