

PERMANENT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE MTA
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 7, 2017

A meeting of the Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee (PCAC) to the MTA was convened at 12:00 noon on Thursday, December 7, 2017 in the 20th Floor Board Room at 2 Broadway, New York City.

The following members were present:

Andrew Albert	Stuart Goldstein
Gerard Bringmann	Christopher Greif
Mark Epstein	Ira Greenberg
Mike Godino	Trudy Mason
Randolph Glucksman	Scott Nicholls
Edith Prentiss	

The following members were absent:

Francena Amparo	Rhonda Herman
Sheila Carpenter	Marisol Halpern
Richard Cataggio	Sharon King Hoge
Francis Corcoran	Raymond Pagano
Orrin Getz	Bryan Peranzo
William Guild	Larry Rubinstein
Burton Strauss, Jr.	

In addition, the following persons were present:

William Henderson	-PCAC Executive Director
Ellyn Shannon	-PCAC Associate Director
Bradley Brashears	-PCAC Planning Manager
Karyl Cafiero	-PCAC Research Associate
Shaun Wong	-PCAC Intern
Craig Schulz	-Amtrak/Gateway
Yvonne Morrow	-Concerned citizen
Eric Wollman	-Concerned citizen
Caroline Todd	-Concerned citizen
Richard Schulman	-Concerned citizen

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Time Point

Video Part 1

06:47 **PCAC Chair's Report (Attached)**

15:24 **LIRRCC Chair's Report**

New signal system being tested at Herald Interlocking is necessary for ESA – discusses slow process of ESA completion, Amtrak East River Tunnel repairs, and Penn Station repairs.

18:40 A. Albert: East River Tunnel work may not begin until 2025. Why would the East River Tunnel work not begin in 2022 after ESA completion?

I. Greenberg: Among things that may not be finished at that time is the bypass tracks for Amtrak. It's possible Amtrak is waiting for everything with ESA to be completed before starting tunnel work.

24:35 **MNRCC Chair's Report**

Slippery rail conditions, flat wheels, trains running with shorter consists.

MNR and Hudson River Valley Greenway held meetings about the proposed Beacon Line trail in MNR territory.

Board approved ESI stations – changing signs at Grand Central and outlying stations to bring them up to 21st century standards.

New timetables on the Port Jervis line.

30:32 C. Greif: Inquires about Hudson Line platform gaps.

A. Albert: We will ask to be updated by MNR about these gaps.

32:05 **Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

The agenda for the 12/7/2017 meeting was approved. The minutes of the 9/8/2017 meeting were approved as amended.

34:22 **NYCTRC Chair's Report**

Subway Action Plan repairs are in full swing.

The ESI moves forward on the Astoria branch.

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RPA's recommendation to close down the subway during nights Monday through Thursdays.

There will be additional service on the 1, 2, 3, N, W lines.

Andy Byford announced as new NYCT President.

Express bus changes open houses in Staten Island – cutting the length of the routes.

New subway performance dashboard that we have advocated for has been released – from the riders' perspective.

Additional countdown clocks on the B Division.

40:42 T. Mason: Is there a possibility of having on-the-street information before you enter the subway?
A. Albert: Yes, this is coming.

42:50 Paratransit issues – Unveiling an E-Hail app pilot.

43:55 W. Henderson: PCAC celebrates 40 years of advocacy. Draft brochure for members to look over before public release.

47:23 ***Old Business (none)***

47:29 ***New Business (none)***

47:35 W. Henderson: PCAC 2018 budget discussion
Emphasis on consultants - interns
Conferences – staff trainings – events (e.g. PCAC/ULI Round Table events)

58:20 PCAC budget approved.

58:35 **Introduction of Guest Speakers: Craig S. Schultz, Gateway Program Communications Lead-Amtrak Planning, Technology & Public Affairs to discuss the Gateway program and its implications for MTA operations and services.**

1:18:45 W. Henderson: Amtrak and NJ Transit have put out their schedules for the construction period, and LIRR has not yet issued theirs.

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- 1:22:16 E. Prentiss: Will this work improve the East River Tunnel evacuation protocol? And the Amtrak platform gaps are a big issue, ramps are too short, and walls make it difficult for wheelchairs to board.
C. Schultz: Yes, the rebuilt tunnel will be improved with better design for emergency egress. Will pass issues with platforms at the existing station on to the correct people to address the gap issue. Also, Moynihan Station will have improved access.
- 1:26:19 A. Albert: Amtrak service is being shifted westward, do the existing platforms extend all the way to 9th Avenue?
C. Schultz: Not sure if they reach 9th Avenue. This is a concourse improvement that doesn't address the tracks and platforms.
A. Albert: With the current stairs, elevators and escalators coming down on the western end. Will the platforms have their taper to a narrower width reduced and will they extend further west?
C. Schultz: It will have to be evaluated, possibly will require EIS. Don't think current work will impact current platforms too much.
- 1:28:55 C. Greif: Need to have a better accessible area at Penn Station. The Red Caps – we need to know where they will be located.
C. Schultz: They are working through those details right now.
- 1:32:52 A. Albert: When do you think a determination is going to be made on the timeframe for the East River Tunnel repairs?
C. Schultz: Don't want to venture a guess at this point. Don't want to give incorrect information.
- 1:34:24 E. Prentiss: How many vehicles/trains go back and forth to be available for different commutation schedules? Is there any consideration to moving some yard space to the other side of the Hudson?
C. Schultz: This is a great question for NJ Transit. Cannot speak for NJT. But the Gateway project includes space for NJ Transit on the New Jersey side of the river. How that yard would be used is unclear.
- 1:38:20 E. Prentiss: What are we doing about intercoms on the elevators? No one answers or they cut you off. Elevator at 168th Street is a problem.
W. Henderson: We have asked NYC Transit to come to NYCTRC to discuss these issues, and we are waiting to hear back from them.

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Youtube Meeting Video: [PCAC Meeting Video](#)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

William Henderson
Executive Director