



Meeting Minutes of October 15, 2020

A meeting of the Metro-North Railroad Commuter Council (MNRCC) was convened at 10:00 a.m. on October 15, 2020 via Zoom.

Member Attendance

Randolph Glucksman (Chair)	Present
Orrin Getz (Vice Chair)	Present
Francena Amparo	Present
Richard Cataggio	Present
Francis T. Corcoran	Present

Staff Attendance

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

Non-member Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Ralph Spielman	Concerned citizen
Andrew Pollack	Concerned citizen
Jason Alexander	Concerned Citizen

Approval of Agenda for October 15, 2020 meeting.

Approval of Minutes for July 23, 2020 meeting.

Approved Bylaws revision

Chair's and Board Report attached.

L. Daglian: We will continue to follow up with the letter to the editor submission and continue to be engaged in the conversation on the national and local levels about Federal funding.

R. Glucksman: There is not much to report. Ridership is still significantly down.

Old Business

L. Daglian: The MTA's financial state is getting worse by the day. It is looking at borrowing money through the Municipal Liquidity Facility. At the advocacy level, we have been looking for ways to extend the fund, so it does not end at the end of the year, to lower the interest rate, to end the borrowing cap, and increase the dollar amount that can be borrowed. Since New York State was declared an anarchist state, it is not eligible to FTA funds for research into COVID. There is a lawsuit being developed by several Attorneys General.

The hearings for fare increases get a lot of comments and attention. The MTA budget is usually released in November and voted on in December and includes information on anticipated revenue from fare hikes and tolls. There has been some discussion about whether it would be voted on in November.

New Business

L. Daglian: It would make sense to reach out to State Senators Otis and Abinanti after Election Day. We reached out to Amy Paulin today. Her research into the gas tax came back significantly lower than the nearly billion dollars that Sheila's review estimated. We will continue to have a conversation with Paulin.

Action item: Set up meetings with Assembly members Otis and Abinanti

I would like to introduce our newest intern, Gav, who is working with Bradley on a project about resiliency in the MTA and how the COVID crisis is affecting the agency's resilience plans and projects.

There was some news about businesses in Grand Central who are unable to make their rent. They had threatened the MTA with a lawsuit. The MTA just announced they would do revenue-based rent instead of a flat fee and will extend it to the Turnstyle Underground Market in Columbus Circle.

MNRCC MINUTES

3

Adjourned

Action Items

- ***Set up meetings with Assembly members Otis and Abinanti***

Meeting recording: [link](#)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Daglian
Executive Director