

Gov. Paterson expected to nominate transit executive Jay Walder as MTA chairman

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A transit executive who has held high-level posts in [London](#) and [New York](#) is expected to be nominated MTA chairman Tuesday by [Gov. Paterson](#), sources told the Daily News.

Paterson is slated to announce [Jay Walder](#) as his choice to run the nation's largest bus, subway and commuter train system, sources said.

The appointment must be approved by the state Senate, which reconvenes tomorrow but may soon break for the rest of the summer.

The News exclusively reported Saturday Walder had emerged as the top candidate for the newly merged positions of chairman and chief executive officer.

"He's a good guy, a straight shooter," said [Gene Russianoff](#), staff attorney with the [Straphangers Campaign](#).

Walder, 48, worked at the [Metropolitan Transportation Authority](#) from 1983 to 1995, rising to chief financial officer and executive director. During his stint, he was on a fare policy task force that did the groundwork for the MTA's termination of two-fare zones, Russianoff said.

"It was something people had wanted for nearly a century - one fare no matter what neighborhood you lived in," he noted.

The MTA has been without a permanent chief since May, when former [CEO Elliot Sander](#) resigned.

From 2000 to 2006, Walder was [Transport for London](#)'s planning and finance director, helping draft the city's successful bid for the 2012 Olympics. He also introduced the Oyster smart card there, which links to riders' individual accounts like [E-ZPass](#).

"His knowledge of both the MTA and how to bring a large system well-planned into this century are without peer," said [Robert Paaswell](#), director of the University Transportation Research Center at City College.

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