On Monday, the MTA announced it would address widespread complaints by riders about subway service. Like our fellow riders, we hope that short-term steps can be taken to improve the lives of daily commuters.

At the same time, longer-term capital improvements are vital to the future of the subways. These range from reliable new subway cars and buses to computerized signals that can reduce crowding to countdown clocks alerting riders of train arrivals.

But the MTA has a $15 billion gap in funding transit rebuilding over the next five years. If this shortfall stands, New Yorkers will likely lose many improvements that would result in much better service. It also could mean borrowing billions to make up the lack of new genuine aid for these improvements, which in turn would create great pressure to raise fares.

What riders desperately need are state leaders who will be powerful champions for funding decent transit, especially Governor Andrew Cuomo.

So the Straphangers Campaign offers a modest proposal: Why not name the MetroCard for Governor Cuomo and him the State’s official advocate for aiding the MTA?

Just think what Governor Cuomo could do as the official State MTA advocate, armed with a CuomoCard.

He could forcefully make the case for how the MTA fuels the State’s economy, how it conserves the State’s energy and how it promotes its environment. And he could press for progressive transit funding, like MoveNY’s fair tolling plan.

And here’s what he hopefully wouldn’t do: On one day, call the MTA’s capital budget “bloated” and on others use the system as a personal photo op. And on yet other days, raid hundreds of millions from dedicated transit taxes and use them for unclear non-transit purposes.

Of course, Cuomo’s leadership is what’s key to winning vital improvements - with or without there being CuomoCards.

But CuomoCards do remind us of a very basic slogan that should guide us: Never leave the subways without funding.