



Meeting Minutes of May 21, 2020

A meeting of the Metro-North Railroad Commuter Council (MNRCC) was convened virtually at 12:00 noon on May 21, 2020.

Member Attendance

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

Staff Attendance

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| Lisa Daglian (Executive Director) | Present |
| Ellyn Shannon (Associate Director) | Absent |
| 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 May 21, 2020 meeting.

Approval of Minutes for April 15, 2020 meeting.

Chair's and Board Report attached.

R. Glucksman Update:

- Service was reduced since the last meeting. There is hourly service, express and local, on each branch. The Waterbury Branch was replaced by bus service to get more project work done.
- I spoke to the NJT Board Meeting last week and talked about PTC installment: NJT as of March 31st was at 5.4%; Metro-North was at 82%; LIRR not far behind. It's a big mess over there.

L. Daglian: NJT is one of three railroads nationally at a high level of risk of not meeting the PTC deadline.

R. Glucksman

- I sent the report to New Jersey Transit that was in our CPOC book and have not heard back. Metro-North is concerned about it.
- During the call on the working group, I asked Kate Conley whether a page could be added to the CPOC book for progress West of Hudson. We want Metro-North to tell us the bad news about West of Hudson at the June meeting.
- PTC installation is set to go on the Port Jervis Line. It is an overlay on the existing signaling system.

L. Daglian: Last year's budget required the MTA to create regulations to debar contractors that are 10% over time or budget. The construction industry was not happy with the new rules, presented in May in executive session, which did not take risk factors into consideration and stacked the deck against them, with the three hearing officers being MTA employees.

- Two lawsuits that were started by the contracting community ended yesterday based on the creation of new regulations, which recognizes that the MTA sometimes causes delays, not only the contractors. The final regulations will be voted on in July. We have a statement on our website.
- Over the last several months, there were several projects that the major contracting companies you would expect to bid on declined due to the debarment regulations.

Old Business

R. Glucksman: Membership update – I do not think any work is getting done.

L. Daglian: They did respond to my email but said there is no change. I also sent a follow-up email and haven't heard anything back.

New Business

R. Glucksman: COVID Response – keeping workers and riders safe – light sanitizing to clean the buses.

L. Daglian: Coverage is on the MTA's Youtube channel.

O. Getz: Is it possible to get an accurate picture from NJ Transit on positive train control?

R. Glucksman: I doubt it. New Jersey Transit is not telling Metro-North anything.

R. Glucksman: I spoke with the Rockland County transportation people the other day about the installation of a shelter at Nanuet using the funding originally for Pascack Valley Line express service that still hasn't happened.

L. Daglian: Staff Update

- Remote working.
- Bradley and Sheila are both on dedicated projects.
- Ellyn and I have been focused on supporting the MTA's request for federal funds, working with regional and national transit advocacy organizations. On May 6, the MTA put in its second request for \$3.9 billion – based on a report by McKinsey that estimated that under best-case-scenario 60% of the ridership would return by the fall.

L. Daglian: Andrew Albert and I penned an op-ed in Crain's last week supporting the MTA's request. We are happy to develop op-eds if you want to submit them to LoHud or any of the local papers or influential online outlets. This is about economic survival for the nation – press upon the importance of Metro-North and transit to the region.

R. Glucksman: If we write something up, can we write something to LoHud on behalf of the Council?

L. Daglian: Absolutely. We will put together an op-ed and letter to the editor.

Action Item: Staff to draft op-ed and letter to the editor of LoHud regarding needed MTA federal funds.

O. Getz: Do we ever get status of what is going on at Suffern station?

R. Glucksman: I think everything is on hold. Does Ellyn know?

L. Daglian: I don't know if there is an update, if so, I can ask her to put one together.

Action Item: Update on the Suffern Station (Ellyn)

Adjourned

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Action Items

- **Staff to draft op-ed and letter to the editor of LoHud regarding needed MTA federal funds.**
- **Update on the Suffern Station (Ellyn)**

Youtube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3a3VkbdRbM>

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Daglian
Executive Director