Riders, Motorists Should Pay More to Finance City's Transit System, Group Says

Posted on Oct 10, Posted by Cristian Salazar Category City

A nonpartisan civic organization envisions a future where transit riders, and motorists who use tunnels and bridges, pay more to help finance the city's public transportation system.

The Citizens Budget Commission recommends that the financing of mass transit be divided using a 25-50-25 formula among the major sources of revenue that include fares, tolls, tax subsidies and other fees.

If each category of funder â€“ driver, transit rider and general taxpayer â€“ contributes to the cost of the regionâ€™s mass transit system in accordance with these principles, it will get the MTA off the wrong track and chart a better route for the regionâ€™s economic future. By 2016 the 25-50-25 policy would provide nearly $2.6 billion in additional annual revenue without new taxes.

The 25-50-25 policy would mean that mass transit riders would pay higher â€“ but still reasonable â€“ fares. The cost of a single ride ticket would increase to at least $2.75 by 2016 but in constant dollars a subway ride would cost at most three cents more than it did in 1996. Motorists would face increased costs for the use of their vehicles, in the range of $167 to $293 more annually, but the charges would be consistent with those in other global metropolises and related to the benefits drivers derive from a well-functioning transportation system.

The complete report, "A Better Way to Pay for the MTA," can be downloaded here.

Image of trains courtesy canihazit , used under Creative Commons license.

Tags: Tagged in: Citizens Budget Commission metropolitan transportation authority mta

transportation