IRENE C. NWOYE

DATA VIZ MEMO

My story will no longer track the history of MTA’s fare hikes since its inception. It will focus instead on the increase in fares since the MTA officially discontinued the use of tokens in 2003 until the end of the fiscal year of 2013. From 2003 till 2014, the base fares have risen by 25 percent, up from $2.00 to $2.50. Currently fares make up about 40 percent of the total revenue. Their goal is to pull in 7.5 percent more revenue with each hike.

The MTA’s adopted budget plan for 2015 and 2017 proposes biennial fare and toll increases of 4 percent in order to keep pace with inflation. But last year, a report from the Wall Street Journal revealed that with the biennial increases, the MTA’s fares will eventually surpass the 2.7 yearly inflation rate; and by 2023, the payments would’ve risen by 50 percent.

Next week I’ll be working on using Python to scrape more data to have a more comprehensive visualization. I’ll also be speaking with **Samuel J. Wong**, a data scientist at the MTA and filing a FOIL request for more data. I want to verify the hikes against the inflation and understand its impacts.

I’ve narrowed down the focus of my story to:

1. What type of MetroCard is the most popular? (and why?)
2. Where is the MTA losing money on fares?
3. Where is it making money on fares?
4. What is the rate of increase of tolls?