

<https://www.theverge.com/2020/3/16/21175699/mta-omny-privacy-security-smartphone-identifier-location-nyc>  
<https://www.mobility-payments.com/2022/10/03/new-york-transit-agency-sees-strong-usage-of-open-loop-payments/>  
<https://theticker.org/9429/opinions/metrocard-phaseout-signals-new-era-for-commuters/>  
<https://www.fastcompany.com/90788367/the-mtas-switch-to-omny-machines-is-a-privacy-nightmare>



# OMNY

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[One Pager](#)

# What is OMNY?

Contactless fare payment system for all MTA public transit.

Eventually will replace all MetroCards.

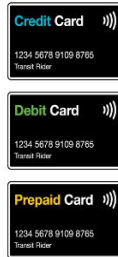


- The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) of New York City started rolling out OMNY in 2019 and by the end of 2020 they had added OMNY readers to all buses and subway stations.
- By the end of 2023, the MTA hopes to have a fully fleshed out system for Reduced-Fare customers, students, customers using paratransit and commuter railroads such as LIRR and MetroNorth.
- The ultimate goal is to have OMNY available for all straphangers by the end of 2024.

# What devices can be used?



Tap your phone or smart device



Tap your contactless card



Tap an OMNY card



# How does it work?

Near-field communication (NFC) technology

Tap your device on the screen until it says **GO**

Free transfers\*

Maximum \$33 a week

OMNY Account (view trips, track progress, manage devices)



<https://i0.wp.com/media2.giphy.com/media/WJdCsza0nNFwM5VaKr/giphy.gif?resize=270%2C480&ssl=1>



NFC: enables the tap payment (similar to that used in London, Sydney, San Fran, Washington DC, Vancouver, San Diego)

# PROS

- Can't lose card
- Automatically counts towards free rides instead of having to predict your rides for the week.
  - If you can't afford an unlimited pass then this is better because it banks towards your free rides without upfront costs
- No metro cards to pollute

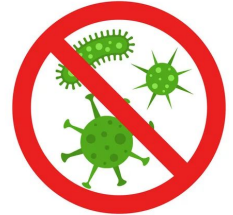


# PROS

- Not late for a train because you ran out of \$\$ on your card
- No germs!
- Everything is being tracked anyway, so why not?
  - Unlike Europe and other places we are not required to swipe out
  - Phone is trackable anyway
- Special OMNY cards will be sold at a cost of \$5 per card but you can add at leisure



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# CONS

- Double charges
- Exclusion of people from the transit system
- Data
  - Significant amount collected
  - Ambiguity of retention
  - Sharing/selling



[Article 1](#)

[Article 2](#)

[Article 3](#)

- At the start of OMNY's use -- quite a few double charges. Better now, but no guarantee for refunded money
- Exclusion of individuals:
  - currently it is not fully reduced fee and it is not accessible for students
  - While you do not \*need\* to use a chipped card or smart device in order to use OMNY, it is the easiest
  - Older generation struggles with apps at times, individuals with poor credit or no savings account might not have a chipped card
  - While you can buy a prepaid card, right now the rollout of those locations is not extensive (will it be sold in the subway stations?)
- Collected info includes smartphone identifiers and location
  - When combined with payment and transportation data, could be used to map out riders patterns of life by the minute.
  - Cubic (company) has a history of sharing data with law enforcement (NYPD, ICE)
  - How long are they keeping the data? Who are they giving it to? Selling it to?



## One secure account to manage your travel

Enjoy convenient features when you register for an OMNY account.

[Get started](#)



### View your trips and charges

Securely access your trip history and transaction activity in your personalized dashboard.



### Track progress toward your weekly fare cap

See how close you are to free rides.



### Manage your travel cards

Manage your bank cards and OMNY cards — all in one place.



### Contact customer service

Submit your questions to customer service quickly and easily.