

Stimulus Cash for NY's Subways

Recall our argument that New York State and City get Washington to pony up a few scheckels for our mass transit system?

We welcome the stampede now that the “stimulus package” being readied for President(-elect) Barack Obama's signature will likely include some \$4 billion for our transit needs (Those projects better make sense - such as Track Signal Modernization which remains unbelievably important - and not grease some palms!).

Let's not stop there. Let's work on the feds for some annual upkeep to hold the fare down and help cover basic maintenance and capital improvements.

After we finish with Washington, we next need to get busy at empowering Albany and City Hall to do their share: that means funding annual contributions that they routinely cop out on each year.

Keep NYC Free identified reform measures in its [submission](#) to the Ravitch Commission which answers that call and merits broad support. After all that, we next need to look at [revenue streams](#) to help support regional transit.

See the stories in the December 29, 2008 Daily News, New York Post and New York Times.

From The [Daily News](#):

http://www.nydailynews.com/news/2008/12/29/2008-12-29_bam_plan_could_buck_up_the_mta-2.html

Bam plan could buck up the MTA

BY ERIN EINHORN

DAILY NEWS CITY HALL BUREAU

Sunday, December 28th 2008, 9:59 PM

[President-elect Barack Obama](#)'s economic stimulus plan may get [New York](#) an extra station for the extended No. 7 train line, upgraded subway stations and 1,500 new hybrid buses, [Sen. Chuck Schumer](#) said yesterday.

Though details of the massive package Obama wants to sign in his first days in office are still being worked out, Schumer said he expects about \$4 billion for mass transit in New York.

That's enough to create 180,000 jobs and leave the city with lasting improvements to its subway, bus and commuter rail systems.

"A \$4 billion shot in the arm is going to be a very, very good shot in the arm," Schumer said Sunday during a press conference at his midtown office with [Rep. Jerrold Nadler \(D-Manhattan\)](#), a member of the [House Transportation Committee](#).

Schumer said the cash would allow the MTA to build a subway station at 10th Ave. for the planned extension of the No. 7 train to the [Javits Center](#).

Top Obama adviser [David Axelrod](#) yesterday told [CBS](#)' "Face the Nation" that the stimulus plan designed to pull the country out of recession could cost as much as \$775 billion.

Schumer, the third-ranking Democrat in the Senate, said he, Nadler and other leaders are also pushing for \$20 billion in mass transit improvements.

"We are confident that we will get a very, very good number ... maybe a little more, maybe a little less," Schumer said.

New York typically gets about a fifth of federal transit dollars, making the city's share about \$4 billion.

It could kick-start projects that have been delayed or postponed by the MTA's dire finances.

"There's no better way to stimulate the economy than to invest in the public transportation system that is its lifeblood," said MTA spokesman [Jeremy Soffin](#).

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From The [New York Post](#):

http://www.nypost.com/seven/12292008/news/regionalnews/transit_to_be_timulated_146318.htm

TRANSIT TO BE \$TIMULATED

By SALLY GOLDENBERG, AP

December 29, 2008

The city's delayed mass-transit projects will get a cash boost from President-elect [Barack Obama](#)'s economic-stimulus package, two New York lawmakers announced yesterday.

Sen. Charles Schumer and Rep. Jerrold Nadler, who are working with Obama's transition team on details of the stimulus package through their leadership roles in Congress, said the state is expected to get \$4 billion - most of it slated for mass-transit capital projects in the metro area.

"This stimulus could be a lifesaver for New York's mass-transit system," said Nadler, a senior member of the House Transportation Committee.

Obama's package is likely to allocate \$20 billion to mass transportation nationwide, and New York historically has received one-fifth of national mass-transit funds, Schumer said.

From The New York Times:

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/29/nyregion/29aid.html?_r=1

Stimulus Could Help Shrink N.Y.'s Budget Gap

By NICHOLAS CONFESSORE

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In what would be a major boost to Gov. David A. Paterson's efforts to close the largest deficit in state history, New York could gain as much as \$5 billion in extra Medicaid financing as part of the stimulus package being drawn up by Congressional leaders and President-elect Barack Obama, Senator Charles E. Schumer said on Sunday.

In a separate news conference on Sunday, Mr. Schumer and Representative Jerrold Nadler, a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, said they were pushing for the stimulus package to also include at least \$20 billion in capital financing for mass transit projects across the country, with a large portion going to New York. Those negotiations, however, do not seem to be as far along.

Mr. Nadler, in a phone interview, said of the effort to get \$20 billion for mass transit projects: "I think we'll succeed. It looks good. Historically, New York gets one-fifth of mass transit money. That means \$4 billion would end up going to transit in New York."

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority faces a billion-dollar deficit for next year and has proposed sharp increases in tolls and bus and subway fares, as well as deep cuts in service.

Jackie Calmes, David M. Herszenhorn and Colin Moynihan contributed reporting.