



FIFTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

October 9, 2012

CONTACT: [Seth Squicciarino](#)

[Thomas Ryan](#)

631-854-1650

BUS RIDERS MAY GET NEW TICKET TO RIDE

Legislator Hahn wins approval for study of alternative bus fare collection

RIVERHEAD, NY – Bus riders in Suffolk may soon have new ways to pay for their fares. The Suffolk County Legislature today unanimously adopted a [bill](#) sponsored by Legislator Kara Hahn that directs the Department of Public Works (DPW) to begin considering alternative methods for purchasing tickets on its transit bus lines. The measure now goes to County Executive Bellone for his signature.

Today, a rider must have exact change as they get on the bus and tickets cannot be bought online. In addition, no monthly pass is currently available. The resolution calls on Suffolk's DPW, which owns and manages 50 bus routes throughout the County, to study the feasibility of establishing a system by which riders can purchase tickets online, through e-tickets or on a stored-value card. During the course of its study, DPW is requested to collaborate with the Suffolk County Department of Information Technology on various available options and platforms to be considered. Within six months of the bill's adoption, DPW is requested to report on its finding and offer recommendations to the Legislature for possible future action.

“Improvements in technology seem to be making it easier for the consumer to gather information, compare items and even make purchases. Businesses everywhere are embracing

[MORE]

different payment options that fit their clients' lifestyles," said Legislator Hahn. "Throughout the nation, various transit operators have been experimenting with different technologies aimed at giving riders options beyond exact fare. This bill and any actions that may come from it are meant to steer Suffolk County Transit toward making ridership easier for its users."

According to a review of the proposal by the Office of Budget Review, there is no cost associated with this study. However, proponents suggest that giving riders more options will ultimately increase ridership, decrease congestion and reduce pollution.

"We applaud Legislator Kara Hahn and the Suffolk County Legislature for adopting legislation to explore new and improved fare collection for Suffolk County Transit riders," said Ryan Lynch, associate director of the Tri-State Transportation Campaign, a non-profit transportation policy watchdog organization working in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. "Stored value cards, such as the MTA's Unlimited MetroCard, boosted ridership, sped up commutes, and provided seamless transfers—all leading to more satisfied riders. E-ticket programs, recently piloted on the LIRR, have also been successful. Improved fare collection provides many benefits for the transit user and the transit agency and we are pleased to see Suffolk County Transit advance these measures."

-30-

*306 Main Street
Port Jefferson, New York 11777*

kara.hahn@suffolkcountyny.gov

*Telephone: (631) 854-1650
Fax: (631) 854-1653*