

Hysa Industries

To: The Metropolitan Transportation Authority

From: Mateo Hysa

Subject: People evading fare on mass transportation

Date: October 20, 2020

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to demonstrate the idea that many people evade the transportation fee that is set by the MTA by simply hopping a turnstile, which costs the state of New York tons of money. The MTA continually increases the amount of money that a traveler must pay in order to use public transportation, which ultimately leads to more people evading the fare. This memo will also demonstrate ways in which the state of New York can ultimately prevent the evasion of fare without spending insanelly large amounts of money(relative to the situation).

Summary

Generally speaking, it is quite normal that the transportation system is being manipulated and exploited. The train stations in the state of New York barely offer any protection regarding the ability to stop a person from entering a station even though he/she has not paid the fare. There have been some innovations that handled the situation more efficiently, but it is very difficult to produce a scenario that fully prevents people from evading fare while maintaining a safe environment(in the case of an emergency). Additionally, the MTA is raising the cost of fare quite often, which obviously frustrates the average user and could lead to him/her risking a fine to avoid fare.

Discussion

Many People Evade Fare

Fare is evaded by many, as the price to enter a subway station or bus is increasing by a considerable amount every year. According to a scientific study, “a 10% increase in the fare raises evasion by 2 percentage points”(Troncoso 1). This emphasizes the idea that New Yorkers are annoyed by the continual increase in the fare, which can not be avoided. Increases in fare are necessary to improve and maintain the infrastructure while adjusting prices for inflation, but increases in fare evasion must be taken into account and the MTA must take action to prevent people from evading fare. The state of New York lost an estimated \$200 million as a result of people evading fare in the past year(Colon 1). A turnstile is not enough to keep people from evading fare. The problem that I am emphasizing is that the MTA does not take enough precautions to prevent people from evading fare.

The Gate Innovation and its Problems

There have been several different attempts to utilize a different form of a turnstile in order to keep people from jumping over or avoiding the barrier. An example of this revolves around the idea of gating. A gating device in subway stations is a device that automatically opens when a metrocard is swiped. The gate is shaped so that it prevents people from jumping over and climbing under while allowing for easy access to people that are disabled and use wheelchairs or other items to assist their walking(Petrie 11).

The problem that the MTA faces as a result of the introduction of the gating innovation relates to the amount of time and money that it will take to install the systems in each and every subway station. As a result of the gating innovation not providing a short term solution to the problem at hand, it would be more efficient for the MTA to introduce the full body turnstiles that are already in many train stations. The full body turnstiles eliminates the risk of anybody hopping the turnstile and is pretty cost effective. Additionally, since that type of turnstile is already available in certain train stations, it would optimize the amount of money that the transportation can save while getting more money from people utilizing the transportation. While the gating system may seem like a good solution, the cost of each device is much greater than that of a much simpler alternative that has already been introduced: the full body turnstile. The benefits of the gating system, which revolve around there being easier ways for the disabled and children to board, can be considered when innovating the emergency exists, as a path for disabled people, infants, and handicaps can also be introduced.

An Old Solution: The Full Body Turnstile

There will never be a way to fully solve the problem at hand, as emergency exits, which must always be present in subway stations in case of emergencies, will provide the thieves a way to enter the station without paying fare. However, in order to reduce the amount of people that evade fare, the MTA must make it impossible for someone to hop or avoid the turnstiles, as it will save them tons of money in the long run. Additionally, it is crucial that there are hefty fines that serve as consequences for people that are caught evading fare, as these consequences will definitely change the minds of many people if they thought about evading fare in the first place.

Recommendation

If you need any help figuring out more ways to prevent people from evading fare, you can reach me at 917-596-8812. However, I suggest that you begin by introducing the full body turnstile at every subway station so that people will no longer be able to hop the turnstiles. In order to prevent fare evasion you must work on the following things:

- Reducing fare price(or increasing it less often)
- Get rid of turnstiles that people can hop
- Implement the full body turnstile in every station
- Provide an MTA worker or police officer by each emergency exit

Team Contribution Notes

- Mateo(Me):Topic Supervisor
 - Provided the group with the initial summary of the subject.
 - Helped choose the problem that the memo was about.
 - Provided background info on the subject.
 - Utilized template for Memo on pg 373.
 - Showed the group my finished memo to compare and analyze.
- Raynor: Submission Manager
 - Helped teammates remember when assignments were due.
 - Helped coordinate group in chat.
 - Compared writing pieces of group mates and offered their own writing.
 - Provided initial research for the group.
- Ahmad: Research Manager
 - Provided the group with the first article that introduced us to the topic.

Work Cited

- Colon, Dave. "MTA Will Spend \$249M On New Cops to Save \$200M on Fare Evasion." *StackPath*, Streetsblognyc, 14 Nov. 2019, www.masstransitmag.com/home/article/11303444/innovative-ways-to-stop-mass-transit-fare-evasion.
- Petrie, Joe. "Make Sure Riders Pay Their Fare Share." *StackPath*, Mass Transit, 7 Mar. 2014, www.masstransitmag.com/home/article/11303444/innovative-ways-to-stop-mass-transit-fare-evasion.
- Troncoso, Rodrigo, and Louis de Grange. "Fare Evasion in Public Transport: A Time Series Approach." *Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice*, Pergamon, 6 May 2017, www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0965856416308795.