

How many of you took public transportation to get to this meeting?

- Almost everyone! And you probably depend on the MTA to get you to lots of other places too, right?

We all know that the fare keeps going up, but how about the service? How many of you feel like the service has gotten worse lately, or that fares are higher than they used to be?

- Well, you're right. 2010 saw drastic cuts to MTA service as well as the third consecutive year of fare increases.

Can folks shout out some of the cuts?

- That's right. All across the city, throughout the five boroughs, the MTA has had to eliminate subway lines and bus routes and to cut back on services.

And how have these cuts affected you guys?

- Increased waits
- Crowding
- Transfers
- Longer trips

What about the fare increases?

- Single-ride tickets increased in price from \$2.00 to \$2.50.
- The cost of a monthly MetroCard increased \$15, to \$104 a month.

And guess what? It's not over. In 2013, the MTA is set to raise fares another 7.5%. So who do you think is to blame for the MTA's budget crisis?

- Well, in the press they say it's Albany's fault or it's the unions' fault.
- But the real problem is the billionaire bankers that aren't paying their fair share and are fleecing the MTA with things like toxic financial deals called swaps.
- That's right, the same banks that we bailed out just a couple of years ago—banks like JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup, and Morgan Stanley—have trapped the MTA into toxic deals that cost taxpayers **over \$100 million a year.**

And here's the kicker: without the MTA, these banks' own employees wouldn't even be able to get to work! But instead of supporting our city services, the banks are bankrupting them!

Call Mayor Bloomberg at 212-772-1081 and tell him:

Affordable public transportation is what makes our city move. It's time to make the banks renegotiate the lucrative swaps so that bus and subway fares don't have to go up.