If New York can fix the subway, how much time will you save?

The MTA’s “Fast Forward” plan will modernize subway signals to get you around faster and more reliably. New signals mean shorter waits, faster trains, less stopping, and more reliable travel. The MTA plans to update every line over the next 5-10 years. But it won’t happen without state funding.

TODAY:
Maya commutes to work on the 6 between the South Bronx and Canal Street in Manhattan. She budgets 50 minutes per trip during rush hour, including a 4-minute buffer, to not be late to work if the train is delayed.

AFTER FAST FORWARD IN 5 YEARS:
Maya's per-trip time savings comes from:
- **1 MIN** less waiting on platform
- **2 MIN** less on the train
- **2 MIN** less buffer (to not be late)

Maya’s per-trip time savings comes from:
- **5 MIN SAVED** per trip
- **10 MIN SAVED** per day
- **43 HRS SAVED** per year

Subway meltdowns will be less severe and less common after Fast Forward.

However, none of this will happen unless Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie fund the MTA’s Fast Forward plan.
ABOUT FAST FORWARD:
The MTA’s Fast Forward plan, if funded, would repair or upgrade elements of the subway system that cause reliability and capacity problems. One of the biggest fixes would replace the subway’s decades-old signals with a state-of-the-art system. Subway signals govern track junctions and keep trains from getting too close together on the tracks. Updated signal technology allows trains to run closer together and provides transit managers with precise train locations, leading to faster and more reliable service.

The fully-funded Fast Forward plan would make every station accessible, improve general station repair, and update bus routes across the city. Learn more at https://fastforward.mta.info.

DATA AND METHODOLOGY:
Travel time improvement estimates use NYC subway weekday, evening rush hour data from October 2018. The Fast Forward scenarios use performance data for the L train, which operates with upgraded signals now, to estimate the benefits of modern signals on additional lines. For more details, please get in touch at info@transitcenter.org.

FUNDING FAST FORWARD:
The MTA needs funding for the Fast Forward plan from the State of New York. This means that the New York State Legislature and Governor Cuomo must include the Fast Forward plan in the state budget or it won’t happen.

TransitCenter works to improve transit in ways that make cities more just, environmentally sustainable, and economically vibrant.

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