



Meeting Minutes of

July 23, 2020

A meeting of the Metro-North Railroad Commuter Council (MNRCC) was convened at 10:00 a.m. on July 23, 2020 remotely via Zoom.

Member Attendance

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

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
Shaul Picker (Research Intern)	Present

Non-member Attendance

Name

Affiliation

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Approval of Agenda for July 23, 2020 meeting.

Approval of Minutes for May 21, 2020 meeting.

Chair's and Board Report attached.

Catherine Rinaldi reported that East of Hudson service was operating at 65% of the regular schedules, and that ridership has increased to 15% of last year's total. Metro-North has installed 220 miles of PTC east of Hudson, which is 90 percent operating under PTC. The Greenwich to Bridgeport segment will be completed in August, and it will be completed to New Rochelle in October in advance of the December 31 deadline.

Chairman Foye said it costs the MTA \$300 million a week to maintain subway cleaning.

L. Daglian: We have been very focused on supporting efforts to get federal funding. The MTA is facing a fiscal tsunami, with a deficit of \$3.9 billion by the end of this year, and of \$10.3 billion through the end of 2021. We are continuing to work with local and national advocates on the issue and reach out to elected officials. Last meeting, the possibility of doing an op-ed in the Journal News was raised, and it is in the works.

We are participating in the digital day of action today, which is our second one. Bradley and Sheila are teaming up to tweet out infographics. I am going to do some mask distribution today sponsored by NYC Transit.

A rider reached out to us about mask compliance on Metro-North and in response to our inquiry the Railroad said they would increase the frequency of announcements about the need to wear masks, and would make masks available on-board. The LIRR is doing something similar.

Old Business

R. Glucksman: Normal service was restored on the Port Jervis and Pascack Valley Lines on July 6th.

New Business

L. Daglian: It came to our attention that there was no mechanism contained in the authorizing legislation for the appointment of a member to the MTA board from our agency councils. We are not in the position of needing to do that for this Council, but the LIRRCC is in that position. We developed draft language for each Council's bylaws to address this; for MNRCC, it says that the Metro-North Commuter Council will recommend to the Governor's office a candidate for the council's nonvoting seat on the MTA Board. In the event of a vacancy, the council shall nominate a candidate at a regular meeting of the MNRCC with a vote taken at the next regular meeting. To bring the change forward we need to agree to bring it at our next meeting. A vote was taken and the motion was approved.

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We would like to report that Deborah Morrison is retiring effective July 30th, meaning we are down an administrative assistant. We reached out to the Governor's office about appointments and were told to check back in a month as the main person working on them is on maternity leave.

E. Shannon: Bob Linn at the Board Meeting made a good point when he noted that the Board received no information about what the MTA is considering to do if it receives no funding, half funding, or full funding.

L. Daglian: We urge you to speak to your members of Congress. The more members of Congress that hear from constituents, the more ammunition they have to speak on the floor about the issue.

R. Glucksman: 36 teams signed up for the Hackathon to develop an app to show crowding on Metro-North trains, like the LIRR app. The number of teams was whittled to 8, and many teams were combined together. They are being graded on technological innovation, business value, and business implementation. Today is decision day, and the winners will be announced tomorrow.

After election we'll go after reaching out to the newly elected people; Buchwald probably replaced Bedford supervisor

F. Corcoran: We should reach out and meet with Steven Otis and Tom Abinanti and ask them what they are going to do to help with our funding issues and with the appointment's office.

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

L. Daglian: We are also involved in an effort to get members of the State Legislature to send letters to Congress to get them to support funding for the MTA. It is being spearheaded by Leroy Comrie in the Senate, and by Bobby Carroll in the Assembly.

Adjourned

Action Items

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

Youtube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dnI3rwG8YHY&>

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Daglian
Executive Director