



Public Safety in the Transit System

Update to the MTA Board
March 26, 2025



**Since 1995, the New York
Police Department has
patrolled the city's
subway system**



Chief Michael Kemper
NYPD: 1991 – 2024

Retired as the NYPD
Chief of Transit



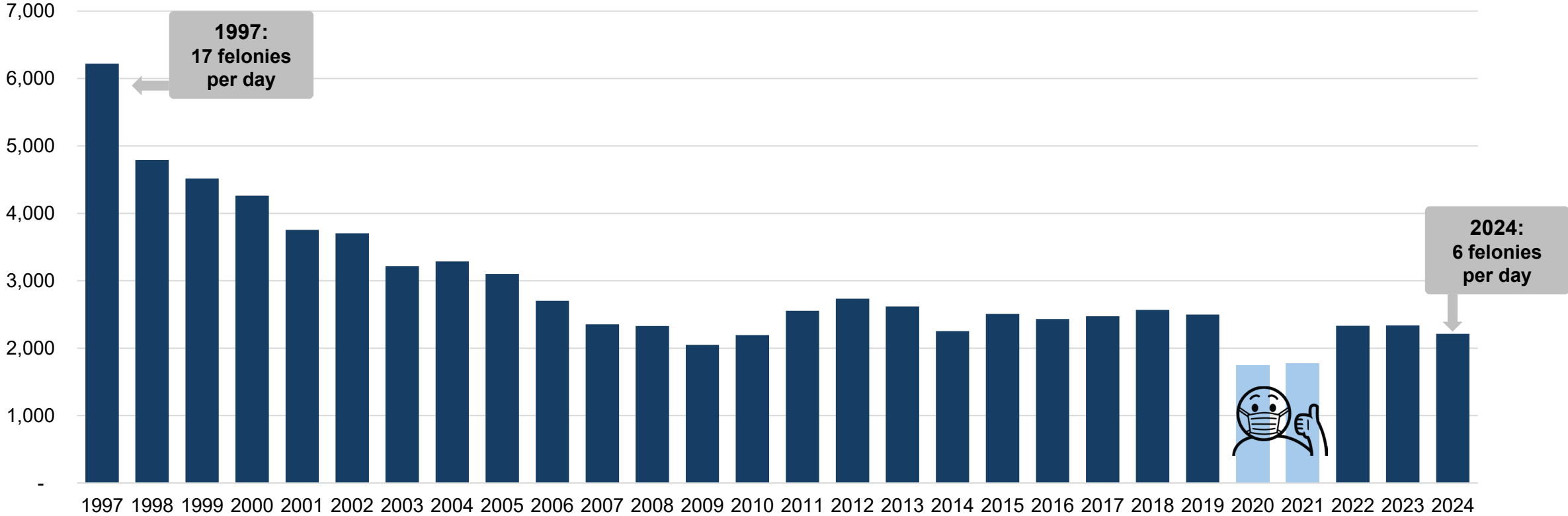
**In 1997, we were
celebrating major
progress on crime**



Credit: Mark Lennihan/AP/Shutterstock

Crime has plummeted since then

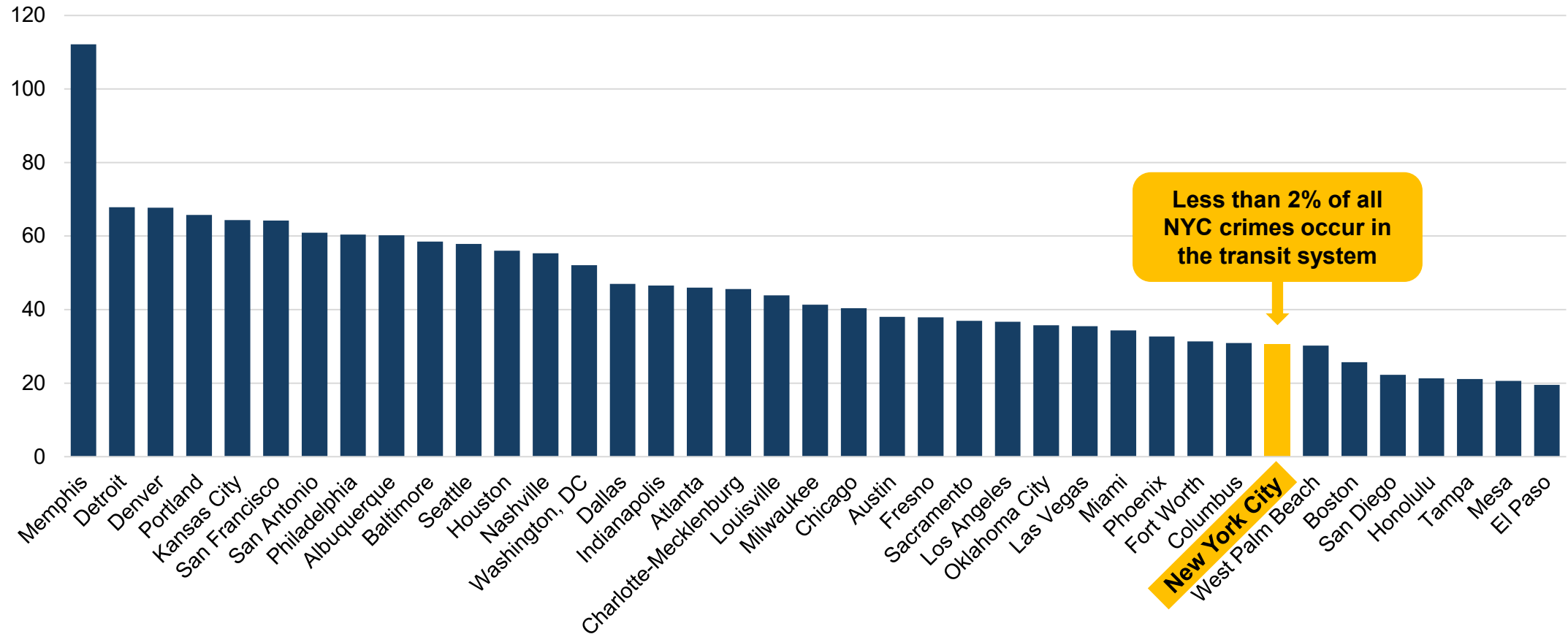
Major felonies in the subway system since 1997



Source: NYPD Major Crime Report
Major felonies include murder, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, and grand larceny

New York City is one of the safest cities in the U.S.

Major crimes per capita (per 1,000 residents), 2023



Source: FBI Crime Data Explorer, Offenses Known to Law Enforcement 2023 Annual Report

Major crimes includes violent crimes (murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) and property crimes (burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft) using the FBI's Uniform Crime Report definitions.

Major crime is down; felony assaults are up, warranting changes to the law

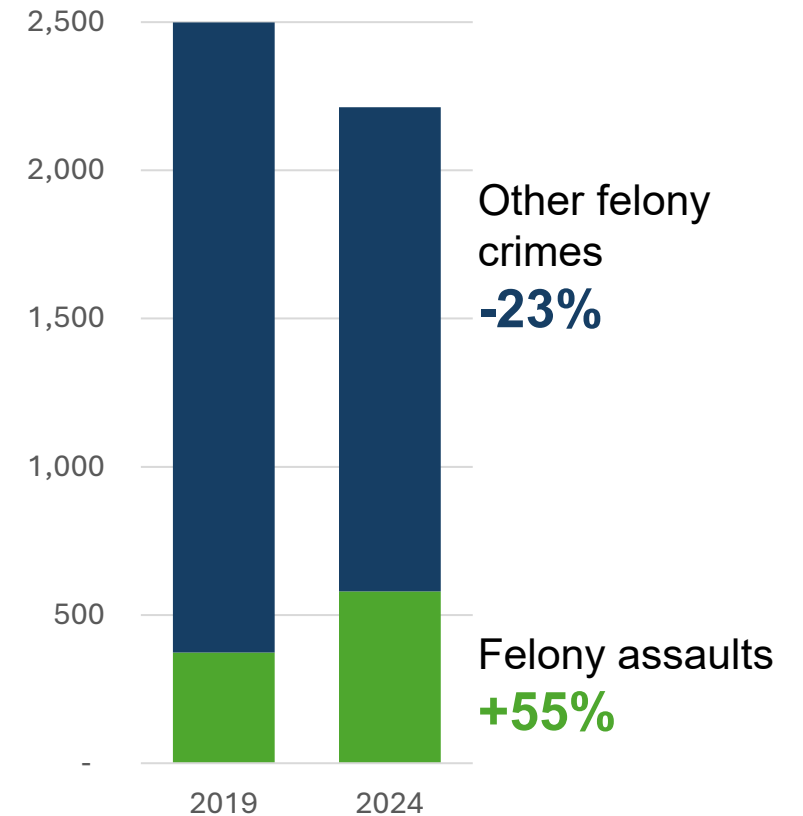
Major increases in felony assaults between 2019 and 2024.

Contributing factors:

- More proactive NYPD enforcement, especially of fare evasion and quality-of-life offenses. Assaults on NYPD officers were up 152% over the same period.
- A successful push by the MTA to ensure offenses against transit workers can be prosecuted as felony assaults

➔ We remain focused on harsher penalties for recidivists.

Major crime is down; felony assaults are up



Source: NYPD

**MTA's first-ever
Criminal Justice
Advocate helps keep
offenders accountable**



Every subway car now has security cameras



**NYPD officers patrol
every overnight
subway car**



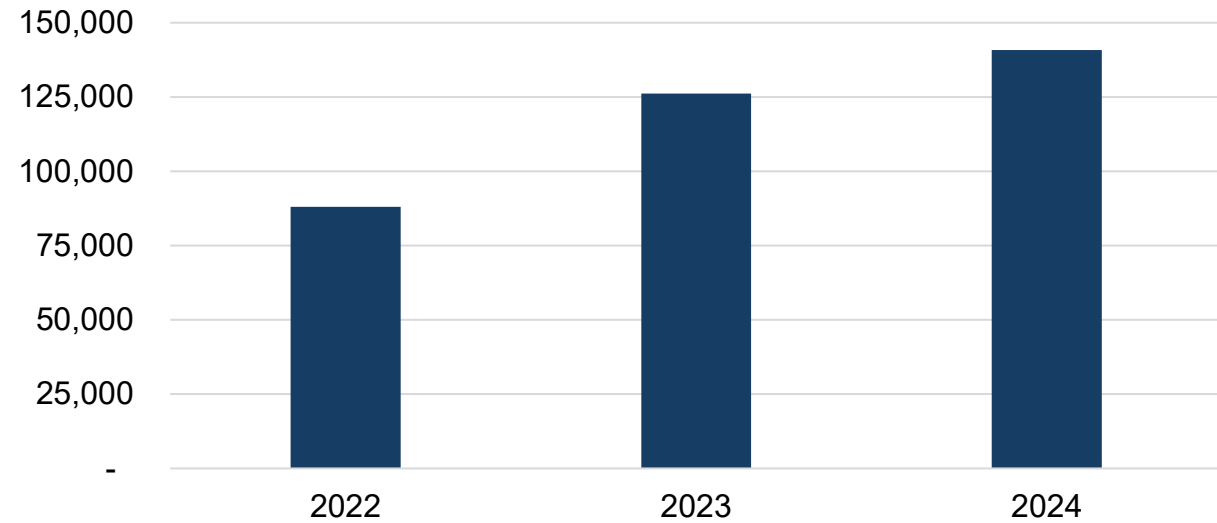
**We're expanding Subway
Co-Response Teams
thanks to a \$20M
investment in the state
budget**



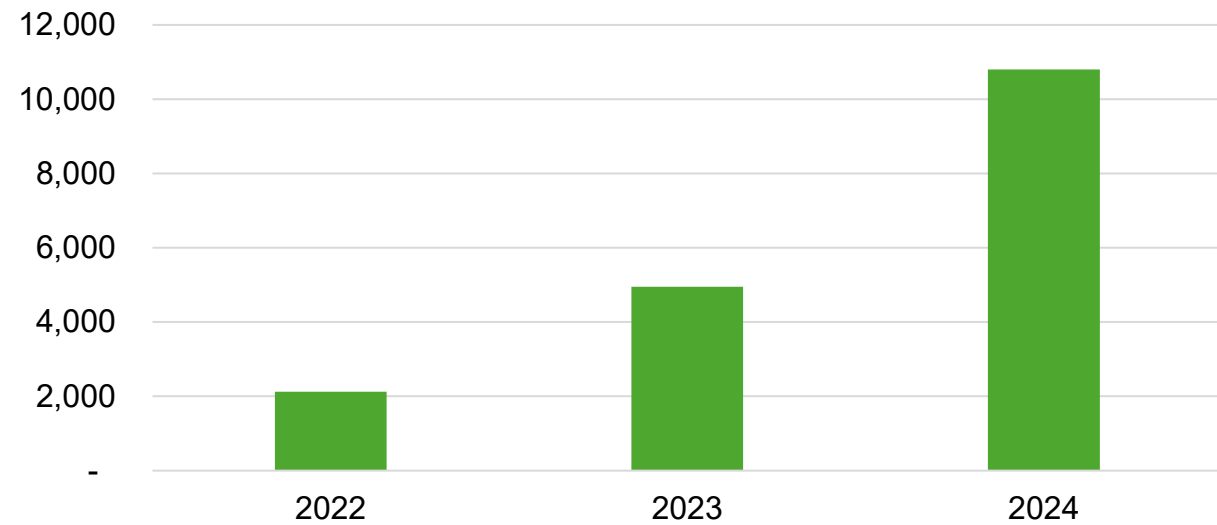
We've increased subway fare evasion enforcement

Summonses

Includes TAB summonses and civil summonses



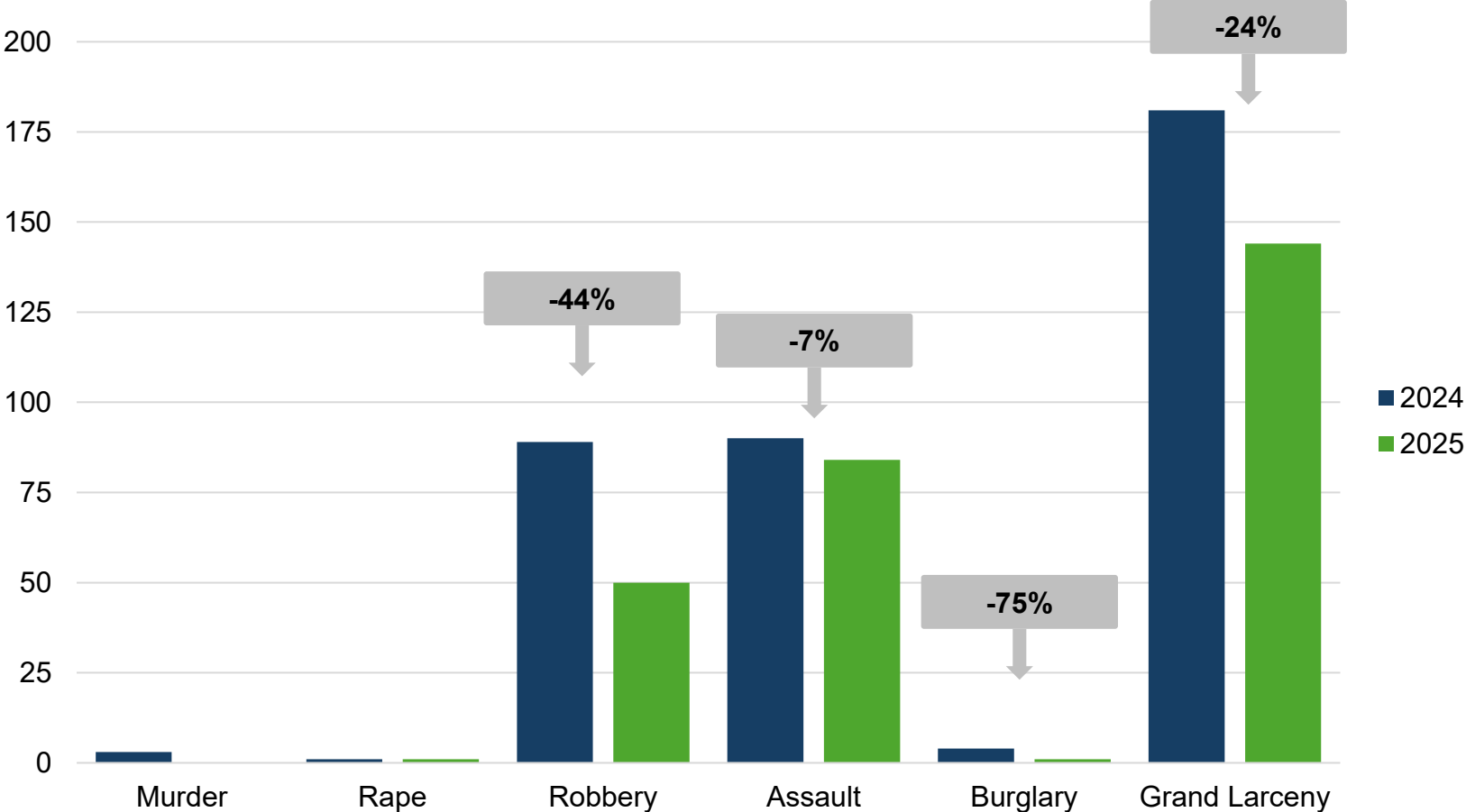
Arrests



Source: NYPD

Year-to-date, major felonies are down in nearly every category since last year

Major felonies in the subway system
January – February 2024 vs. January – February 2025





↓ Q

1. R 96 St	1 min
3. Q 96 St	3 min

↓ Q

↓ Q Uptown to 96 Street
Downtown & Brooklyn

↓ Q

District Attorneys no longer prosecute most cases of fare evasion

POLITICO

Manhattan DA will no longer prosecute turnstile jumping

By BRENDAN CHENEY
02/01/2018 01:55 PM EST



Manhattan District Attorney Cy Vance will decline to prosecute most cases of subway turnstile jumping starting Thursday, his office said.



Photo: The New York Times

MTA is taking action

More New Yorkers than ever are eligible for Fair Fares



MTA is taking action

New OMNY cards allow students to tap in four times a day, every day of the year



MTA is taking action

Gate guards at emergency exits prevent “opportunistic” fare evasion



MTA is taking action

**New features make it
harder to jump
turnstiles**



MTA is taking action

**Eagle Teams enforce
bus fare payment**



Fare evasion is declining

Subway

Spring 2024 : 14%



Fall 2024: 10%

Bus

Spring 2024 : 50%



Fall 2024: 45%

*Source: MTA Open Data
Bus includes Local, Express, and Select Bus Service
Fare evasion is reported quarterly*

The 2025 – 2029 Capital Plan invests \$1 billion in new fare gates



The MTA is doing more on its own to fund safety and security measures

MTA moves **43%** of the nation's transit riders and receives just **17%** of all federal formula funding.

Despite limited federal assistance and shrinking national commitment to transit security, MTA invested **\$513M** on safety and security in 2024, **35 times more** than the minimum federal requirements of its safety and security grants, on initiatives including:

- Camera and communication systems
- LED lighting in stations
- Property protections
- Fire system upgrades
- Detection systems
- Emergency exits

This level of investment will continue even as federal support declines.

Safety and security data is public thanks to MTA Open Data

The MTA has published 27 open datasets related to safety and security, making up 15% of the current catalog

- Subway and Bus Vandalism: Beginning 2021
- Bridges & Tunnels Roadway Interdictions of Persistent Toll Violators: Beginning 2017
- Major Felonies
- NYCT Safety Data: Beginning 2019
- Workplace Violence Penal Law Incidents: Beginning 2019
- Subway and Bus Lost Time Accidents: Beginning 2021
- NYCT Subway Fare Evasion: Beginning 2018
- Workplace Violence Labor Law Incidents: Beginning 2019
- Metro-North Safety and Grade Crossing Incidents: Beginning 2019
- Bus Fare Evasion: Beginning 2019
- LIRR Delays (Archived Methodology): 2015 - 2022
- Metro-North Safety Indicators: Beginning 2019
- LIRR Safety and Grade Crossing Incidents: Beginning 2019
- LIRR Delays: Beginning 2010
- Metro-North Delays: Beginning 2012
- Subway Major Incidents: 2015-2019
- LIRR Delay Verification: Beginning 2010
- Metro-North Delay Verification: Beginning 2012
- LIRR Major Incidents: Beginning 2020
- Subway Trains Delayed: Beginning 2025
- Key Performance Indicators: 2008-2021
- Metro-North Major Incidents: Beginning 2022
- Subway Major Incidents: Beginning 2025
- Subway Major Incidents: Beginning 2020
- LIRR Safety Indicators: Beginning 2019
- Bridges & Tunnels Safety Indicators: Beginning 2018
- Summonses and Arrests: Beginning 2019

With Washington's help, we can send tax dollars back to New Yorkers

In partnership with the federal government, we can expedite spending on transit and reduce administrative costs.

Some examples include:

- Prioritize formula funds over competitive grant programs to fuel the economy faster
- Approve outstanding waiver requests with federal agencies
- Support the long-term stability of American rolling stock and bus manufacturing
- Reduce duplicative reporting requirements across federal agencies

