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**For Immediate Release:** January 5, 2011

## MTA INTRODUCES REDUCED FARE CHARMCARD FOR SENIORS

### An easier, more secure way for those 65+ to pay their MTA fare at a discount

Baltimore, MD (January 5, 2011) - On January 10, 2011, the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) will introduce the Reduced Fare CharmCard for Seniors. Exclusively for riders 65 and older, the Reduced Fare CharmCard for Seniors is a bright orange "smart," reusable fare card that automatically charges the correct, reduced fare when a customer pays a single-trip fare or purchases a pass for travel on Metro Subway, Local Bus and Light Rail, as well as on bus and Metrorail services in Washington, DC, Montgomery and Prince George's counties and Northern Virginia, and wherever the SmarTrip or CharmCard logo is displayed.

According to Ralign T. Wells, MTA Administrator and CEO, "The new Reduced Fare CharmCard for Seniors is another way the MTA is helping those who rely on us to stay connected to what's important in their lives. While reduced fare for seniors has long been a part of our service, this new card adds convenience and security to the ways we serve these important customers."

The Reduced Fare CharmCard for Seniors utilizes the same technology and offers the same benefits as the recently-introduced CharmCard. The only difference between the regular CharmCard and the Reduced Fare CharmCard for Seniors is the fare price and registration process. When Seniors use the Reduced Fare CharmCard to pay their fare, the fare collection system will automatically charge the appropriate reduced fare (\$0.55 for single rides; \$1.20 for one-day Passes; and \$16.50 for 30-day passes). MTA will register the card at the time of purchase so any stored transit value and pass products are protected in case the card is lost, damaged or stolen.

The Reduced Fare CharmCard for Seniors is easy to use. Customers can load up to \$200 in transit value on their card. Transit value can be used to pay single trip-fares by simply touching the CharmCard to the bus fare box, Metro faregate, or by visiting a Light Rail ticket machine. One-day passes can be purchased and loaded on the CharmCard at bus fare boxes and ticket machines.

Customers wishing to purchase a 30-day pass can purchase and load the pass at Light Rail, Metro, or Transit Store ticket machines. If the card is lost, stolen or damaged, the balance or pass product remaining on the card is protected. With a phone call to the Regional Customer Service Center, the value stored on the card at the time of notification, minus a replacement fee, will be added to a replacement card and sent to the customer via mail.

To purchase a Reduced Fare CharmCard, seniors may visit the MTA Reduced Fare Certification Office at 6 St. Paul Street in Downtown Baltimore and show a valid government issued photo ID with proof of age. The reduced fare CharmCard for Seniors costs \$2.00, but comes pre-loaded with \$2.00 in transit value. Reduced Fare Certification staff members are available to assist customers in purchasing and registering their new Reduced Fare CharmCard.

For more information on MTA service, visit the MTA website at [www.mta.maryland.gov](http://www.mta.maryland.gov). Customers can also call the MTA Transit Information Center Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. at 410-539-5000. (TTY 410-539-3497) To sign-up for e-mail about service modifications and delays, click "e-mail notification" at [www.mta.maryland.gov](http://www.mta.maryland.gov).

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