



Meeting Minutes of

August 13, 2020

A meeting of the Long Island Rail Road Commuter Council (LIRRCC) was convened at 4:30 pm on Thursday, August 13, 2020 via virtual conference call.

Member Attendance

Gerard P. Bringmann (Chair)	Present
Sheila Carpenter	Absent
Bryan Peranzo	Present
Marilyn Poterson	Present
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
Will Fisher	LIRR
Sunny Zheng	LIRR
Ryan O'Connor	LIRR
Matt Kamper	Concerned citizen
Andrew Pollack	Concerned citizen
Charlton D'Souza	Concerned citizen
Jason Anthony	Concerned citizen
Ron Troy	Concerned citizen

LIRRCC MINUTES

2

Approval of Agenda for August 13, 2020 meeting. Approval of Minutes for July 9, 2020 meeting.

Vote to Advance Proposed Bylaws Revision: LIRRCC Appointment to MTA Board

Presentation: TrainTime App Update by Will Fisher, LIRR Chief Innovation Officer

L. Daglian: Is historical loading active on the app?

W. Fisher: It will be on the app in the next couple of weeks.

L. Rubinstein: On the app I see it says train arrived three minutes earlier. Is operating trains early a policy?

S. Zheng: If you see it in the app, it is already the case, and is in the schedule.

The feature showing where trains will stop on the platform is disabled east of Huntington, Ronkonkoma, and Speonk due the variability of stopping positions.

C. D'Souza: Is there a way to show if cars are locked by conductors and restrooms are broken?

S. Zheng: We don't have data for broken restrooms. We are getting data that should allow us to infer when cars are locked. We will hopefully have this functionality within the next few weeks.

M. Kamper: Do you know when the diesel fleet will have it available?

S. Zheng: It will be available in a few weeks, this fall.

J. Anthony: Could notifications for a particular train that is delayed or cancelled be done via push notifications?

W. Fisher: That is something we are working on. We are trying to find out how to do it in a way that is tasteful, without overwhelming people with alerts.

R. O'Connor: We are also looking at ETA notifications by train, which will allow you to get notifications to let you know when a train gets within 5 minutes of where you are.

S. Zheng: Email alerts aren't identified with specific trains. They are just text and it would be a bit of a lift. We are working on it.

Chair's PCAC Staff Report

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

Penn Station Renovation Update

LIRRCC MINUTES

3

H. Garcia: In December, the new 33rd Street entrance will be open. Work on phase 2 of the project, which will widen and raise the corridor, will start early next year and be completed in 2023. Moynihan will open at the end of this year.

Storm Response and Recovery

H. Garcia: Over 200 trees were downed, knocking down poles. Most branches were affected.

COVID-19 Update

H. Garcia: We are still operating 90% of normal service and don't anticipate adding service unless there is a significant ridership increase.

L. Rubinstein: Is the regular schedule of cleaning trains being maintained and can it be maintained if the schedule gets back to normal?

H. Garcia: Trains are still being sanitized every 24 hours, and stations twice a day. We will see if the schedule gets increased, which would make it more difficult.

While only providing 90% of service we have been able to avoid using M3s. However, following the downing of many trees and fallen leaves, trains got a lot of flat wheels and had to be taken out of service, requiring the return of some M3s.

C. D'Souza: We are happy that the LIRR is offering essential workers free service to Zone 3 stations during the overnight subway shutdowns. It is only posted on the LIRR service alerts page. This should be mentioned in the essential connector app and page as well.

H. Garcia: It is in place during the overnight outage. We are doing it quietly without advertising.

Action item: Ask about having the free LIRR overnight service for essential workers traveling in Zone 3 mentioned in the app.

C. D'Souza: What is the LIRR going to do to avoid mistakes that left riders stranded during the hurricane shutdown?

H. Garcia: This is something we have to work on.

M9 Delivery Date Update

H. Garcia: 62 M9s have been conditionally accepted and are operating. The order is delayed as the manufacturing plant shut down for several weeks, and European suppliers shut down due to COVID-19.

Old Business

Refund Fee

H. Garcia: If there are extenuating circumstances, public affairs might be able to help people.

LIRRCC MINUTES

4

L. Daglian: Many people who have WageWorks are not able to stop withdrawals, but are stuck with cards that are only usable for transit-related uses. It would be helpful to gather stories of people you know to create a regional database to share with elected officials.

G. Bringmann: I have been seeing people offering to buy tickets for other people, like a monthly for Ronkonkoma, and sell it for 70%, to get at least that portion of it back. I am not sure if people are taking the offers. People have hundreds of dollars and are trying to get it back.

L. Rubinstein: The company I worked with that was withdrawing those funds sent me a check and a tax form back. If you contact the administrator, we have a group called Insuperity, there are provisions New York State set up for people who have a lot of money sitting around. It is good for a year.

New Business

L. Rubinstein: Are there any update from the Governor's office?

L. Daglian: They have received Gerry's submission, but are shorthanded now. There have been conversations about moving members forward from both county executive offices, but nothing has progressed yet.

C. D'Souza: I would like to know why there is not a policy during shutdowns and storms to call NICE and have them cross-honor LIRR service so riders are not left stranded. The VP of NICE told us on the date of the storm that the LIRR did not bother to ask for cross-honoring.

Action item: Ask about the LIRR's procedures for asking NICE to cross-honor.

R. Troy: At Northport there are only 2 digital displays, and they can't be read from the middle of the platform. Trains regularly stop in different places, either because people steal the signs that indicate train stopping positions, or due to a joke by engineers to have people run down the platform 2-3 car lengths. This has gone on since I began being a regular LIRR rider in 1992.

Action item: Ask about digital displays at Northport and about the stopping places issue.

Adjourned

Action Items

- ***Action item: Ask about having the free LIRR overnight service for essential workers traveling in Zone 3 mentioned in the app.***
- ***Ask about the LIRR's procedures for asking NICE to cross-honor.***
- ***Ask about digital displays at Northport and about the stopping places issue.***

Meeting recording

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

LIRRCC MINUTES

5

Lisa Daglian
Executive Director