Purpose:

(1) To present, for informational purposes, the MTA 2014 Preliminary Budget and July Financial Plan for 2014-2017 to the MTA Board and the public pursuant to the Board-approved budget process.

(2) To seek Board authorization for the publishing of any required notices and the holding of any public hearings necessary or appropriate in connection with those service investments that require a public hearing.

Discussion:

Financial Plan

In accordance with Board policy governing financial planning and the budget process, the Chairman and CEO presents to the Board the Preliminary 2014 Budget and MTA's July Financial Plan for 2014-2017 ("Financial Plan"). The Financial Plan reflects developments since the last updated Budget and Plan were issued in February 2013 and identifies managerial actions being taken to address MTA's structural and long-term financial issues. The Financial Plan presentation is made for informational purposes only. In November 2013, a proposed final 2014 budget, together with a revised four year plan for 2014-2017, will be submitted to the Board, and a final 2014 budget and revised four-year plan for 2014-2017 will be presented to the Board for adoption in December, 2013. Members of the public will have an opportunity to comment on all elements of the Financial Plan at regularly scheduled Board meetings this fall.

Service investments

The Financial Plan includes $18 million in service investments for New York City Transit, Long Island Rail Road and Metro-North Railroad. Highlights of the investments are as follows:

New York City Transit:

- Increase G service to eight minute headways 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Add S93 service middays and evenings until 10 p.m.
- Extend M service to the Delancey Street-Essex Street station from the Myrtle Avenue station on weekends
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- Add Q77 service on Sundays
- Extend the Bx24 to Hutchinson Metro Center from Westchester Square
- Restore service (B37) along 3rd Avenue between Bay Ridge and Atlantic Avenue - Barclays Ctr. station 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- Restore the B70 to 7th Avenue
- Restore B8 service to Bay Ridge-95th St. R station at all times
- Implement a to-be-determined Select Bus Service route
- Restore Q31 service on weekends
- Staten Island – Eltingville area super express bus restructuring
- Restore M8 service on weekends
- Reroute the M100 in northern Manhattan via Dyckman St and 10th Av to serve the Sherman Creek neighborhood

In an effort to evaluate the adequacy of existing bus service in Co-op City, NYCT and MTA Bus will also be launching a joint bus study. In this study, which is expected to take five months, NYCT and MTA Bus will undertake a comprehensive review of existing bus operations and ridership in the vicinity of Co-op City to assess the reliability of existing service and where there may be opportunities for improved connectivity.

The July Financial Plan also includes the following NYCT service quality improvements as part of NYCT’s service investment package:

- Improved track cleaning (hiring of two additional crews)
- Additional improved station cleaning at heavily used stations/complexes in each borough (ten stations)
- Improved A division service management at the Rail Control Center
- Modification of fare control areas in high priority areas and installation of remote gate control at 54 stations with a staffed booth on one side and no crossover capability for passengers
- Installation of cameras at ten key fare control areas to assist the NYPD in arresting MVM vandals and swipe sellers.

Long Island Rail Road:

- Extend half hourly weekend service westbound and eastbound to Ronkonkoma Station
- Restore half hourly weekend service on the Port Washington Branch
- Add a new Ronkonkoma train to Farmingdale (4:09 p.m. from Penn Station) and a reverse train to Penn Station (7:00 p.m. from Farmingdale) on weekdays
- Restore the 4:37 p.m. weekday express train from Penn Station to Wantagh
- Restore the 4:57 p.m. weekday train from Penn Station to Freeport
- Add a new weekday train to Hicksville (8:22 p.m. from Penn Station)
- Extend summer season weekend service between Ronkonkoma and Greenport by ten weeks so that it runs from April to November.

Metro-North Railroad:

- Expansion of real-time train status information at all New York State stations via LCD monitors that use cellular connectivity. These monitors display the departure time, real-time train status, track information and station stops for the next nine trains. The first three stations would be completed in 2013, with an
average of ten stations to be completed each year thereafter until the installation project is concluded in 2020.

Pursuant to internal guidelines and the FTA locally-approved process, certain of the NYCT service investments, as well as LIRR’s restoration of half-hourly weekend Port Washington service and the proposed changes to Greenport service, will require public hearings. Accordingly, staff seeks Board authorization to hold any public hearings necessary or appropriate in connection with the proposed service improvements.

Recommendation:
It is recommended that the Board authorize the Chairman and CEO and his designees to take all steps, including the publishing of notices and the conducting of any public hearings, necessary or appropriate in connection with those proposed service improvements that require a public hearing.