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## **NYPIRG STATEMENT ON THE FY2027 CITY BUDGET AGREEMENT**

(New York, N.Y.) Today, Mayor Zohran Mamdani and the City Council announced a handshake agreement on the Fiscal Year 2027 budget. The agreement reportedly includes additional funding and expanded eligibility for the Fair Fares program and a free college student OMNY pilot program, representing important investments in making public transportation more affordable for New Yorkers. Fair Fares, a program providing half-priced transit fare, will now serve New Yorkers at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), up from 150% in the last budget. This represents hundreds of thousands of additional New Yorkers qualifying for the program. The final budget also adds \$700,000, matching funding from the state, to provide free OMNY cards to over 1,000 CUNY students.

**The following statement is attributable to Natasha Elder, Regional Director for NYPIRG:**

"Public transportation is the backbone of New York City, and today's budget agreement makes important investments in helping New Yorkers afford the cost of getting around.

We are encouraged to see expanded support for Fair Fares and funding for the free college student OMNY pilot program, as was called for by NYPIRG, CUNY USS, and other partners. As the cost of living continues to rise, affordable transit helps connect people to jobs, education, healthcare, and the opportunities that make New York thrive.

We look forward to reviewing the final budget details and continuing to work with City leaders to expand access to Fair Fares, improve bus service, and ensure every New Yorker has access to fast, reliable, and affordable public transportation."

