



Meeting Minutes of

May 14, 2020

A meeting of the Long Island Rail Road Commuter Council (LIRRCC) was convened at 4:30 pm on Thursday, May 14, 2020 via webinar/telephone.

Member Attendance

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

Staff Attendance

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

Non-member Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Hector Garcia	LIRR
Christopher Greif	NYCTRC
Matt Kamper	Concerned citizen
Rose Mascali	Transit Solutions
Lisa Belinsky	Transit Solutions
Matt Kessler	Concerned citizen
Andrew Pollack	Concerned citizen
Charlton D'Souza	Concerned citizen
Debra Greif	Concerned citizen
Jason Anthony	Concerned Citizen

***Approval of Agenda for May 14, 2020 meeting.
Approval of Minutes for April 2, 2020 meeting.***

PCAC Staff Report

- \$3.9 billion in Federal funding is starting to come in to the MTA from the CARES Act
- The MTA has asked for an additional \$4 billion in the HEROS Act for operations to get through 2020, and hazard pay. It was passed in the US House, but not the US Senate.
- MTA anticipates a \$10 billion need to get through 2021 so, the capital program and lockbox doesn't get robbed.
- New signals will be installed between Babylon and Patchogue

Hector Garcia, LIRR External Affairs: LIRR COVID-19 responses

Preparation for Long Island entering Phase 1 in 2 weeks.

We are only providing essential service and will add service when things open up and riders return. We are not adding service for Memorial Day weekend.

Social distancing

Six feet of distance might not be possible on trains as riders return. It will depend on peoples' social habits, like wearing masks and cleaning hands. There have been discussions of metering, but that might not be feasible for running the same amount of service and at Penn Station.

Cleaning

Trains are cleaned every 24 hours and stations are cleaned twice every 24 hours. We are testing antimicrobial cleaning products that stay on surfaces for 30-60 days and UV light technology to disinfect. These are in addition to our normal cleaning schedules.

Mask enforcement

The public needs to do their part of wearing proper face coverings and the police aren't enforcing. Employees should be wearing masks. Conductors remind riders with announcements and messaging to get the word out.

Fares

Currently, there are only off-peak fares because we are only offering off-peak level of service. We have gotten requests to change fares and the refund policy. We are waiting to see our financial impact before we make any decisions.

Memorial Day Weekend

We are working with Suffolk County; they have a task force with ferry companies and Discover Long Island and are in contact with hotels and beaches. As of now, things are not fully open, but we are preparing for that. We don't want to say we are adding trains and encourage people to ride.

LIRRCC MINUTES

3

Construction

We are taking advantage of less service and trains to conduct track repair, paving, grade crossing elimination, and state of good repair work. Third track is progressing aggressively. New Hyde Park Road will be done in July. East Side Access is continuing and on time.

Penn Station construction is continuing and on schedule to finish at the end of the year. It could appear as if less work is going on because supervision is being done remotely and only essential people are on site.

M. Kamper: What is the status of the Cannonball Ticket? Will Glen Cove Road will be done in June?

H. Garcia: Yes, it will be done in June. All summer tourism packages are not essential and on hold. Staff is required to program and coordinate these packages. Once things reopen it will take some time to prepare.

L. Rubenstein: What are the unions' feeling about going back into operations?

H. Garcia: Admin employees are telecommuting. The labor workforce is still out there working. Early on we had employees infected, but since implementing safety measure and making accommodations to allow for social distancing and keep workers safe, infections have reduced.

M. Epstein: Is collection in full force? Recently, my ticket has not been collected.

H. Garcia: We have been pushing for ticket collection and enforcement. Passengers can get belligerent.

Ticket refunds

The refund policy the same. You are entitled to more refund if you submit and prove you stopped working at an earlier date.

M. Epstein: Some monthly ticket might have been forwarded from a different address.

H. Garcia: It is a case by case basis, based on when the person stopped work.

G. Bringmann: Some riders haven't received their monthly ticket refunds for the following month, is there a shortage of employees processing refunds?

H. Garcia: Not all our working force is back, there is a call-in date cut off to process refunds.

M. Epstein: Extending 10-trip validity?

H. Garcia: We are currently not in a position to extend. It has to be an MTA-wide decision. Two years ago, the validity date was extended for 2 years.

C. D'Souza: Is Atlantic Ticket being extended? Clarification of Outer-borough transit discount?

H. Garcia: That discount is based on a toll revenue which is low, so it is on hold. This is revisited in 90-day periods.

B. Peranzo: Is there an update on the Taxi space usage inspection?

Action item: Follow up with David Florio about taxi space inspection and if it was taken into consideration during contract renegotiation.

M. Epstein: Are you in coordination with Towns about reopening parking?

LIRRCC MINUTES

4

H. Garcia: We will reach out to counties when they reopen. They previously said they are not enforcing. Wyandanch is still charging for usage.

R. Mascali: Is there any word on reopening and cleaning? How cautious should riders be and when is it not safe to ride? Will monthly tickets be worth it for the new reality of commuting? The anxiety about safety will drive people to cars.

H. Garcia: We will emphasize what we are doing to keep riders safe: Cleaning and the importance of wearing masks and practicing good hygiene. Social distancing will be difficult to maintain, so it will rely on mask wearing. We are working on tips to help riders to stay safe. The LIRR is hemorrhaging and can't change fares on short notice, need to hold public hearings.

G. Bringmann: The Atlantic ticket should be reviewed, not necessarily be made permanent.

C. D'Souza: There should be a reduced ticket fare for all riders travelling to Atlantic Terminal. There needs to be regional approach. Ridership is lower on that branch and has enough capacity. Trains running overnight are empty. City ticket should apply overnight. Cross honoring tickets were only free between Penn Station and Jamaica. It should apply between zone 3 to go to Rosedale, Queens Village, or Bayside.

C. Grief: Atlantic Ticket is gaining popularity. Will hand sanitizer be provided?

H. Garcia: Yes

G. Bringmann: Are employees getting COVID-19 testing?

H. Garcia: Yes, we expect the new Antibody testing program to be running by Monday. To clarify, it is for the antibody testing; COVID-19 testing has been available to employees.

Discussion of air ventilation and filtration on-board trains.

C. D'Souza: Is there fresh or recycled air on-board? If someone is infected is that air stuck inside? Is the bathroom air circulated or can it spread around the vehicle? Are you testing for particles traveling through the bathroom? Misting spray after bathroom use?

H. Garcia: The air is cleaned and filtered. The spread is mostly from people to people contact.

L. Rubinstein: No units, homes, or buildings draw outside air, besides personal cars. The bathroom is same as the rest of the train. You just need to wear a mask.

Adjourned

Action Items

- **Follow up with David Florio about taxi space inspection and if it was taken into consideration during re-negotiation.**

Meeting recording

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Daglian
Executive Director