Port Authority of NY & NJ Board of Commissioners Hearing

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PORT AUTHORITY OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY	INDEX OF SPEAKERS
	Begin at 8:15 a.m. / End at 10:00 a.m.
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PUBLIC HEARING	SPEAKER PAGE
RE: PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS TO THE PORT AUTHORITY'S	
TOLLS, FARES, AND FEES AND THE 2017-2026 CAPITAL PLAN	Nat Bottigheimer, RPA15
New York, New York	Ya-Ting Liu, Via19 David Beier, Comm. For Taxi Safety22
July 16, 2019	Lauren Paterno, AAA Northeast
	Hailing Chen, Independent Drivers Guild28
BEFOE:	
Michael Farbiarz, Hearing Officer	
JANE ROSE REPORTING	
Nicole Ellis, Court Reporter	
FINAL COPY	
JANE ROSE REPORTING 1-800-825-3341	
Page 2	Page
A P P E A R A N C E S:	1 THE HEARING OFFICER: Good
Board of Commissioners:	2 morning, and thank you for being here.
Jeff Lynford, Vice Chairman	 3 My name is Michael Farbiarz, I'm 4 the general counsel for the Port Authority and
Kevin McCabe	 4 the general counsel for the Port Authority and 5 I'm this morning's hearing officer.
	6 With me to my right is Vice
Also Present:	7 Chairman Jeff Lynford, and to his right
Members of the Press	8 Commissioner Kevin McCabe. They serve on the
Members of the Public	9 Board of Commissioners, the agency's governing
	10 body.11 There are two distinct purposes to
	12 today's public hearing. First is to get
	13 comments on the proposed adjustments to Port
	14 Authority's tolls, fares, and fees. And
	15 second to get comments on the proposed
JANE ROSE REPORTING	16 adjustments to the Port Authority's 2017 to
74 Fifth Avenue	17 2026 capital plan.
New York, New York	For the sake of convenience,thought the proposed adjustments and changes
1-800-825-3341	thought the proposed adjustments and changesare separate and distinct, they are described
	21 in a single video. That video is going to
	22 play in a moment. The video will also be
	playing on a continuous loop outside in room

	Page 5		Page 7
1	in written handouts by the door.	1	proposal, the proposed changes in tolls,
2	Comments today will be limited to	2	fares, and fees.
3	three minutes per person. The commissioners	3	The Port Authority is committed to
4	are here to listen but there won't be a back	4	making major investments in its facilities by
5			intensively addressing its important
6	to keep track of things so we know as the	5	infrastructure needs, and is charting a course
7	three minutes elapses, and I'll let you know	7	that is different from many across the country
8	when you're getting close toward the end of	8	by reversing underinvestment in legacy
9	your comment time.	9	facilities.
10	If you'd like to comment further,	10	Our airports, trains, bridges,
11	if you'd like to provide more elaboration than	11	tunnels, and terminals are vital to the
12	the three minutes allows, there are a number	12	regional and national economy and are
13	of ways for you to do that.	13	experiencing record or near-record volumes.
14	First you can go to our website,	14	The agency's airports have set
15	panynj.gov, and make written comments there.	15	passenger volume records each year for the
16	There are iPads in the back of the room where	16	last five years. AirTrain ridership is at an
17	you can make written comments should you want	17	all time high.
18	to elaborate further. And in addition, there	18	Five years of consistent growth
19	are people in the back of the room who can	19	has led to record PATH ridership.
20	take audio comments from you as well.	20	Port Authority ports are driving
21	All comments made today in any	21	record growth becoming the second busiest port
22	form will be transcribed and also summarized	22	in the nation for the first time in two
23	by Port Authority staff so that everything you	23	decades.
24	share can be considered by the full Port	24	And Port Authority bridges and
25	Authority Board of Commissioners.	25	tunnels are handling more than 120 million
	Page 6		Page 8
1	There's Spanish translators here	1	vehicles each year.
2	as well as an American Sign Language	2	It is against this backdrop that
3	translator should that be useful to you.	3	the Port Authority's board adopted its 2017 to
4	I will call people up to the	4	2026 Capital Plan in February of 2017, its
5	microphone in the order in which they have	5	largest ever, with spending in the period
6	signed in, and if you haven't signed in quite	6	totaling \$32.2 billion.
7	yet there's a sign-in sheet by the door.	7	Here you can see the spending by
8	We'll play the video now and after	8	department. This capital plan reflects the
9	that video is done we'll begin the taking of	9	Port Authority's return to its core mission of
10	comments.	10	keeping the region moving. And the agency is
11	PRERECORDED PRESENTATION:	11	beginning to deliver concrete, tangible
12	Hello. Thank you for attending	12	results as noted in the photos you saw as you
13	the Port Authority of New York and New	13	came in and in the available handouts.
14	Jersey's public hearing on two distinct	14	A few highlights include:
15	proposals.	15	The completion of two new bridges,
16	The first is the proposed changes	16	the Goethals and the Bayonne;
17	in tolls, fares, and other fees; and the	17	New gates and a new concourse have
18	second is the proposed changes to the 2017 to	18	been opened at LaGuardia Airport as part of
19	2026 Capital Plan. The Board of Commissioners	19	the complete rebuild of the airport;
20	of the Port Authority values your input.	20	Construction began nearly a year
21	The purpose of this presentation	21	ago on a new world-class Terminal 1 at Newark
22	is to provide an overview of the two distinct	22	Liberty International Airport, the Port
23	proposals and layout the purpose and need for	23	Authority's largest investment in New Jersey
24	each.	24	in its history;
25	I will start with the first	25	PATH completed two new head houses

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	Page 9		Page 11
1	at Harrison Station;	1	are detailed in schedules on the Port
2	And the Port completed the final	2	Authority's website. These include:
3	major element of ship-to-rail infrastructure.		For bridge and tunnel tolls, which
4	While we are making progress and		last changed in 2015, a \$1 increase in the
5	spending wisely, there's still much to do and	4 5	auto cash and tolls by mail rate effective
6	this level of investment in continued growth	6	January 5th, 2020;
7	requires funding.	7	For PATH fares, which last changed
8	The Port Authority is a	8	in 2014, maintaining the existing single ride
9	self-funded, independent agency, it does not	9	fare at \$2.75 while lowering the discount on
10	rely on taxpayer dollars or funding from the	10	multi-fare tickets effective November 1st,
11	states of New York and New Jersey.	11	2019;
12	The Port Authority works to	12	For AirTrain fares to and from JFK
13	minimize the need for toll and fare increases,	13	and Newark Liberty, which last changed in 2003
14	maximize non-toll and non-fare revenues, and	14	and 2005 respectively, increase the fare to
15	leverage private sector investment in its	15	\$7.75 effective November 1st, 2019;
16	facilities. In fact, nearly two-thirds of our	16	And consistent with peer airports
17	revenues come from non-toll and non-fare	17	around the country, adopt an airport ground
18	sources. Nonetheless, these sources are not	18	transportation access fee for for-hire
19	enough to fund the Port Authority's operations	19	vehicles and taxis. The proposed fee would be
20	and its continued investment requirement.	20	\$4 for each for-hire pickup and drop-off and
21	The Port Authority board has long	21	\$4 for each taxi pickup with no fee for a taxi
22	recognized the need to ensure that the	22	drop-off. The fee would be effective mid to
22 23	revenues that the agency generates keep pace	23	late 2020.
24	with inflation and are sufficient to make the	24	These proposals, which are
25	necessary investments in its facilities.	25	estimated to generate \$235 million of
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	Page 10		Page 12
1	Page 10		Page 12
1	In 2008, 2011, and 2017, the Port	1	incremental annual net revenues, are critical
2	In 2008, 2011, and 2017, the Port Authority board took specific actions to that	1 2	incremental annual net revenues, are critical to continue to deliver on the capital plan and
2 3	In 2008, 2011, and 2017, the Port Authority board took specific actions to that effect. One such action was the adoption of	1 2 3	incremental annual net revenues, are critical to continue to deliver on the capital plan and create world-class facilities capable of
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2 3 4 5	In 2008, 2011, and 2017, the Port Authority board took specific actions to that effect. One such action was the adoption of an inflation adjustment mechanism related to bridge and tunnel tolls that is triggered when	1 2 3 4 5	incremental annual net revenues, are critical to continue to deliver on the capital plan and create world-class facilities capable of meeting 21st century expectations. Once again, summaries of the
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 23 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 23 14 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 23 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 23 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 23 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 23 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 23 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 23 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 23 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 23 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 23 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 23 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 23 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 23 14 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 12 23 14 5 16 7 8 9 0 11 2 2 10 11 2 2 2 10 11 2 2 2 2 2 2	In 2008, 2011, and 2017, the Port Authority board took specific actions to that effect. One such action was the adoption of an inflation adjustment mechanism related to bridge and tunnel tolls that is triggered when the cumulative impact of the inflation reaches \$1, which is expected to occur in 2020. Another was the recognition in 2017, when adopting the capital plan, that the board's decision rested on the assumption that the Board of Commissioners will take certain actions in the future to create or raise certain fees and charges at Port Authority facilities to maintain a balanced capital plan. Given these prior board actions, staff has reviewed the Port Authority's bridge and tunnel tolls, PATH fares, AirTrain fares, and other fees and has proposed increases. Each of these proposals are rationally tied to inflation, are similar to actions by peer agencies in the region and nation, and are consistent with the board's prior actions.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 12 13 14 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 12 13 14 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 12 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 12 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 12 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 12 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 12 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 12 3 14 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 12 12 14 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 12 12 14 5 16 7 8 9 0 11 12 12 14 5 16 17 10 11 12 12 14 11 12 11 12 11 12 11 12 11 12 11 11 12 11 11	incremental annual net revenues, are critical to continue to deliver on the capital plan and create world-class facilities capable of meeting 21st century expectations. Once again, summaries of the proposed actions are in the handout provided at the hearing and are detailed in schedules on the Port Authority's website. Now let me move to the second topic that is the subject of these hearings. As I noted earlier, these are two distinct proposals. This matter is the proposed changes to the 2017 to 2026 Capital Plan. The capital plan that I described to you earlier was meant to be a blueprint for spending in the period. At the time the plan was adopted, the board recognized that facts and circumstances, risks, and priorities may change over a ten-year planning horizon; therefore, the board required a biennial reassessment of the capital plan that would: One, review progress and account for changed circumstances;
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 2 3 4 5 11 2 1 12 11 2 11 2 11 2 11 2 11 12 11 2 11 12 11 2 11 12 112 11 11	In 2008, 2011, and 2017, the Port Authority board took specific actions to that effect. One such action was the adoption of an inflation adjustment mechanism related to bridge and tunnel tolls that is triggered when the cumulative impact of the inflation reaches \$1, which is expected to occur in 2020. Another was the recognition in 2017, when adopting the capital plan, that the board's decision rested on the assumption that the Board of Commissioners will take certain actions in the future to create or raise certain fees and charges at Port Authority facilities to maintain a balanced capital plan. Given these prior board actions, staff has reviewed the Port Authority's bridge and tunnel tolls, PATH fares, AirTrain fares, and other fees and has proposed increases. Each of these proposals are rationally tied to inflation, are similar to actions by peer agencies in the region and nation, and are	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 23 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 23 4 15 16 7 8 9 20 21 22	incremental annual net revenues, are critical to continue to deliver on the capital plan and create world-class facilities capable of meeting 21st century expectations. Once again, summaries of the proposed actions are in the handout provided at the hearing and are detailed in schedules on the Port Authority's website. Now let me move to the second topic that is the subject of these hearings. As I noted earlier, these are two distinct proposals. This matter is the proposed changes to the 2017 to 2026 Capital Plan. The capital plan that I described to you earlier was meant to be a blueprint for spending in the period. At the time the plan was adopted, the board recognized that facts and circumstances, risks, and priorities may change over a ten-year planning horizon; therefore, the board required a biennial reassessment of the capital plan that would: One, review progress and account

	Page 13		Page 15
1	was appropriate;	1	More information on the proposed
2	Three, confirm capital capacity	2	changes to the 2017 to 2026 Capital Plan can
3	remains sufficient to deliver the plan;	3	be found on the Port Authority's website.
4	And four, account for actions	4	Thank you for attending this
5	already taken by the board that differed from	5	public hearing. The Port Authority board
6	assumptions made when the plan was adopted.	6	values your input.
7	Staff is recommending an increase	7	In addition to comments submitted
8	in the 2017 to 2026 Capital Plan of	8	here, the Port Authority will be accepting
9	\$4.8 billion, 94 percent, or \$4.5 billion, of	9	public comments on its website an via the mail
10	which is being funded from incremental	10	through September 13th, 2019.
11	project-specific revenues.	11	THE HEARING OFFICER: With the
12	As you can see from the pie chart	12	conclusion of the video, we'll now be having
13	on this slide, the largest new revenue sources	13	public comments.
14	are third-party incremental terminal rentals,	14	And our first commenter is Nat
15	incremental airline cost recoveries, and	15	Bottigheimer. And please address the
16	passenger facility charges, or PFCs, which are	16	commissioners from the podium, thank you.
17	collected from airline passengers.	17	MR. BOTTIGHEIMER: Good morning.
18	This chart shows a breakdown of	18	I'm Nat Bottigheimer, New Jersey director at
19	the significant proposed project changes with	19	the Regional Plan Association.
20	new projects highlighted in bold. The largest	20	Investing in our regional
21	of those new projects is a replacement of the	21	transportation system is essential for those
21 22 23	AirTrain at Newark Liberty International	22	who live and work in the New York region, and
23	Airport at a total project cost of	23	to support continued economic growth.
24	\$2.05 billion.	24	Regional Plan Association supports
25	This represents an entirely new	25	the Port Authority's recently announces
	Page 14		Page 16
1	project that replaces the planned spending to	1	amendments to its capital plan to build
2	maintain the old AirTrain in a state of good	2	transit links to our airports which will
	maintain the old AirTrain in a state of good repair. The increase in the capital plan	2 3	transit links to our airports which will benefit both drivers and transit riders.
2 3 4	maintain the old AirTrain in a state of good repair. The increase in the capital plan allocations to the new AirTrain will be	2 3 4	transit links to our airports which will benefit both drivers and transit riders. While nobody ever wants to pay
2 3 4 5	maintain the old AirTrain in a state of good repair. The increase in the capital plan allocations to the new AirTrain will be covered by additional project-specific	2 3 4 5	transit links to our airports which will benefit both drivers and transit riders. While nobody ever wants to pay more, toll increases on our congested tunnels
2 3 4 5 6	maintain the old AirTrain in a state of good repair. The increase in the capital plan allocations to the new AirTrain will be covered by additional project-specific revenues.	2 3 4 5 6	transit links to our airports which will benefit both drivers and transit riders. While nobody ever wants to pay more, toll increases on our congested tunnels and bridges are necessary to generate
2 3 4 5 6 7	maintain the old AirTrain in a state of good repair. The increase in the capital plan allocations to the new AirTrain will be covered by additional project-specific revenues. The next large new project is the	2 3 4 5 6 7	transit links to our airports which will benefit both drivers and transit riders. While nobody ever wants to pay more, toll increases on our congested tunnels and bridges are necessary to generate investment on our infrastructure systems and
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	maintain the old AirTrain in a state of good repair. The increase in the capital plan allocations to the new AirTrain will be covered by additional project-specific revenues. The next large new project is the PATH improvement plan. This project adds a	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	transit links to our airports which will benefit both drivers and transit riders. While nobody ever wants to pay more, toll increases on our congested tunnels and bridges are necessary to generate investment on our infrastructure systems and maintain regional competitiveness.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	maintain the old AirTrain in a state of good repair. The increase in the capital plan allocations to the new AirTrain will be covered by additional project-specific revenues. The next large new project is the PATH improvement plan. This project adds a capital commitment of \$200 million to increase	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	transit links to our airports which will benefit both drivers and transit riders. While nobody ever wants to pay more, toll increases on our congested tunnels and bridges are necessary to generate investment on our infrastructure systems and maintain regional competitiveness. It's more important than ever to
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	maintain the old AirTrain in a state of good repair. The increase in the capital plan allocations to the new AirTrain will be covered by additional project-specific revenues. The next large new project is the PATH improvement plan. This project adds a capital commitment of \$200 million to increase capacity, reduce delays, and improve customer	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	transit links to our airports which will benefit both drivers and transit riders. While nobody ever wants to pay more, toll increases on our congested tunnels and bridges are necessary to generate investment on our infrastructure systems and maintain regional competitiveness. It's more important than ever to reduce carbon emissions and fund critical
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	maintain the old AirTrain in a state of good repair. The increase in the capital plan allocations to the new AirTrain will be covered by additional project-specific revenues. The next large new project is the PATH improvement plan. This project adds a capital commitment of \$200 million to increase capacity, reduce delays, and improve customer experience including key station modifications	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	transit links to our airports which will benefit both drivers and transit riders. While nobody ever wants to pay more, toll increases on our congested tunnels and bridges are necessary to generate investment on our infrastructure systems and maintain regional competitiveness. It's more important than ever to reduce carbon emissions and fund critical trans-Hudson projects including Gateway, PATH,
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1 Newark Airport, Construction of new Air Trains at access in the rain station but from south Newark as well. 2 Newark Airport and LaGuardia Airport, And improvements to JFK Newark as well. 4 And improvements to JFK Hereal RAINS OFFICER: Thank you. 6 RPA has the following THE HEARINS OFFICER: Thank you. 7 recommendations as you continue this dialogue. Ms. LU: Good morning, commissioners. My name Ya-Ting Liu and I'm 10 refere any for these investments. Constraint with AirTrain Constraint with AirTrain 11 point des name york City, where the company is also headquartered. The HEARINS OFFICER: Thank you. 12 proposal to join other major arports around The THEARINS OFFICER: Thank you. 13 proposal to join other major arports around The THEARINS OFFICER: Thank you. 14 the country in doing this. The the count proposal, drop-off fees or the uptore proposal, drop-off fees or the uptore proposal, drop-off fees or the uptore proposal, drop-off fees or the subard provide or airport accessible to members of the public, only those accessing the airport trail station is not accessible to members of the public, only those accessible to members of the airport aistaton ace from providing		Page 17		Page 19
2 Construction of new AirTrains at And improvements to JFK 2 Newark as well. 4 And improvements to JFK 3 We have additional comments but well submit those electronically. 5 redevelopment and Newark Terminal 1. 5 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. 6 Apply drop-off fees more broadly 6 Ya - Ting Liu. 7 recommendations as you continue this dialogue: Apply drop-off fees more broadly 7 MS. LIU: Good morning, to Ya. Ting Liu. 9 and consider fees consistent with AirTrain pickup charges to pay for these investments. 10 for Via, the leading provider of efficient pool rides account for roughly 12 We applaud the Port Authority for their 12 is also headquartered. 13 proposal to join other major airports around proposal to join other major airport are equalized. 16 rouge consideration of thigher vehicle drop-off ace so transit and the autorips to the airport are equalized. 17 City sown Taxi & Limousine Commission shows Vark City and the AirTrain replacement in 2 2 We asher rides accoust in the industry. Data from New York Vark City streets. 1 Newark Airport benefits Newark residents. 2 Thank you for the opportunity to comment today on the Port Authority proposal for airport access fies.	1	Newark Airport:	1	access in the rain station but from south
Newark Airport and LaGuardia Airport; 3 We have additional comments but And improvements to JFK 4 we'll submit those electronically. Fedevelopment and Newark Terminal 1. 6 We have additional comments but RPA has the following 6 Ya-Ting Liu. THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. 9 and consider fees consistent with AirTrain 6 Commissioners. My name Ya-Ting Liu and I'm 10 procosalto join other major airports around 10 theretor of Covernment Affairs and Policy 12 we aplaud the Port Authority for their 12 Pool rides a new York City. where the company 13 Proposal to join other major airports around 16 standards in the industry. Data from New York City 14 the country in doing this. 14 95 percent of our bookings in New York City 15 We also support drop-off fees an 16 standards in the industry. Data from New York 16 higher vehicle drop-off fees an equalized. 17 City's own Taxi & Limousine Commission shows 16 standards in the industry. Data from New York 17 a do the company to works. 17 We also support drop-off fe		•	2	
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24 stakeholders so that rebuilding of the 24 pickups and drop-offs will act as a higher tax	23			
	24			
25 AirTrain allows not just reliable tunnel 25 on pool trips. For example, if three				

	Page 21		Page 23
1	strangers who separately book and agree to	1	transportation access fee for taxis.
2	share a ride, the Port Authority would collect	2	As I'm sure you are aware, the
3	triple the amount of someone who reserved a	3	taxi industry is under an unprecedented amount
4	vehicle to himself or herself.	4	of financial distress caused by disjointed
5	By failing to differentiate	5	policy decisions without an understanding of
6	between pool rides and single passenger rides,	6	how each policy decision would impact the
7	the Port Authority's proposed new fee would be	7	industry.
8	inconsistent with the advice of leading	8	The result was a flood of for-hire
9	environmental transportation groups as well as	9	vehicles on the streets leading to a
10	policies New York State's very own congestion	10	congestion nightmare and the decrease of
11	charge, which recently took effect on all	11	medallion values costing more than 1,000
12	for-hire vehicle and taxi rides south of 96th	12	bankruptcies filed by medallion owners,
13	Street.	13	financial ruin to thousands more medallion
14	Many of these organizations sent a	14	owners, and horribly driver suicides.
15	letter to Governor Cuomo last year advocating,	15	This additional access fee for an
16	quote, "that tax structures should encourage	16	already struggling sector adds costs not based
17	the use of multi-passenger options and	17	on the current financial reality of this
18	discourage the use of vehicles being driven	18	industry and financial devastation of both
19	alone or transporting only one passenger, and	19	owners and drivers.
20	that taxes should clearly incentivize	20	More specifically as with the
21	multi-passenger and pooling options," end	21	implementation of the Manhattan congestion
22	quote.	22	surcharge, no consideration has been given to
23	Transportation is the number one	23	the increase in credit card processing fees
24	source of greenhouse gas emissions in New York	24	resulting from adding this \$4 to the fares.
25	and New Jersey and pool trips help reduce	25	As an example the credit card processing fees
	Page 22		Page 24
1	traffic and greenhouse gas emissions when	1	generated by the congestion surcharge comes to
2	compared to single passenger trips.	2	approximately \$0.08 per trip or \$120 per
3	Via strongly supports efforts to	3	month, per vehicle. The credit card
4	reduce congestion and invest in our region's	4	processing fee was not passed on to the
5	transportation infrastructure, but pool rides	5	passengers due to the failure of the New York
6	should not be taxed if we allow private	6	City Taxi & Limousine Commission to pass any
7	vehicles to pickup and drop-off one passenger	7	regulation implementing this pass.
8	for free. At a minimum, the airport access	8	These credit card processing fees
9	fee should be substantially less for pool	9	are now being paid for by medallion owners and
10	rides and we urge the Port Authority Board of	10	agents. For an agent managing 200 cars, the
11	Commissioners to set clear policies that	11	credit card processing fee is approximately
12	encourage reliable, affordable, sustainable	12	\$280,000 per year. Here, the credit card
13	modes of transportation. Thank you.	13	processing fee for the access fee costs about
14	THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.	14	\$0.12 per ride, \$0.04 more than the congestion
15	David Beier.	15	surcharge.
16	MR. BEIER: Good morning. My name	16	Moreover, the proposal is not
17	is David Beier and I'm the president of the	17	clear on who pays this access fee. In
18	Committee For Taxi Safety.	18	contrast to Uber and Lyft, taxis are not
19 20	The committee is comprised of	19	allowed to increase fares to pay for increased
20	licensed New York City taxi agents managing	20	costs and taxis need TLC authorization for any
21	approximately 20 percent of the yellow	21	increase to the fares.
22	medallion vehicles in New York City.	22 23	This proposal also does not take into account that its fares for trips
23		1/3	
04	I appreciate the opportunity to		
24 25	testify today. I urge the Port Authority to reconsider the proposed airport ground	24 25	increases, ridership is effected. When the MTA and financial resources embraced the

	Page 25		Page 27
1	congestion plan and imposed the single largest	1	Cash customers will have to pay an
2	increase in taxi fares in the industry's	2	unprecedented \$16 per trip. Off-peak E-ZPass
3	history, the resulting loss of passengers was	3	customers will be paying an additional
4	about 20 percent.	4	12 percent. In less than ten years, E-ZPass
5	As important, the City and this	5	rates will have by 57 percent. If you factor
6	authority seem to have forgotten that the taxi	6	in for inflation, from 2011 to 2020, the
7	industry has already paid for the right to	7	off-peak rate would now be approximately 8.75
8	pickup at the airports. We were charged	8	instead of the 11.75 being proposed.
9	hundreds of thousands of dollars for license	9	AAA strongly opposes tying the
10	fees to have that very right. In contrast,	10	current proposed tolls to the rate of
11	the e-hail car services have not paid a single	11	inflation. This practice, we believe,
12	dollar for that right.	12	undermines the public review process and the
13	With e-hail services having	13	Port Authority's own financial review process
14	approximately 100,000 vehicles on the streets	14	to determine appropriate and fare toll rates.
15	and taxis only approximately 13,000 vehicles,	15	We have greatly appreciated the
16	the taxis having already paid for the right to	16	Port Authority's longstanding practice of
17	pickup at the airports and the e-hail services	17	providing all E-ZPass users the same E-ZPass
18	having paid nothing, we urge the Authority to	18	rate. This ensures fairness and parity for
19	exempt taxis from this fee.	19	all drivers while maintaining the operability
20	The taxi industry and its drivers	20	that E-ZPass promised.
21	can no longer sustain financial strain and	21	We were very disappointed to see
22	added costs of doing business in the city. We	22	the Port Authority propose a mandatory cash
22 23	need to make sure this industry and workforce,	23	rate for those traveling without a New York
24	which has been a staple and integral part of	24	and New Jersey E-ZPass. For example, under
25	the City of New York, can survive.	25	the current proposal a commuter from
	Page 26		Page 28
1	Thank you, again, for the	1	Pennsylvania will now have to pay up to
2	opportunity to testify.	2	52 percent more each trip over the George
3	THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.	3	Washington Bridge.
4	Lauren Paterno.	4	We believe this is an extremely
5	MS. PATERNO: Good morning. My	5	unfair practice and unjustly targets
6	name is Lauren Paterno, government affairs	6	out-of-state drivers. We believe all drivers
7	representative for AAA Northeast, which serves	7	utilizing E-ZPass should be provided the same
8	5.7 million members across the northeast.	8	toll rate.
9	AAA Northeast strongly opposes the	9	Thank you.
10	Port Authority's proposed toll hikes. Even	10	THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.
11	prior to implementing the proposed toll	11	If there are other people who
12	increases, tunnels, bridges and terminals are	12	would like to comment, please sign up and then
13	operating with a sizable profit.	13	come forward to the podium.
14	According to the projected 2019	14	If there are not other commenters
15	Port Authority budget, the tunnels, bridges	15	at the moment, the commissioners will remain
16	and terminals are operating with \$328 million	16	here and ready to take other comments as
17	in free cash flow.	17	people may come in.
18	The proposed toll hike, again,	18	(Pause in the proceedings.)
19	requests drivers to pay more while tunnels and	19	THE HEARING OFFICER: Hailing
20	bridges function with plenty of cash on hand.	20	Chen.
21	Under the current proposal, the E-ZPass peak	21	MR. CHEN: I am an Uber driver.
22	rate will increase by ten percent in 2020.	22	I'm also a member of Independent Drivers
23	New York/New Jersey peak drivers will be	23	Guild, who emphasize on the rights of the
24	forced to budget approximately \$3,600 annually	24	drivers.
25	to commute daily into rush hour commuting.	25	And with regard with this

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1	proposal, we feel it's really, deeply unfair.	1	at 10:00. Thanks.
2	Since we have all hear about the driver	2	(Pause in the proceedings.)
3	exploitation by big company like Uber, we're	3	THE HEARING OFFICER: It is now
4	already paying a lot of the commission that's	4	10:00, the morning's public hearing period is
5	expensive already, including the vehicle	5	now closed.
6	expense, including the rental expense,	6	There will be five additional
7	including all other expenses.	7	public hearing sessions at which members of
8	The proposal that today Port	8	the public will have an opportunity to
9	Authority is giving \$4 additional charge,	9	comment.
10	additional surcharge, is definitely unfair for	10	The next one is tomorrow morning
11	the drivers. A lot of the drivers that I have	11	at 8:00 in Jersey City at 2 Montgomery Street.
12	met, I have heard their concerns over and over	12	Separate and apart from the live public
13	again, hundred times, a thousand times.	13	hearing opportunity, there's also a chance to
14	I think it's definitely something	14	provide written comments to the Port
15	that you should consider, like, you know,	15	Authority's website until September 13th.
16	change because it's all up to the drivers, it	16	Thank you.
17	will be very devastating and we will see a	17	(Time noted: 10:00 a.m.)
18	wave of suicide, possible suicide, after this	18	
19	surcharge.	19	
20	We think it's definitely unfair.	20	
21	If you have any questions for me,	21	
22	like, I would like to hear about, like,	22	
23	something from you?	23	
24 25	THE HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Chen, as	24 25	
25	we explained at the beginning, this is not a		Dage 22
	Page 30		Page 32
1	back and forth process, just an opportunity	1	CERTIFICATE
2	for the commissioners to hear from commenters,	2	
3	such as yourself.	4	STATE OF NEW YORK) : ss.:
4 5	MR. CHEN: Well I do want you to know that drivers life, it's really, like, in	5	COUNTY OF QUEENS)
6	a devastating state. And I want you to	6	COUNTION QUEENS)
7	recognize that it's very difficult situation	7	I, NICOLE ELLIS, a Notary Public for and
8	for the drivers. And being able to make a	8	within the State of New York, do hereby certify:
9	real policy that is good for the rider for the	9	I reported the proceedings in the
10	drivers and also for the Port Authority.	10	within-entitled matter, and that the within
11	Okay.	11	transcript is a true record of such proceedings.
12	Thank you very much.	12	I further certify that I am not related to
13	THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.	13	any of the parties to this action by blood or by
14	(Pause in the proceedings.)	14	marriage and that I am in no way interested in the
15	THE HEARING OFFICER: Just a	15	outcome of this matter.
16	reminder that should anybody wish to provide	16	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
17		47	hand this 19th day of July 2019.
	additional public comments, they should sign	17	
18		18	
19	additional public comments, they should sign in at the back and then approach the podium, thanks.	18 19	and the test any eres of
19 20	additional public comments, they should sign in at the back and then approach the podium, thanks. (Pause in the proceedings.)	18 19 20	
19 20	additional public comments, they should sign in at the back and then approach the podium, thanks. (Pause in the proceedings.) THE HEARING OFFICER: Again, a	18 19 20 21	
19 20	additional public comments, they should sign in at the back and then approach the podium, thanks. (Pause in the proceedings.) THE HEARING OFFICER: Again, a remainder to any members of the public who	18 19 20 21 22	
19 20 21 22 23	additional public comments, they should sign in at the back and then approach the podium, thanks. (Pause in the proceedings.) THE HEARING OFFICER: Again, a remainder to any members of the public who would like to speak, there's a sign-up sheet	18 19 20 21 22 23	June Rose Reporting NICOLE ELLIS
19 20	additional public comments, they should sign in at the back and then approach the podium, thanks. (Pause in the proceedings.) THE HEARING OFFICER: Again, a remainder to any members of the public who	18 19 20 21 22	

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