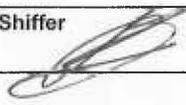
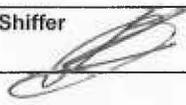
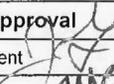
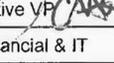


# Staff Summary

<b>Subject</b>	Public Hearing For New Haven Line Connecticut Fare Increase
<b>Department</b>	Operations Planning & Analysis
<b>Department Head Name</b>	Michael Shiffer 
<b>Department Head Signature</b>	
<b>Project Manager Name</b>	Thomas Marchwinski

<b>Date</b>	July 25, 2016
<b>Vendor Name</b>	
<b>Contract Number</b>	
<b>Contract Manager Name</b>	
<b>Table of Contents Ref#</b>	

Board Action					
Order	To	Date	Approval	Info	Other
1	M-N Comm. Mtg.	7/25	X		
2	MTA Fin. Comm.	7/25	X		
3	MTA Board Mtg.	7/27	X		

Internal Approvals			
Order	Approval	Order	Approval
5	President 		Budget
4	Executive VP 		VP Capital Programs
3 	VP Financial & IT		Engr/Const
	SVP Operations		Project Reporting

Internal Approvals (cont.)							
Order	Approval	Order	Approval	Order	Approval	Order	Approval
1	VP Planning 		Government Relations		Labor Relations	2 	General Counsel
	Press		VP Human Resources		Personnel		Other

## Narrative

### Purpose:

In response to a written request from the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT), to authorize Metro-North and MTA staff to participate in one or more public hearings with regard to proposed increases in Metro-North New Haven Line fares for travel to or from Connecticut stations.

### Discussion:

Metro-North operates New Haven Line service within the State of Connecticut pursuant to the Amended and Restated Service Agreement (ARSA) with CTDOT. CTDOT has formally notified us that they are proposing a 6% fare increase for travel between Connecticut stations (on the New Haven Line and the New Canaan, Danbury, and Waterbury Branch Lines) and New York Stations, as well as for travel within Connecticut. The increase would become effective on or after December 1, 2016 and is proposed to help close a CTDOT budget shortfall. (The range of individual fare increases may vary because of rounding). This proposed 6% fare increase includes CTDOT's previously approved 1% fare increase that was scheduled for January 1, 2017 to fund the acquisition of the new M8 rail cars. There will be no changes in fares charged on the New Haven Line for travel taking place wholly within New York State as a result of this action.

In addition to the fare increase, CTDOT is also proposing the following changes: elimination of the "WebTicket" program after full implementation of the eTix mobile ticketing app for all stations on the New Haven, New Canaan, Danbury, and Waterbury Lines; elimination of the 2% discount on "Mail and Ride" tickets; and reduction of the discount on joint monthly ticket/unlimited MetroCard packages from 4% to 2%. Equivalent changes have already been implemented for New York State fares.

The last fare increases on the Connecticut portion of the Metro-North system occurred on January 1, 2016 and January 1, 2015 when Connecticut fares were increased by 1% on each occasion. In addition, a 5.04% increase was implemented on January 1, 2014. Under the terms of the ARSA, a joint approval by the MTA Board and CTDOT is needed for New Haven Line fare changes (but not for changes limited to the New Canaan, Danbury and Waterbury Branch Lines).

# Staff Summary

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Section 1266 of the New York Public Authorities Law requires that MTA conduct a public hearing prior to Board approval of any fare changes. Conducting joint hearings with Connecticut will fulfill Section 1266 requirements. The time and location of any hearings has yet to be determined.

**Recommendation:**

That the MTA Board authorizes participation in public hearing(s) with regard to increases in Metro-North New Haven Line fares for travel to or from Connecticut stations proposed by CTDOT. CTDOT will conduct a robust public process compliant with state and federal requirements.