



Meeting Minutes of November 1, 2018

A meeting of the Long Island Rail Road Commuter Council (LIRRCC) was convened at 4:30 pm on November 1, 2018 in the Transportation Service Conference RM, 1 Penn Plaza New York, New York.

Member Attendance

Mark Epstein (Chair)	Present
Gerard P. Bringmann (Vice Chair)	Present
Sheila Carpenter	Absent
Michael Godino	Absent
Ira Greenberg	Present
Raymond Pagano	Absent
Bryan Peranzo	Present
Marilyn Poterson	Present
Larry Rubinstein	Absent

Staff Attendance

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

Non-member Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Phil Eng	LIRR
Hector Garcia	LIRR

**Approval of Agenda for November 1, 2018 meeting.
Approval of Minutes for October 11, 2018 meeting.**

Chair's Report attached.

Board Report:

- Impacts of PTC:
 - No schedule of when PTC on other branches will be implemented
 - Metro-North has service impacts due to PTC
 - MNR has better performance (OTP), but LIRR equipment is performing better.
 - Need to relay information of PTC schedules and impacts to riders
- Third Track moving at full speed
- Tell riders why (NYCT) staircase at Penn Station are closed
- Community information center opening in Mineola
- Fare Hearings are coming up

Phil Eng on LIRR Winter Preparation

Started in April as part of improving performance plans to be more proactive & address delays

- Enhanced training of engineers
- Minimize slip slide
- Remove leaves that cause low adhesion
- Doubling the pressure and speed (from 9 to 15 mph) of track washes
- New low-cost tech: The laser leaf cutting pilot will begin next week.
- Tree overgrowth cleaning: 177 miles of track cleaned
- Partnering with PSG to identify and replace 80 utility poles; 76 are finished
- Statewide emergency center at NYDOT
- Add 60 new snow switch covers by this month
- Double Track gives more resiliency and redundancy
- Add Third Track rail heaters to address freezing storms.
- Insulate manholes (along Atlantic Branch in BK) to prevent salt and water intrusions

M. Epstein: In the past there were problems getting equipment needed.

P. Eng: I just had a meeting with the whole team (including OP) to ask if there is anything we need that we don't have. They said no. Equipment is in place and functioning. Asked for a full inquiry, and will look at it again.

It's about how to manage resources during mid-size storms. People should know 3 hours in advanced about early trains and last trains.

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Clearing Snow at Parking Lots

M. Epstein: What about station snow and ice clearing?

P. Eng: We have been discussing how to prioritize that: depending on direction of travel and time of day. Same workers who clean platforms, also monitor tracks. We are working on how to prioritize.

M. Epstein: Is it possible to outsource the station clearing during bad storms?

P. Eng: I will sit down with unions and in-house to discuss. A few years ago NYDOT supported LIRR with clearing of parking lots.

M. Epstein: Before storm, reach out to local municipalities to remove snow from parking lots.

P. Eng: We need to have the point of contact for all the lots to ask them to clear and check in again to see if they were cleared.

I. Greenberg: There should be penalties. The LIRR should have a legislation that if towns don't clear the lots, they won't receive parking lot revenue for a year.

P. Eng: Parking is in the 5-year program. Since every parking lot has paving, cleaning, lighting, & snow plow needs, I'm thinking of putting out a county-wide (or other) contract to leverage quantity to get better pricing. Locals can use that contract if it's good for them. It would leverage buying power.

M. Epstein: Our Op-Ed calls for a parking authority to oversee and be point of contact.

Parking Policy

P. Eng: I've been discussing that, since everyone says LIRR is responsible. I've been pushing staff on parking. I'd like to update all the maps to put local regulations, say if parking is permitted or free, and say how many spots are available at parking lots. I'd like to leverage technology to improve the experiences.

Another thing is first and last mile. We want to work with the local towns on shuttles or bikes to stations.

L. Daglian: Have you looked at best practices from Metro-North's parking policy and their addition of Zip Car.

P. Eng: I have not yet spoken to Cathy Rinaldi. Zip car and for-hire-vehicles are options for us too. We spoke to NICE bus about on-call bus service to support some stations. They are doing it for some of their routes.

H. Garcia: They are using a bus service app to pick you up on the corner and circulate around. NICE bus is testing in Great Neck and will expand to Port Washington.

Mineola Parking App

P. Eng: You can choose a parking spot and pay for it on your phone. You can add time/ money on the app and will be notified when the time is up.

H. Garcia: It was released this morning. 100 people downloaded it and of the 900 parking spots, 50 people payed using the app. Wyandanch is next.

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Update on M9s

P. Eng: The M9s are in testing now. We are pushing Kawasaki on delivery. The extra amenities will be good for customers. Looking to procure cars differently from this one. It should be plug and play. First 92 M9s, then 110 additional. The M3s will continue to be used because we don't have the luxury to get rid of them. The work on the thresholds plates on the M7s has been accelerated and reliability has gone up (door issues). Looking for diesel coaches for summer. The next program will focus on the fleet. Yes, you can view them before they are released.

Recommendation at Wyandanch

M. Epstein:

- Station hour signs, even outside. (every station)
- Signs for platform/track 'A, B' outside the waiting room and at the crossover.
- Outlet covers

P. Eng: We are going to add a shelter shed platform on the westbound side of Central Islip. We are waiting to relocate a shelter shed from Brentwood as we replace those. It will be completed by the end of November. We also want to add a pedestrian crossing, but that is more challenging. I asked to see if ticket machines should be moved to the other side. I can't do much about the vendor.

Bikes on Trains

M. Epstein: There should be announcements and enforcement on trains about bikes.

P. Eng: I am looking at bike racks at stations because we do want people to get to/from stations differently.

B. Peranzo: They eliminated bike racks and lock boxes at Hicksville during construction but didn't use that space.

H. Garcia: Usually it's DOT property, towns might have removed because they don't want to maintain them or they aren't being used.

Update on Hicksville

H. Garcia: Major work is done, some small work is being done at staircase.

B. Peranzo: Signage is too far apart and colors are not ADA complaint. There are no ticket machines or signage in the west tunnel.

Meet the Council Event

M. Epstein: Since we have openings
Push on LIRR Social media sites and LIRR posters

Updates

H. Garcia: ESI is winding down. Some work still at Syosset.

M. Epstein: Farmingdale is a vocal community. The PA speaker at the station is not working there.

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We are at an end of a capital program. Finishing up and not much new, beside Third Track. Some new grade crossings. Aggressively replacing switching and addressing drainage

Brooklyn shuttle: Platform F is still being built but we are looking to minimize transfers for Brooklyn service.

G. Bringmann: What will happen at Hunters Point?

P. Eng: It should grow and it should be a proper terminal.

L. Daglian: There's a 130 million infrastructure investment in Long Island City that was announced yesterday, there were no rail or transit projects. Can you pull yourself to the table?

P. Eng: I need to figure out how. It would be better if they tried. I don't have new money to come in.

L. Daglian: It's a great value capture opportunity.

P. Eng: Same on Long Island. We need private sector support. We should be at the table from the beginning.

I. Greenberg: The Sunnyside station proposal part of East Side Access by Queens Plaza on the Mainline might be in the next capital program. Problem is, it is by the Queensboro bridge.

L. Daglian: What is on the horizon for the CP and what role can we play

P. Eng:

- Central Branch electrification will give operational flexibility.
- Electrification across the whole system.
- Huntington standees is an issue
- We need more yard space.
- Focusing on making all stations accessible
- Identify other revenue streams (value capture)

Businesses in Stations

H. Garcia: There has been resistance from Long Island communities that the vendors at stations will take adjacent customers. There's an RFP out for a business to take over and keep the waiting rooms open at 5 LIRR stations.

E. Shannon: Is East New York in the next capital program?

Yes

L. Daglian: L train transfer?

Murray Hill & Bedford Nostrand will be accessible soon.

Discussion on new fare payment and how to make the transition smooth.

Cameras on trains

H. Garcia: Security cameras are only viewed if necessary. They are erased eventually, roughly 30 days. Only the security team has access to them when an incident is reported. No audio capability. There are cameras on platforms, but need more capabilities to look into tunnels. The LIRR reports slip-side and miss-platform issues themselves.

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Discussion on announcements on trains about direction and next stations before doors close.

G. Bringmann: Is building a new station at 110 Republic in the capital program?

P. Eng: The property is polluted and the Town pulled their planning process, but would have been a good opportunity for value capture. It needs to be well-connected.

Final points

- Amtrak work in 2019 program
- Investment in LIRR
- Improve OTP
- Weekend family ticket
- Loyalty program

Adjourned

Action Items

- Ira send PTC schedule
- Formally call for parking authority
- Follow up about meet the council event and post opening on social media
- Set up next meeting in Mineola

Youtube Video links:

[Part 1](#)

[Part 2](#)

[Part 3](#)

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Daglian
Executive Director