



# Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2020

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A meeting of the Metro-North Railroad Commuter Council (MNRCC) was convened at 12:00 noon on April 15, 2020 remotely as a Conference call.

## Member Attendance

Randolph Glucksman (Chair)	Phone
Orrin Getz (Vice Chair)	Phone
Francena Amparo	Phone
Richard Cataggio	Phone
Francis T. Corcoran	Phone

## Staff Attendance

Lisa Daglian (Executive Director)	Present
Ellyn Shannon (Associate Director)	Present
Bradley Brashears (Planning Manager)	Present
Sheila Binesh (Transportation Planner)	Present
Deborah Morrison (Administrative Assistant)	Present

## Non-member Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Naomi Klein	Westchester County

*This meeting was held as a conference call*

***Approval of Agenda for April 15, 2020 meeting.***

***Approval of Minutes for February 20, 2020 meeting.***

***Chair's and Board Report attached.***

Update:

- Metro-North has seen over 90% reduction in ridership. Worry about ridership returning.
- MTA needs to figure out what the new normal will be and their financial and operational needs.
- We are hoping to see a review of usage by station and line
- The M3 trains Randy likes are temporarily retired. They mostly run on Harlem line. It remains to be seen if they will return.

N. Klein: We are wondering how the economy will change. People have lost their jobs or will have different jobs. Will jobs encourage telecommuting? We wonder if people will be afraid to ride and the loss in bus ridership will continue.

F. Amparo: The last time I rode was March 12. I am concerned about going back to work on the train and what that looks like. I am wondering if I should drive or take the train. I have the option, but many don't. There is no going back to where we were. Too many unknowns.

## ***Old Business***

Lisa shared the follow up on letter on Francena received on Yankee stadium. There are several unknowns. We will revisit once things start to resume.

## ***New Business***

MTA is trying to keep riders and workers safe. They are giving PPE to workers. Unfortunately, a mechanic in Croton Harman passed away the other day. Metro-North is running essential service. We called for reducing service in the days prior to the switch due to a significant drop in ridership. The return to normal service depends on travel patterns when return to work orders are lifted and riders can come back.

Seven eastern Governors have joined a coalition to discuss regional aspects of reopening the economy. We can't restart the economy without a transportation system. The multistate effort to phase in reopening the economy is good. We will monitor the phases to transition the reopening.

How many train operators are out sick? At Metro-North: 71 tested positive, 460 in quarantine, 345 have returned to work, 1 died, and 2 are in the hospital. Crew availability is not a problem. Randy has called for Metro-North to reduce service due to ridership drops.

O. Getz: NJ Transit adopted a policy that only 50% of seats can be occupied. Now the MTA is also requiring riders to wear masks, like NJT.

N. Klein: As of March 21, we went to rear door boarding, like MTA. We stopped collecting fares and blocked off the first 2-3 seats to protect bus drivers. As of April 1, we went to an enhanced

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Saturday schedule. Saturday service is half the amount of service of a weekday. We also have half of our riders on Saturdays. We identified certain routes with lots of riders and demand servicing hospital and added some service back. We have lost 80% of riders. We used to have 95-100k riders and now we have 20k. We have had a huge revenue hit. Due to union obligations, all drivers still get paid. Still figuring out how to phase back in service and what routes are more important. Too many unknowns. Even the timing to plan on. We are only saving on fuel and wear and tear on buses.

Crews on sick leave? We have to report that to the FTA: As of April 13, we have 28 confirmed cases of 700 employees, others are calling in sick. Service gets disrupted. Masks are not required yet. How to enforce wearing masks?

O. Getz: My doctor gave me some masks.

**Action item: Lisa follow up on new members.**

R. Glucksman: Sound the Horn for MTA workers at 3pm tomorrow.

Next Wednesday is the MTA Board and Committee meeting  
Someone from our Council should speak to say our gratitude for transit workers – Francena was asked and accepted.

### *MTA Funding*

MTA asked for and received nearly \$4 billion in Federal stimulus funds. This is good, but a low number. We are working with advocates to put together a realistic number that is needed. We are making sure there isn't underfunding. We will support the MTA in what they ask for. We want that to be robust enough to meet the agency's needs due to revenue losses now and into the future.

O. Getz: We can discuss the items in your Chair's report at next meeting.

### **Action Items**

- Lisa will follow up with the Governor's office on new members updates

***Adjourned***

### [Recording of meeting](#)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Daglian  
Executive Director