



Meeting Minutes of

April 4, 2019

A meeting of the Long Island Rail Road Commuter Council (LIRRCC) was convened at 4:30 pm on April 4, 2019 in the Transportation Service Conference RM, 1 Penn Plaza New York, New York.

Member Attendance

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

Staff Attendance

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|---|---------|
| 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> |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Matthew Kessler | Concerned citizen |

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Approval of Agenda for Thursday, April 4, 2018 meeting.
Approval of Minutes for Thursday, February 14, 2018 meeting.

Chair's Report attached.

Member Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair

Elections are every two years. L. Rubinstein nominates Mark Epstein as Chair and Gerry Bringmann as Vice Chair. M. Poterson seconds. Motion carries. Proxy votes are in from Michael Godino and Bryan Peranzo. Elections take place at the LIRRCC meeting in May. The vote for the position of PCAC Second Vice Chair, which has been vacant since the departure of Ira Greenberg, will take place at the PCAC meeting on June 6.

Old Business

LIRR Stations

City Council member Daniel Dromm representing Jackson Heights is asking about what happened to Elmhurst station? He can ask the LIRR directly. If it's not in the current or following capital plan, he should advocate vote for it. He said it was budgeted for. **Inquire about.**

We have been asked to be part of the discussion of rebuilding a new station at Belmont. Our stance is our main concern is that there are they are enough transportation options for riders.

There is work going on the main staircases to the platform at Belmore station causing riders to have to walk around to the other side to get to the platform.

L. Daglian: The Governor touted today at a lunch that in the next four years the LIRR double track, 3rd track, and 39 new stations will be completed. **Clarification:** this refers to the number that will have been renovated, not new construction.

LIRRCC Material

Please send Sheila Binesh feedback on the LIRR Tips and Tricks pamphlet and the PCAC FAQ. We will add the mylirr.org app to the tips list. **Member Action Item: send feedback on material.**

Meet the Council Event

We would like to hold an event in May, but we need members to commit. **Action Item: Please let us know what day and times work best.** At these events we engage riders and take information and concerns. When we do our events, we compile complaints and send them to the LIRR, but today the LIRR is there to hear them directly. At today's Meet the President event, we are there to introduce the Council and gather emails.

New Business

LIRRCC Field Trip

The LIRR has offered a tour of improvements being made at Penn Station. Ideally, outside of rush hour. **Action Item: Details to decide on the date and time of the tour:** in lieu of meeting, before the meeting, or on another day/time.

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L. Rubinstein: There is no signage on the 7th Ave side of Penn Station indicating that the station or the LIRR is there. Mark urges Larry to join the Penn Station tour to comment on entrance signage.

The NY State Budget

There are still several details to uncover. There will be money coming to Long Island, once the congestions pricing plan details are sorted out. The Governor and new MTA chair, Pat Foye, say congestion pricing will fund the next Capital Program. It must bring in \$15 billion dollars bonded. However, the path to the goal is unknown. This amount includes the startup cost. The contract the board received a few months ago indicated the reader technology would need to go to through the NEPA process, which adds on a year and a half to implementation.

On-Time Performance Metrics

The budget included changing the LIRR on-time performance metrics from a train arriving 5:59 to 2 minutes later to be considered late. We have been fighting for this for a long time – for the LIRR to be honest when trains are late. This was a recommendation in our Minutes Matter report. We will be watching closely for the impacts on riders – in terms of holding connections.

20% LIRR Monthly Fare Discount for North East Queens

This was not publically discussed. Some riders are confused as North East Queens riders currently have a shorter and cheaper ride. A provision in last year's budget, which included phase 1 of congestion pricing, created an outer-borough transit fund. The discount may be part of it. There was \$25 million set aside for the capital program in this year's budget. The discount was a surprise to the Rail Road and Governor's office. Newsday hasn't covered it, as it potentially may be a premature first step to get what they want.

New MTA Additions

Pat Foye, the new chairman, was previously at the Port Authority and was a Long Island MTA Board representative. As an LIRR rider, he understands rider issues.

Mitch Pally, long term Suffolk MTA board member, was replaced by Kevin Law, the head of the Long Island Association. He will be very business oriented. New Nassau County MTA board member, David Mack, was on the board years ago and was removed, but is back on. We would like to **invite both these board members and the new chairman to come to our meetings**. Elisa Picca is retiring from the LIRR and Hector Garcia will be taking over additional responsibilities.

New Members

Mark will be meeting with someone tomorrow who expressed interest in the Suffolk county position on our council. Nassau County has an opening. Queens will be soon filled. Please get the word out to regular riders who have interest in joining.

The Nassau County Executive was very open to us when Mark met with her, as her husband is a regular rider. We discussed parking issues at Long Island stations.

Lisa has reached out to the Governor's appointments office and asked them to send a flow chart of the process. She would like the Governor to replace Rhonda Herman's spot on the MNRCC quickly, as she will be a new MTA board member. Hopefully they will advance our vacant LIRRCC spots too.

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Senator Schumer

We are working on an issue with US Senator Schumer's office. He has been good at doing press conferences with us. He takes our issues seriously.

For-Hire Vehicle (FHV) Surge Pricing

On the day of the incident near Hicksville, Uber and Lyft prices were not regulated and were drastically increased due to surge pricing. There should be a cap on surge pricing, but that is a bigger discussion. Action Item: **We should confirm the story and ask the County to investigate.** Mark will meet with them. The problem with regulating the cost is that rules are set by each town.

Adjourned

Action Items

- Ask Council for Penn Station Tour date & time details
- Ask Council to commit to Meet the Council event in May
- Ask Council for feedback on LIRR Brochures
- Confirm and talk to County(s) about investigating FHV surge pricing
- Elmhurst station update to NYC Council member Daniel Dromm

Youtube Video links: [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#)

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM and members convened to the Meet the President event in Penn Station.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Daglian
Executive Director