

METRO-NORTH RAILROAD COMMUTER COUNCIL
MINUTES OF May 17, 2018

A meeting of the Metro-North Railroad Commuter Council (MNRCC) was convened at 4:30 PM on May 17, 2018 in the 10th floor conference room at the Metro-North Offices – Graybar Building at 420 Lexington Avenue, New York City.

The following members were present:

Randolph Glucksman
Orrin Getz

The following members were on the phone:

Francena Amparo
Richard Cataggio
Rhonda Herman

The following member was absent:

Francis Corcoran

In addition, the following persons were present:

William Henderson	-PCAC Executive Director
Bradley Brashears	-PCAC Planning Manager
Sheila Binesh	-PCAC Transportation Planner

METRO-NORTH RAILROAD COMMUTER COUNCIL

-2-

Video Part 1	
00:19	Approval of Agenda (May 17, 2018)
00:27	Approval of Minutes (April 18, 2018)
00:35	Chair's Report (attached)
3:45	E. Shannon: Overwhelming situation for NJ transit. They are understaffed and underequipped. Many of the board members are not yet approved. The board is undersized for the task of the job. They need a legislative boost for the board to gather resources and funds.
5:12	E. Shannon: Janno Leiber, June PCAC meeting's speaker, was responsible for the rebuilding the World Trade Center. He has a background in real estate.
7:47	O. Getz: Every time NJ Transit has a problem on the Pascack Valley Line – express trains are the first to get canceled. It's become their policy. Metro-North needs to step up and not accept these changes from NJ Transit.
9:45	R. Glucksman: PTC is coming along very nicely on Metro-North. Less so on the West of Hudson.
10:25	W. Henderson: Membership Update: We have three recommendations out there: 1 Putnam county, 1 City of New Rochelle, 1 City of White Plains. They are still in the Governor's office internal process. It's about a 2 year process to be approved. Just waiting for the signature.
13:22	E. Shannon: Are there cars ordered to run the cut trains in the future? O. Getz: No, it came up but we don't have a straight answer. They're cab cars not train cars. Waiting to hear the response. R. Glucksman: They should use them temporarily to activate during the time. E. Shannon: Are there enough train engineers? R. Glucksman: Not enough engineers, small batches in training. W. Henderson: They are losing people because of the train differentials.
16:20	O. Getz: The Association of Commuter Rail employees had a good idea: have Metro-North personnel in the operating room

METRO-NORTH RAILROAD COMMUTER COUNCIL

-3-

	<p>and have them run the trains on the Port Jervis Line. Has to be discussed with the unions. Metro-North has enough engineers. The biggest problem is they tried to add an afternoon train to the schedule, then couldn't find a train crew to run the train. It took a year to get a crew to run that train. They are going to build a midpoint yard.</p> <p>E. Shannon: When is the agreement between NJ Transit and Metro-North renewed?</p> <p>R Glucksman: It's automatically renewed, unless amended.</p> <p>E. Shannon: Had this been brought up with President Rinaldi? Not yet</p>
20:30	<p>Locomotive Discussion</p> <p>O. Getz: Need new locomotives in the capital program. Port Jervis Line needs a new fleet.</p> <p>Action Item: Resolution for capital plan: MNR needs to purchase 15 additional locomotives, plus whatever the future requirements are needed once the midpoint yard is established.</p>
26:00	<p>Discussion of weather event that disrupted Metro-North service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs intense rail cleaning and brush removal. • Can only cut up on the right-of-way - more than that needs permission. • Local utility needs to shut power down before trees are cut and work be done. It causes a delay. • New tax reduces money utility company pays to federal government
Video Part 2	
00:11	<p>Any ideas to be included in the next capital program?</p> <p>E. Shannon: Discussion on Penn Station Access and opportunity to build stations.</p> <p>Action Item: Schedule MNRCC meeting 2 months in advanced to get people in the room to discuss Penn station access. July 19</p>
3:38	<p>O. Getz: Passenger coaches are becoming a problem. LIRR doesn't have enough, NJ Transit doesn't have enough. Metro-North should look at their fleet and look to get cars</p>

METRO-NORTH RAILROAD COMMUTER COUNCIL

-4-

	from other agencies and overhaul them for use. Get from NJ transit, which only wants the multilevel ones. Action Item: Tell Metro-North to look at buying up old coaches to overhaul and use.
8:04	Adjourned

Action Items

- Resolution for capital plan: MNR needs to purchase 15 additional locomotives, plus whatever the future requirements are needed once the midpoint yard is established. (To Cathy Rinaldi)
- Schedule MNRCC meeting 2 months in advance to get people in the room discuss Penn station access. July 19
- Tell Metro-North to look at buying up old coaches to overhaul and use.

Youtube video links:

[Video Part 1 of 2](#)

[Video Part 2 of 2](#)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

William Henderson
Executive Director