

NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT ALL-STARS

April 2026



TRANSIT ALL-STARS

Recognizing our Employees

Our teams across NYCT continue to do incredible things, collectively working towards improving service and security. Transit All-Stars is an employee recognition program that celebrates high performers who are also on-target to meet or exceed annual NYCT's service and safety goals. This quarter we are showcasing some of our outstanding employees for their contributions.

April 2026 Honorees



John Pappas

General Manager

Department of Buses

John is a dedicated and steady leader whose example sets the tone for his entire team. His strong work ethic, reliability, and unwavering commitment are evident in everything he does, and he consistently demonstrates what it means to lead with integrity. John not only provides clear guidance and support, but he also takes the time to recognize effort, celebrate progress, and step in personally whenever the situation calls for it.

He strikes a thoughtful balance between maintaining high expectations and showing genuine care for the people he supervises. Under his leadership, the workplace has become one grounded in trust, mutual respect, and accountability. His ability to motivate others, through both his actions and his presence, has helped shape a team that performs with confidence and pride. John's leadership doesn't just move the team forward; it strengthens the culture around them and drives collective success.

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Asha Samuels

Associate Staff Analyst

Paratransit

Asha Samuels is an exceptional member of the Paratransit team whose dedication, professionalism, and unwavering “team player” attitude set her apart. In her role as Associate Staff Analyst, Asha has earned a reputation for reliability, innovative problem-solving, and a steadfast commitment to both colleagues and customers.

Asha exemplifies innovation and initiative. When faced with the challenge of improving operational efficiency, she researched, developed, and championed a creative solution to automate the creation of folders for warnings using Excel and Notepad. This automation transformed a previously tedious, time-consuming manual process into a streamlined system, reducing folder creation time by over 90% and saving the department an estimated 10-17 staff hours per week. This improvement is especially critical as warning volumes have increased by 30% since she first developed this solution, ensuring the team can keep pace without sacrificing quality.

Beyond process improvements, Asha consistently delivers exceptional customer service. She responds to inquiries with timeliness and professionalism, providing proactive solutions that not only resolve issues but also empower customers to prevent future suspensions.

Asha’s collaborative spirit shines through her work across teams, including her contributions to resolving challenges for visually impaired customers having difficulty completing appeal forms by engaging the assistance of the eligibility determination unit staff. This initiative improved accessibility for visually impaired appellants, reinforcing our commitment to inclusivity and customer care.

Outside of work, Asha’s passion for travel, beauty, business, real estate, and her volunteer leadership in founding and supporting her neighborhood homeowners’ association further illustrate her dedication to community and service. Her leadership qualities, caring nature, and innovative mindset truly embody the essence of a “Transit All Star.”

For her outstanding contributions, measurable impact, and commitment to excellence, this recognition is well-deserved.

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Dennis Anvaer

Administrative Staff Analyst

Revenue Control

Dennis Anvaer is a standout Transit All-Star nominee whose exceptional contributions and longstanding dedication have made a meaningful impact across the organization. For more than 20 years, Dennis has been a steady and indispensable presence within the Fare Media Extended Sales unit, consistently demonstrating deep expertise, reliability, and an unwavering commitment to advancing the mission of the agency. His institutional knowledge and thoughtful approach have supported countless operational needs and helped ensure continuity through periods of change and growth.

In recent years, Dennis played a pivotal role in the development, testing, and implementation of the OMNY Programs Portal, now a critical platform for the sale and distribution of OMNY products. His technical insight and hands-on involvement were instrumental in shaping a system that is both functional and user-friendly. Through this work, Dennis has supported the onboarding of more than 1,000 government, healthcare, social service, school, and nonprofit agencies, expanding access to essential fare products for communities across the region.

The impact of his efforts is far-reaching: by strengthening the tools and processes that connect agencies to OMNY, Dennis has helped improve mobility and access for countless individuals who rely on these programs. His dedication, collaborative spirit, and problem-solving mindset have made him a trusted partner to colleagues and stakeholders alike.

Dennis's sustained excellence and his contributions to both legacy systems and new initiatives make him highly deserving of this recognition.

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Joseph Green

Maintenance Supervisor II
Security Emergency Response Team
Security

Joseph Green has demonstrated an exceptional level of commitment and professionalism, consistently going above and beyond the expectations of his role. His deep familiarity with the NYCT subway system is remarkable, and it has proven invaluable on multiple occasions. On at least three documented instances, MSII Green was able to accurately identify underground locations from only minimal descriptive details, an ability that directly supported the identification of system vulnerabilities and advanced investigations into trespass incidents.

This level of insight is not only rare, it reflects a profound understanding of the system's complexity and a genuine dedication to its safety and integrity. Joseph's contributions have strengthened our situational awareness and enhanced our ability to respond swiftly and effectively to potential risks. Witnessing his expertise in action has been extraordinary, and his performance exemplifies the caliber of employee NYCT strives to cultivate and recognize.

Joseph's knowledge, reliability, and commitment to safeguarding the transit environment make him a truly deserving Transit All-Star nominee.

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Igor Sheshin

Revenue Equipment Maintainer
Department of Subways

Igor is widely recognized for his dedication to his work, his colleagues, and the overall success of the department. Highly skilled and proficient in repairing all types of AFC equipment, he is frequently entrusted with complex repairs that others are unable to complete. His technical expertise, paired with his willingness to support those around him, makes him an invaluable member of the team.

Igor is consistently generous with his knowledge and takes an active role in helping newer maintainers build confidence and capability. For example, during an observed interaction with a new Revenue Equipment Maintainer who had not yet learned how to remove a bill jam from an OMNY Configurable Vending Machine, Igor patiently walked them through the process of opening the machine. He encouraged them to ask questions, document the steps, and then attempt the procedure themselves to gain hands-on experience, offering guidance throughout. His approach reflects both strong mentorship and a genuine investment in the growth of his colleagues.

His commitment extends well beyond his scheduled hours. On multiple occasions, Igor has made himself available outside of work to provide technical guidance. When contacted on his day off, he responded without hesitation. He has also shared his phone number with other REMs, encouraging them to reach out whenever they need assistance. This level of accessibility and support is rare and deeply appreciated across the shop.

Igor maintains positive working relationships with all staff, including REMs, Collection Agents, and Supervisors. He treats everyone with respect and professionalism, and in turn, he is highly respected by his peers. His dedication, expertise, and collaborative spirit strengthen the entire operation and exemplify the qualities that elevate the department.

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George Georgiou

Revenue Equipment Maintainer
Department Subways

George consistently demonstrates the highest standards of professionalism, technical expertise, and teamwork. His reliability and commitment to excellence make him an exceptional example within the department. George excels in communication, both within his shift and across shifts. He ensures that all critical information is conveyed clearly to incoming teams, providing detailed context and actionable guidance that enable maintainers to perform essential repairs efficiently and safely. His thorough and accurate pass-downs have repeatedly minimized delays, prevented duplication of effort, and ensured that complex issues are addressed promptly.

In addition to his strong communication skills, George brings a highly analytical approach to his fieldwork. His observations and on-site assessments are consistently precise, organized, and insightful. He provides supervision with detailed, field-based analysis that supports informed decision-making and ensures the appropriate deployment of resources. His ability to translate technical findings into clear, practical recommendations strengthens overall operations and promotes continuous improvement across the team.

George's professionalism, reliability, and dedication have directly contributed to significant operational improvements within AFC Maintenance – Queens, including:

- Improved availability of OMNY Configurable Vending Machines
- Reduced downtime of OMNY Configurable Vending Machines
- Decrease in out-of-service OMNY Configurable Vending Machines

His consistent performance and positive influence reflect the highest standards of the department and exemplify the qualities that strengthen the organization as a whole.

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Ian Orr

Revenue Equipment Maintainer
Department Subways

Ian has been a cornerstone of this organization for more than three decades, consistently embodying professionalism in every aspect of his work. His dedication, steady leadership, and unwavering commitment to excellence are evident day in and day out. Whether he is responding to a stalled train in Brooklyn or supporting a major, high-visibility event, such as the Mayoral inauguration held this New Year's Eve at the historic Old City Hall station, Ian approaches every assignment with the same level of focus, composure, and expertise.

His ability to remain dependable under pressure, paired with his deep operational knowledge, has made him a trusted presence throughout the system. Colleagues look to him not only for guidance, but as an example of what it means to serve with integrity and pride. Ian's consistency, judgment, and professionalism set a standard that elevates everyone around him and strengthens the organization as a whole.

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Anthony Ragucci

Train Service Supervisor
Department Subways

Anthony is a veteran professional whose more than three decades of service have left a lasting mark on the organization. Since beginning his career in 1990, he has brought unwavering dedication, steady leadership, and a deep sense of responsibility to every role he has held. His work ethic and integrity are evident in the way he shows up each day, reliable, prepared, and fully committed to supporting both the mission and the people around him.

As a supervisor, Anthony leads with calm authority and genuine care. He guides his team through daily operations with clarity and consistency, and when unexpected challenges arise, he is the steady presence others look to for direction. His ability to remain composed under pressure, paired with his extensive institutional knowledge, has made him a trusted mentor and a model of professionalism. Anthony's long-standing service and exemplary conduct continue to strengthen the organization. His leadership sets a standard that others aspire to follow, and his contributions over the past three decades reflect the very best of what it means to serve.

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Traffic Checker Workforce

Operations Planning

Led by manager Tewfik Berri and Superintendent Bobby Diaz, the Operations Planning Subway Fare Evasion data collection team has truly become the heartbeat of our data operations. Their achievements, however, are inseparable from the dedication of our Traffic Checker workforce, whose efforts form the foundation of everything we produce. Day after day, it is the Checkers on the front lines who gather the raw data with care and precision, ensuring that every point collected reflects the reality of our system. Their consistency and attention to detail breathe life into our mission and make meaningful analysis possible.

Reaching the 99% completion goal for four consecutive quarters is an extraordinary milestone, one that speaks to a level of reliability that is both rare and essential to the work we do. This year-long streak is more than a statistical accomplishment, it reflects a culture of quiet commitment, teamwork, and shared purpose. While Tewfik and Bobby provide steady leadership and thoughtful oversight, it is the seamless coordination between their team and the field staff that has produced such a dependable and high-quality sample for the Strategic Initiatives group.

Together, this collective has set a standard of excellence that strengthens our entire organization.



ABOUT THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY & NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority is North America's largest transportation network, serving a population of 15.3 million people across a 5,000-square-mile travel area surrounding New York City through Long Island, southeastern New York State, and Connecticut.

New York City Transit and MTA Bus operate all subways and buses in New York City. Our 45,000 employees serve 4,500,000 passengers a day. We operate nearly 6,700 subway cars and 5,900 buses, and we maintain 472 subway stations, 640 miles of track, 27 bus depots and 70 shops and yards.

The MTA is governed by a 23-member Board of Directors, organized in eight committees. Members of the New York City Transit Committee include:

- Haeda Mihaltses, Chair
- Andrew Albert
- Samuel Chu
- Dan Garodnick
- David Jones
- Melva M. Miller
- Meera Joshi
- John Ross "JR" Rizzo
- John Samuelsen
- Lisa Sorin