



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

MTA TO RAISE BASE FARES FEB. 1; MONTHLY PASSES REMAIN AVAILABLE AT \$49

The MTA will implement a new fare structure, effective Wednesday, February 1, which raises the base fare to \$1.35, keeps the 90 cent discount token, and sells a regular monthly pass for \$49. February passes, on sale since January 25, may be purchased at the old price of \$42 until February 1.

The increase, approved last Wednesday by the MTA Board of Directors, is a modification of the fare structure approved last July for implementation on September 1, 1994, and the first fare increase in over six years.

"We're satisfied that we were able to implement at least part of our fare increase," said MTA Chief Executive Officer Franklin White. "We were losing \$4 million each month we weren't allowed to raise the fares. Now, we've slowed the financial hemorrhage and will be in a little better shape as we move ahead to trial." A pre-trial conference to resolve a lawsuit over the fare increase is scheduled for April 17.

Other elements of the modified fare structure include raising the express charge on buses to 50 cents per zone, and express stamps go to \$15 per month. Zone charges on the Blue Line, part of the original fare proposal, will not be implemented, meaning that only the base fare of \$1.35 or one 90-cent token will be charged.

Passes for students from kindergarten through 12th grade increase to \$20 per month, while college and vocational student passes will be \$30 per month. Senior, disabled and sight impaired passes go to \$12 per month, while express charges increase to 25 cents.

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Transfers remain unchanged at 25 cents for full fare patrons and 10 cents for senior, disabled and sight impaired.

Although the monthly pass will cost \$49 beginning February 1, February passes have been on sale since January 25, and will continue to be sold at the old price of \$42 through the end of January.

"This is a good time to pick up your February pass or to stock up on tokens," said White. "Tokens will save our customers 45 cents each time they ride, and they're available at over 400 outlets."

Tokens are sold in packets of 10 at \$9 each. They are available at all MTA Customer Service Centers, supermarkets, check cashing outlets, and other retail businesses. To get the location of the nearest token outlet, call 1-(800) COMMUTE.

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