

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Janno Lieber, Chairman/CEO of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority
FROM: Gabrielle Griffith, Student at CCNY
DATE: February 5th, 2023
SUBJECT: Reduced LIRR Fare for Student Commuters

Many students who live relatively close to their college of choice make the decision to commute. This is for a multitude of reasons, the most prevalent being that the financial burden of dorming is lifted. Commuting allows the opportunity for students to have more control over their daily schedule, as well as learning how to balance school and possibly a part-time job close to home.

Even though the benefits of commuting are plentiful, there is a major disadvantage for those who commute from Long Island to NYC. Along with paying the MTA Subway fare, Long Island commuters are hit hard with ticket prices totalling \$12.50 one-way for peak hours (depending on the fare zone). Peak hours are between 6am-10am and 4pm-8pm, which are prime hours when college students are traveling to school. Therefore, a roundtrip ticket would be \$25 a day, along with a roundtrip ticket for the subway being \$5.50, raising the daily total to \$30.50. Even though there are monthly LIRR tickets for around \$243, the price is still too high. Students may now have no other option but to pick up a part-time job to cover the costs of getting to school instead of actually paying to attend their college.

The LIRR fares can be improved upon in a manner that is quite simple. Prices should be free or reduced for students who commute to public schools in NYC from Long Island. If children and seniors currently have reduced LIRR fares, why not students who may already face debt? In the MTA TrainTime App, there should be a section for students to fill out their college information, provide I.D., and have their attendance verified by their university. Once approved by the MTA Board overseeing this verification, students should be allowed to have free or reduced fares from their home station to the city. It would even be welcomed if this fare would only be allowed on the days that students have classes. Furthermore, if the fare cannot be free, an LIRR ticket should be reduced to the fare of the subway.

Student commuters from Long Island would be more than happy to possibly discuss this issue in person with you and/or the MTA Board to have our voices heard and our concerns understood. Attached below are two petitions on *Change.org* from students who face this struggle. Please contact me at ggriffi001@citymail.cuny.edu for any further questions or details. Thank you so much for your time, and your commitment to providing transportation for us New Yorkers does not go unnoticed.

Attachment(s): Petitions

<https://www.change.org/p/mitchell-h-pally-discounted-metro-north-and-lirr-tickets-for-college-students>

<https://www.change.org/p/andrew-m-cuomo-free-and-reduced-tickets-for-all-students-on-the-lirr-metro-north>