

A meeting of the New York City Transit Riders Council (NYCTRC) was convened at 12:00 pm on Thursday, June 27, 2019 in room 16.08 at 2 Broadway, New York, NY 10004.

Member Attendance

Andrew Albert (Chair)	Present
Burton M. Strauss Jr. (Vice Chair)	Present
Stuart Goldstein	Present
Christopher Greif	Present
William K. Guild	Present
Marisol Halpern	Absent
Sharon King Hoge	Present
Trudy L. Mason	Present
Scott R. Nicolls	Absent
Edith Prentiss	Present

Staff Attendance

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

Non-member Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Alex Elegudin	NYCT
Sara Bahri	NYCT
Deborah Hall-Moore	NYCT
Jasmine Melzer	Good Neighbors of Park Slope
Andrew Kurzweil	RUN
Johanna Climenko	CIDNY
Yvonne Morrow	Concerned citizen
Matt Shotkin	Concerned citizen
Kevin Zeng	Concerned citizen

**Approval of Agenda for June 27, 2019 meeting.
Approval of Minutes for May 31, 2019 meeting.**

Chair's Report attached.

Discussion Topics:

- AlixPartners reorganization plan.
- Discussion of the possibly of not funding the Transit Museum anymore.
- L. Daglian: We have expressed concern about the lack of transparency as it relates to the new MTA debarment rules.
- Bronx Bus Redesign – modest improvements.
- T. Mason: Why is it posted on Manhattan buses like the M102, M15 – to get to LaGuardia quickly they direct people to Queens buses without saying how to actually get to those buses?
- Staff met with Bronx Borough President and his staff to discuss expansion of Freedom Ticket in the Bronx. Thanks to Marisol for arranging the meeting.
- S. Goldstein asks about an update to how the Atlantic Ticket is performing - metrics. A. Albert details in general how it is performing – gaining riders, \$1-2 million dollar loss, has changed travel patterns, the most of tickets are sold at Jamaica, which may be because riders are testing to see if their tickets will be checked and then running off to purchase tickets if they are asked for them.
- E. Prentiss: What is the fare differential going to be between MNR tickets and the express buses for the new Bronx MNR stations? A. Albert says this has not been established yet.
- Goodbye to long-time staff member Karyl Cafiero – Research Associate.

Action Item: Send debarment letter to council members.

Board Report:

- New MTA Board members: Rob Mujica, Linda Lacewell, Robert Linn.
- Rule of banning repeat offenders in the subway – it is a resolution for now.
- L Train revised project seems to be going very well – it is approximately 1-2 months ahead of schedule.
- Atlantic Ticket Update – pilot program continuing for another year – approximately 20,000 tickets sold per week.
- CBTC installation on the Queens Blvd. line is moving ahead – it is not being installed on the entire route which could prove to be problematic – possibility of short-turning trains to make up for not installing CBTC on the entire route.
- Ultra-Wideband testing is going well.
- Commissioner Feinberg wanted to have fare evaders publicly shamed on online videos, she thinks it would be a deterrent – Many opposed to this idea.

Council elections:

- Chair – Andrew Albert
- Vice Chair – Burt Strauss
- PCAC Executive Committee Representatives – Andrew Albert & Burt Strauss

Council voted unanimously for Andrew Albert as Chair, and Burt Strauss as Vice Chair, and both as representatives to the PCAC Executive Committee.

Old Business

C Greif: Can we in the future do something with NYPD due to rising hate crimes on the subway?

A. Albert: Anti-Semitic crimes have been down actually, but yes it is still a problem.

Introduction of Speaker: Alex Elegudin, Senior Advisor for Systemwide Accessibility. He speaks about the new Advisory Council, or which Chris and Edith are members, and accessibility efforts underway across Transit.

T. Mason: What is the rule on buses for shopping carts that take up space? It is difficult for seniors to have to carry groceries, etc...

A. Elegudin: We follow FTA/ADA guidelines that address walkers but not shopping carts. Walkers are to be placed in priority seating areas, which shopping carts would take away from. New seat configurations are being tested that would allow for one or two seats to flip to allow for storage of walkers, etc.

E. Prentiss: The problem with walkers on buses is that the bus drivers do not ask them to move to the priority seating directly behind the wheelchair priority area to make room for wheelchair users.

A. Albert: How many vehicles will the priority flip seats be tested on?

A. Elegudin: It is only being tested on a few right now, but within a year it would be great to get it on 1/6 of the fleet, and within 2-3 years about a 1/3 of the fleet.

B. Strauss: Is equipment (digital screens) changeable when a bus stop is taken out of service?

A. Elegudin: Yes, but it is a manual update. We do have issues with sending messages to just one screen (at bus stop stops and subway stations), but we are working to make this a possibility.

E. Prentiss: The newer buses do not have the sign with braille and the bus number.

A. Elegudin: It is there, but we need to have better information of its exact location for users – it's on the front and back of buses.

T. Mason: Is there any way the bus stop lollipops and signs can be placed lower for shorter people?

A. Elegudin: I can't promise that, NYCDOT does the stops. Many stops are getting audio functions that should help.

E. Prentiss: Vertical gap at 50th Street was horrible. They have raised the platform to make it better. We need to know where this work has been done so people who need them know where to get off in boarding areas.

A. Albert: In the case where one line has three different car types, like the A train, are they all going to meet in the same place so wheelchair users can board?

A. Elegudin: That is a tough question, but that is the goal. Old cars don't have the same capabilities, so we are going to work with the new cars since they are the cars of the future.

NYCTRC MINUTES

4

E. Prentiss: When will signs be posted near elevators telling users when one is down, how to get out of here?

A. Elegudin: Hopefully by end of 2020.

C. Greif: If an elevator is out and a rider needs a transfer ticket, the booth agents are not always aware of the courtesy transfer. This needs to be communicated, with possible retrainings.

A. Elegudin: Yes, this is an issue with us training staff. We just finished our bus retrainings and subways is next.

L. Daglian: The next 50 accessible stations list, is it available now?

A. Elegudin: They are still in discussions about that – not sure when they will be releasing it.

E. Prentiss: The PA systems are not audible and not consistent in stations. There are problems along the A line in both cars and in stations.

A. Elegudin: There are new cars that have just come in for the A/C lines, which have improved PAs. They just need to be put into service.

Adjourned

Action Items

- **Send debarment letter to council members.**

Youtube Video links: [Part 1 of 4](#) , [Part 2 of 4](#) , [Part 3 of 4](#) , [Part 4 of 4](#)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Daglian
Executive Director