## MTA NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT STATEN ISLAND RAILWAY <br> 370 Jay Street <br> Brooklyn, NY 11201 <br> (718) 330-4321

Web Site: www.mta.nyc.ny.us
State Legislative Districts:
Senate: 10-34
Assembly: 23-83

| Base Fare: | $\$ 1.50$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Last Increase: | $\$ .25$ on 11/12/95 |

MTA Staten Island Railway (SIR) runs 24 hour service between the St. George Ferry Terminal and Tottenville stations. The SIR serves 22 stations running the length of Staten Island and primarily serves the Manhattan commuter market. At the St. George station, customers can make connections with the Staten Island Ferry service.

The Staten Island travel market has become less centered on travel to Manhattan as employment on Staten Island has grown. From 1990 to 2000 Staten Island employment increased $23.5 \%$ compared to the more modest increase in Manhattan employment of $1.68 \%$. Travel within Staten Island, as well as to employment locations in New Jersey, has become an increasingly significant share of travel.

Therefore in spite of the strong $17 \%$ population growth from 1990 to 2000 on Staten Island, ridership on the


Manhattan-focused SIR has declined by a little over 30

percent during the 10 year period.
A large part of this decline in SIR ridership since 1990 has been the vast increase in amount and quality of service on the NYCT Staten Island Express Bus service (see NYCT Section of this report), which offered one seat rides to Lower and Midtown Manhattan, compared to two or three seat service via SIR \& the ferry.


| Staten Island Railway |  |
| :--- | ---: |
| 2000 Characteristics |  |
| Revenue Passengers | $4,088,000$ |
| Number of Vehicles | 64 |
| Number of Employees | 297 |
| Revenue Vehicle Miles | $2,030,000$ |
| Revenue Vehicle Hours | 25,805 |
| Total Operating Revenues | $5,003,000$ |
| Total Operating Expense | $23,866,000$ |
| Operating Cost /Rev. Vehicle Mile | 11.76 |
| Operating Cost / Rev. Vehicle Hour | 924.86 |
| Rev. Passengers / Rev. Vehicle Mile | 2.01 |
| Rev. Passengers / Rev. Vehicle Hour | 158.42 |
| Total Operating Revenue / Op. Expense | 0.21 |
| Operating Cost / Revenue Passenger | 5.84 |
| Total Op. Revenue / Revenue Passenger | 1.22 |

Since 1997, ridership on the SIR has stabilized. It has grown, with some variations, from 1997 to 2000. A major factor in stabilizing the ridership has been the introduction of the MetroCard program. It had the effect of reducing the total fares by providing for free transfers to other MTA / NYCDOT services in Manhattan. (The ride on the Staten Island Ferry has been free of charge since July 4, 1997.)

Staten Island Railway level of service is tied to the level of service provided by the Staten Island Ferry and since ridership on both the Staten Island Ferry and the Railroad has been declining, over the long term, the level of service has been reduced. SIR vehicle miles of service declined by $5.52 \%$ from 1999 to 2000. The five year trend in service has actually consisted of a very modest increase of $1.3 \%$ but over the 10 year period vehicle miles of service reflects a modest overall reduction of $2.69 \%$.

In 2000 the revenue passengers per revenue vehicle mile, a measure of service effectiveness, went up by $9.64 \%$. This reflects the increase in ridership coinciding with a reduction in service miles. However, over the 5 year period service effectiveness declined by $5.64 \%$ as the slight increase in revenue miles corresponded with a decline in ridership of $4.4 \%$.

From 1999 to 2000 cost per mile, a measure of efficiency, worsened by rising nearly $16 \%$. Operating costs rose $9.53 \%$, outpacing the rate of reduction in vehicle miles of $5.52 \%$. Over $81 \%$ of the change in costs was due to salaries and wages which went up


| MTA-SIR <br> Service Area | $\mathbf{1 9 9 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 0}$ | \% <br> Change |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | :---: |
| Staten Island <br> Population | 378,977 | 443,728 | $17.09 \%$ |
| New York City <br> Population | $7,322,564$ | $8,008,278$ | $9.36 \%$ |
| Pop. Over 65 <br> (NYC) | 953,317 | 937,857 | $-1.62 \%$ |
| Pop. Under 19 <br> (NYC) | $1,888,075$ | $2,153,450$ | $14.06 \%$ |
| Staten Island <br> Employment | 71,452 | 88,243 | $23.50 \%$ |
| Manhattan <br> Employment | $2,342,695$ | $2,382,166$ | $1.68 \%$ |
| SIR Ridership | $5,935,440$ | $4,112,820$ | $-30.71 \%$ |
| Rev. Miles <br> SIR | $2,085,788$ | $2,029,648$ | $-2.69 \%$ |

$12.5 \%$ from 1999 to 2000. This increase was due to the general salary increase of $5 \%$ which took effect on 12/15/99 and another $3 \%$ salary increased which took effect on 12/15/00 followed by a restructuring of cost. However, over a five year period SIR's cost per vehicle mile was a only slightly above inflation for that time period. ( $2.69 \%$ versus an inflation rate of $2.35 \%$ ).

Revenue to cost ratio (operating revenue to operating cost), a measure of service "economy" has been negatively impacted by the fare initiatives of the

MetroCard program, declining NYC Staten Island Ferry Ridership, and dramatically increased express bus ridership. The cost recovery ratio dropped from $37.21 \%$ in 1996, before the MetroCard was implemented, to $20.96 \%$ in the year 2000 .

The primary reason for the decline in cost recovery ratio is the nature of the fare collection system on SIR. Revenues are collected only at St George. This means that morning inbound riders pay. Outbound afternoon riders also pay upon entering the system at St George, but now, the vast majority of them enter with a free transfer because they have already paid a MetroCard Fare in Manhattan. Also, no fare is collected for local travel on the system (i.e. not to/from St George). Therefore, the decline in the cost recovery ratio despite the ridership stability is a reflection of systemwide policy to collect nearly half the revenue elsewhere in the NYCT system.

Sources of Total System 2000 Operating Funds

| Fares | $\$ 4,364,000$ |
| :--- | ---: |
| Local | $\$ 17,255,000$ |
| State | $\$ 2,402,000$ |
| Federal | $\$ 0$ |
| Other | $\$ 639,000$ |
| Total | $\$ 24,660,000$ |



Financial Trend Analysis over the past five years:


Summary of Total System 2000 Operating Expenses

| Salaries | $\$ 15,171,000$ |
| :--- | ---: |
| Fringe | $\$ 4,180,000$ |
| Ins. | $\$ 300,000$ |
| Power | $\$ 1,997,000$ |
| Other | $\$ 2,218,000$ |
| Total | $\$ 23,866,000$ |



Rail Fleet Characteristics over the past five years:


Staten Island Railway: System Total Operating and Performance Statistics

| MTA -SIR SYSTEM TOTAL | $\begin{gathered} 1996 \\ \text { Actual } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1997 \\ \text { Actual } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline 1998 \\ \text { Actual } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline 1999 \\ \text { Actual } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline 2000 \\ \text { Actual } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { \% Change } \\ 99 \text { to } 00 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Annualized \% Change |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Rev. Passengers | 4,897,000 | 3,753,000 | 4,108,000 | 3,946,242 | 4,088,000 | 3.59\% | -4.41\% |
| Rev. Veh. Miles | 1,928,000 | 2,103,000 | 2,131,000 | 2,148,491 | 2,030,000 | -5.52\% | 1.30\% |
| Op. Cost | \$20,381,000 | \$19,691,000 | \$20,641,000 | \$21,789,000 | \$23,866,000 | 9.53\% | 4.03\% |
| Op. Rev. | \$7,584,000 | \$6,517,000 | \$4,607,000 | \$4,617,000 | \$5,003,000 | 8.36\% | -9.88\% |
| Rev. Pass/Rev. Mile | 2.54 | 1.78 | 1.93 | 1.84 | 2.01 | 9.64\% | -5.64\% |
| Op. Cost/Rev. Mile | \$10.57 | \$9.36 | \$9.69 | \$10.14 | \$11.76 | 15.93\% | 2.69\% |
| Op. Rev./Op. Cost | 37.21\% | 33.10\% | 22.32\% | 21.19\% | 20.96\% | -1.07\% | -13.36\% |
| National CPI | 156.90 | 160.50 | 163.00 | 166.60 | 172.20 | 3.36\% | 2.35\% |
| NYSMA CPI | 166.90 | 170.80 | 173.60 | 177.00 | 182.50 | 3.11\% | 2.26\% |


|  | Staten Island Railway <br> Rev. Passenger per Rev. Vehicle Mile |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |



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