

Statement of TWU Local 100 President Richard Davis on the MTA's proposed service cuts

DECEMBER 19, 2022 –

"I don't care what the MTA calls this. This is a service cut for everyone who rides the subway on Mondays and Fridays. There will be fewer trains making fewer trips. Riders will wait longer on platforms. It will take longer for them to reach their destinations. No amount of spin will change that.

"And do you know who is getting screwed the most here – the working class, front-line and essential workers. The people who are still coming into work on Mondays and Fridays – just like they did during the pandemic – because they don't have a choice. They don't put food on the table or pay their rent by sitting behind a desk and working on a laptop.

"Nurses, grocery store workers, warehouse workers, social workers, cooks. The men and women who mop the hospital floors, take care of the elderly, fill prescriptions, prepare meals, stock shelves. Many of these workers, probably a majority, are immigrants and people of color. That's who will be hurt the most by these service cuts.

"We know that ridership is down in part because suburban commuters with offices in midtown and lower Manhattan are choosing to stay at home some days of the week. Under this plan, the people who clean those offices will get shafted with service cuts.

"We believe these service cuts are just the start. If the MTA gets away with it, then more dramatic and painful service cuts will follow. We also believe rider frustration will increase and could lead to more assaults on transit workers."

"If this plan goes through, the MTA and Chairman Lieber will be doing the exact opposite of what Gov. Hochul and Mayor Adams say is needed to revitalize business districts. A blueprint they released just last week says the MTA should maintain peak-hour service and increase it during off-peak hours. We should be making it easier for people to commute, not harder.

"This is a terrible idea and should be rejected outright. We're going to fight this every step of the way."