



Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2019

A meeting of the Metro-North Railroad Commuter Council (MNRCC) was convened at 1:00pm on November 13, 2019 at the PCAC office on the 16th floor at 2 Broadway, New York, NY

Member Attendance

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

Staff Attendance

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

Non-member Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
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***Approval of Agenda for November 13, 2019 meeting.
Approval of Minutes for October 17, 2019 meeting.***

Chair's Report attached.

L. Daglian: Reached out to the governor's office on appointments and left messages – no responses.

R. Glucksman: The MNR-LIRR Committee Book includes the raising of parking fees. Not many public speakers. A long presentation on *LIRR Forward and MNR Way Ahead* accomplishments.

O. Getz: Amy Paulin at the MNR-LIRR Committee meeting spoke about a withdrawal of the parking fees.

Action Item: Make sure Council members are on MTA and MNR, and NYCT lists .

R. Glucksman: The parking fee issue was tabled until the December meeting.

E. Shannon: Positive Train Control (PTC) – There was a concern several years ago that PTC will increase stopping, slip-slide issues, brakes in emergency would be activated more easily. Do we know if this is still an issue?

R. Glucksman: The MNR Connect with Us event will be held at Grand Central on December 10, from 7-8:30 pm.

R. Glucksman: What is the status on the Suffern Station?

E. Shannon: I sent a list of items over to Suffern city officials, so they can express these items to Cathy Rinaldi.

L. Daglian: Accessible agreement - We need to find out from Susan Meyer, in the Rockland County Executive's office, why service is not provided there.

R. Glucksman: They only operate in Rockland County.

L. Daglian: Ellyn and I attended the Joint Hearing on the Capital Program 2020-24 and Transformation Plan Oversight Committee Hearing.

- MTA testified for over four hours.
- We testified regarding CPRB approval, Transformation Plan, and the need for adequate operating revenue.
- The operating budget must be considered when talking about the capital budget.

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The PCAC's Funding Thermometer: we have been building an operating budget funding thermometer like the capital budget funding thermometer we have already done. There is a need to identify where the funds can come from.

L. Daglian: Amy Paulin was really the lead at yesterday's hearing regarding a letter that she and elected officials wrote expressing capital needs for MNR – including parking issues.

- Pat Foye and others mentioned the need to work with NJ Transit, crowding on the New Haven Line, gap problems between standees and open seats, money needed for 66 M8s early 2020, and need for yard expansions.

L. Daglian: The Capital Plan is the largest economic plan in New York State, supporting the local/regional economy. When the forensic audit comes out it could drastically change the capital program.

- Six months after the CPRB approval they will know the capital program priorities.

L. Daglian: Debarment regulations – will increase construction costs and reduce competition - the legislature is not happy.

Old Business

R. Glucksman: We should send a letter regarding communication of travel alternatives by station when cancellations happen for West of Hudson (WoH) riders.

L. Daglian: The rough draft is moving forward.

Action Item: Send letter regarding communication of travel alternatives by station when cancellations happen for West of Hudson (WoH) riders.

New Business

Calendar of upcoming Council meetings.

O. Getz: Is there an update on the return of express trains on the Pascack Valley Line?

R. Glucksman: No answer so far.

R. Glucksman: On December 8th the new schedule will be out for the Port Jervis Line with four minor schedule adjustments, etc...

L. Daglian: Has there been any service reduction discussions at your briefings, Randy?

R. Glucksman: No

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L. Daglian: Disparity of funding – LIRR vs. MNR at committee hearing - \$1 billion difference.

East Side Access (ESA) – MNR benefits – additional capacity because of Penn Access.

E. Shannon: MNR does need more money for repairs than what it is getting...

R. Glucksman: December 5th is the PCAC meeting.

Adjourned

Action Items

- **Send letter regarding communication of travel alternatives by station when cancellations happen for West of Hudson (WoH) riders.**
- **Send testimony on Joint Hearing on Public Authorities.**
- **MTA press release lists – Make sure Council members are on MTA, NYCT and MNR lists.**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Daglian
Executive Director