



A virtual meeting of the Metro-North Railroad Commuter Council (MNRCC) was convened at 1:00 p.m. on November 12, 2020 via Zoom.

Member Attendance

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

Staff Attendance

Lisa Daglian (Executive Director)	Present
Bradley Brashears (Planning Manager)	Absent
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
Walter Zullig	Concerned citizen
Andy Pollack	Concerned citizen
Jim Cameron	Concerned citizen

Chair's and Board Report attached.

R. Glucksman: Trains east of Hudson are under PTC, except for the Waterbury Branch, which is under exception and will get it next year. Amtrak trains and freight trains east of Hudson are interoperable with PTC. The extended revenue service date has been in effect on the Pascack Valley Line since September, and will take effect on the Port Jervis Line in December. As of Monday, ridership is down 78% weekdays, and down 58% and 56% on Saturdays and Sundays.

New Business

PCAC White Paper: Getting Riders Back On-Board

L. Daglian: Since April, Sheila has worked on a white paper that looks at best practices on other systems, what the MTA is doing, and what it could be doing. A lot of it is in the context of funding, and she developed a list of questions. We reached out to the presidents of the railroads and had productive conversations with them. We are expecting a December 1 release for her report.

S. Binesh: We are going to be meeting with each of the agency heads to discuss the paper. It goes over things that would make riders feel safe to return, like cleaning, face covering, giving riders more information about their trips, like crowding, increasing transparency in rider dashboards, and improving bus service.

L. Daglian: Metro-North, in addition to launching the improved app, which will include crowding data like the LIRR's app, will be looking at, as part of a hackathon, ways to incentive spreading out ridership.

Old Business

R. Glucksman: We were hoping for a new administration, which happened, but we will need approval from both houses of Congress to get funding. It does not look like the Senate is interested in doing anything. While the LIRR and MNR got additional federal funding for COVID-19-related research, NYCT has not, since New York City was deemed an anarchist jurisdiction.

L. Daglian: While it might be overturned in the courts, the MTA did not want to harm the railroads' opportunity to get a grant. I am going to follow up with County Executive Latimer's office and contact Putnam County's County Executive about board vacancies. **Action Item.**

R. Glucksman: That seat has been vacant since Neil left it in June 2016, over four years ago.

L. Daglian: MaryEllen Odell, the Putnam County Executive, has two years left in office and since there are two years, it is worth pursuing getting that seat filled. The candidacy goes with the recommender. The Queens Borough President had two people in the pipeline, but when she became Queens DA, there was no longer a recommending official. I am worried that this will be an issue in the Bronx as Ruben Diaz Jr. leaves office. I need to reach out to Marisol about this.

Action item: Reach out to Marisol about the Bronx vacancy

Approval of Agenda for November 12, 2020 meeting.

Approval of Minutes for October 15, 2020 meeting.

R. Cataggio: About six months ago, I brought up the transit-oriented development at Harriman station. It is coming up on the agenda again. The development is for 1,500 residents and a hotel, and the developer has the money to do it. There is no interest now in improving the station as the project is just a concept right now.

W. Zullig: Metro-North had a project to add a station at Woodbury Common after tough negotiations with the mall. On Black Friday after 9/11, there were not many security people there, as the mall did not think people would show up. There ended up being gridlock. The town was very angry and forbade the construction of any station as a result.

Action Items

- ***Reach out to Marisol about the Bronx vacancy***
- ***Follow up with County Executive Latimer's office and contact Putnam County's County Executive about board vacancies***

Meeting recording: [link](#)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Daglian
Executive Director