



Meeting Minutes of October 8, 2020

A meeting of the Long Island Rail Road Commuter Council (LIRRCC) was convened at 4:30 pm on Thursday, October 8, 2020 via Zoom.

Member Attendance

Gerard P. Bringmann (Chair)	Present
Sheila Carpenter	Absent
Bryan Peranzo	Present
Marilyn Poterson	Absent
Larry Rubinstein (Vice Chair)	Present

Staff Attendance

Lisa Daglian (Executive Director)	Present
Ellyn Shannon (Associate Director)	Absent
Bradley Brashears (Planning Manager)	Absent
Sheila Binesh (Transportation Planner)	Present
Shaul Picker (Research Intern)	Present

Non-member Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Hector Garcia	LIRR
Matt Kamper	Concerned citizen
Andrew Pollack	Concerned citizen
Jason Anthony	Concerned citizen

LIRRCC MINUTES

2

Approval of Agenda for October 8, 2020 meeting. Approval of Minutes for August 13, 2020 meeting.

Chair's Report

Vote on Proposed Bylaws Revision: LIRRCC Appointment to MTA Board. This item was moved at the August 13, 2020 LIRRCC Meeting. It was approved.

Hector Garcia, LIRR External Affairs

Financial Update

H. Garcia: Because of funding uncertainty, all discussion of staff cuts or reductions in service are on hold. The Capital Program remains on pause aside from projects already funded, including Third Track and ESA.

COVID-19 Update

H. Garcia: We had our second railroad employee pass away last week from COVID. There had been no positive cases since July.

G. Bringmann: We have had complaints on a few trains about mask compliance. If I could give you a couple trains, could you take a look at the issue?

H. Garcia: There was one train someone complained about yesterday, and the police showed up a few days in a row. It doesn't seem to be the same people doing it.

B. Peranzo: Where are they getting the compliance percentage from?

H. Garcia: We have people walking through the trains and doing visual inspections. On a train with complaints, we had managers shadowing the crews, and they found people would put their masks on when conductors came by, and would pull them back down. Hempstead is a station with a non-compliance issue.

G. Bringmann: Could you provide an update about air filtration systems and how it is being handled?

H. Garcia: The system brings in fresh air every five minutes and circulates it, in addition to when doors open. We feel very comfortable that the air is sufficiently clean.

Work on Nassau 3 Interlocking will continue through November. Last week we had the School Street underpass put in. Next month, we will close Willets Avenue in Mineola. All the projects that will be closed as part of the project will be done by next summer.

J. Anthony: I have noticed that NICE buses are very crowded, and wonder if the Rail Road could provide shuttle buses between Mineola and Hicksville, and whether the shuttle bus for Oyster Bay riders could go to Garden City instead of to Mineola, since it would be safer for commuters, as NICE bus does not run overnight.

LIRRCC MINUTES

3

A. Pollack: Could you look into the eastern staircase at Auburndale, which was chipping, and the broken plates on the stairwell at the Mineola Intermodal parking garage?

Action item: Follow up on staircase conditions at Auburndale and Mineola

Old Business

WageWorks Refund

It looks like we may have some movement on the refund, and we have one Democratic and one Republican congressional member from Long Island looking to push the IRS on the issue. There are people trying to sell their tickets at discount prices at stations to make up some of their funds.

Parking licenses

We got the information we requested, which was distributed to the Council members.

New Business

L. Rubinstein: I would like to see if there was an uptick in Bridges and Tunnels traffic, with lower ridership on the railroad.

L. Daglian: Ridership usage is down 10% this week up until yesterday, when it saw the same usage as yesterday.

H. Garcia: The railroad has been hovering between 27-and-28% on weekdays in the last two months, and in the 40s and 50s percent range on the weekends.

L. Rubinstein: I took a train into the city the other day, and saw many people wearing their masks not over their noses. They would put it up after the conductor asked them to fix it, and pulled it down after they passed.

L. Daglian: There was an announcement at every stop on my Metro-North train to remind riders that masks are mandatory. I am not sure if this is the case on the LIRR.

H. Garcia: We are making announcements more frequently, but I am not sure whether it is at every stop.

L. Daglian: Do you know when we can reschedule our East Side Access tour? We were supposed to go in March.

Action item: Reschedule East Side Access tour (update: tours are not being rescheduled at this time due to COVID)

L. Rubinstein: Until a reliable vaccine is out there, people will not go back to using the Rail Road.

L. Daglian: We just looked at a Harvard Business School study than anticipated that 16% of office workers would return to the office in the next number of months.

LIRRCC MINUTES

4

Action items:

- **Follow up on staircase conditions at Auburndale and Mineola**
- **Reschedule East Side Access tour**

Adjourned

Meeting recording: [Link](#)

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Daglian
Executive Director