



PCAC

PERMANENT CITIZENS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE MTA

Meeting Minutes of

December 5, 2019

A meeting of the Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee to the MTA (PCAC) was convened at 12:00 noon on December 5, 2019 in the MTA Board Room, 20th Floor, 2 Broadway, New York, New York 10004.

Member Attendance

Andrew Albert (Chair)	Present
Randolph Glucksman (Vice Chair)	Present
Francena Amparo (MNRCC)	Absent
Gerard P. Bringmann (LIRRCC)	Present
Sheila Carpenter (LIRRCC)	Absent
Richard Cataggio (MNRCC)	Absent
Francis T. Corcoran (MNRCC)	Absent
Mark J. Epstein (LIRRCC)	Present
Orrin Getz (MNRCC)	Present
Stuart Goldstein (NYCTRC)	Present
Christopher Greif (NYCTRC)	Present
William K. Guild (NYCTRC)	Absent
Marisol Halpern (NYCTRC)	Absent
Sharon King Hoge (NYCTRC)	Absent
Trudy L. Mason (NYCTRC)	Present
Scott R. Nicholls (NYCTRC)	Present
Raymond Pagano (LIRRCC)	Absent
Bryan Peranzo (LIRRCC)	Absent
Marilyn N. Poterson (LIRRCC)	Absent
Edith M. Prentiss (NYCTRC)	Present
Larry Rubinstein (LIRRCC)	Present
Burton M. Strauss, Jr. (NYCTRC)	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)	Present

Non-member Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Joseph McGrann	MTAPD
Andrew Kurzweil	RUN
Eric Wollman	Concerned citizen
William Stanford, Jr.	Concerned citizen
Michael Howard	Concerned citizen

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***Approval of Agenda for December 5, 2019 meeting.
Approval of Minutes for September 5, 2019 meeting.***

Chair's Report attached.

Board Reports

NYCTRC Board Report:

- Transformation: 2700 positions reduced, 700 through attrition, reduction in responsibility for agency presidents
- MTA and TWU Local 100 reached an agreement
- OTP increasing
- M train short run

T. Mason: What is rationale of stopping the M at Delancey? What is the cost of running it to 2-3 more stations or to 34th street? **Action Item.**

C. Grief: M line suffers from switch outages. M train should be terminated at an accessible station. There is construction at Chambers street, so it can terminate at Broad St or Fulton.

LIRRCC Board Report:

C. Grief: Compliments on LIRR snow removal and assistance boarding safely.

A. Albert: Any information on derailment? What was the broken rail caused by?

M. Epstein: Yes, we will hope to have a full debrief at our next meeting.

E. Prentiss: On the LIRR taxi and parking issues: do the taxis pay for their spots? Is there any way to attract companies that have accessible options?

M. Epstein: The taxis lease out the space. MTA Real Estate is coming to our next meeting, it's a big problem. The spots are not always used for taxis, taxis aren't there, and parking spots are lost.

MNRCC Board Report:

- MNR has a similar program to LIRR care.
- NJT needs to answer when the express train for the Pascack Valley line will be restored.
- Cathy Rinaldi said MNR will withhold payment to NJT.
- No clear update on PTC update – **Action Item**

Staff Report

- Raising our public profile.
- Op-ed, news articles, panel discussions.
- Potential new members
 - 5 members submitted for MNRCC, but haven't made it to the background check
 - LIRRCC recommendations from Nassau and Queens
 - NYCTRC: Met with liaison in the Mayor's office and Public Advocate's office about vacancies
 - Current vacancies should be filled first before old appointees are removed.
- Proposed PCAC budget

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- PCAC meeting calendar for 2020
- PCAC meeting days, times, and locations. **Action item**

PCAC budget approved unanimously

Mark Epstein nominated and voted unanimously as PCAC Second Vice Chair

Discussion

- Alternative PCAC meeting locations? That would cause confusion for the public
- Meeting locations are Penn Station are uncertain due to construction
- Update on the Grand Central construction - **Action item**
- Capital construction will improve interagency coordination in Grand Central, Penn Station and other stations. There will be bundling of projects to improve clarity.
- Discussion of transformation effect on consolidation and coordination
- There are 4 RFPs out for transformation to develop a plan for departments to merge (communication, legal and finance). The CTO hasn't started and positions in that office are not yet filled.

E. Shannon: Beware. The MTA consolidated the IT dept. and the budget for those departments shrunk. The plan didn't look at impact to worker productivity.

S. Goldstein: We heard this before on consolidation and rationalization of the BSC. Look at impact.

G. Bringmann: Will the MTA offer any packages for employees to encourage them to retire? Not yet.

T. Mason: Spending money on RFPs to *potentially* save money doesn't make sense. They should hire from within. Action Item: get RFPs

Old Business

Debarment

It was written harshly. A lawsuit was filed by group of contractors claiming debarment rules are unconstitutional. These issues were raised at the Joint Legislative Hearing last month. Per the budget, the state legislature passed regulations that required the MTA to create a process that debarred contractors who were 10% over budget or time. In executive session, the MTA was filing emergency debarment regulations to immediately debar such contractors, not only for the MTA but for other state agencies and applied retroactively – even for current contracts. This reduces competition and inflates of cost for contracts. We will examine the impact of the Capital Plan.

New Business

E. Wollman: One report recently mentioned that design build is a failure. At least one consultant says it doesn't save money and it's not better than the system it replaced.

A. Albert: Design build was legislatively mandated and the board intends to look into that.

E. Wollman: what happened with the 7 line incident from snow?

A. Albert: A transponder failed. Thales was the contractor. However, the L line with similar transponders at its outdoor locations did not fail. The new COO comes from Thales and Pete Tomlin is looking into this.

T. Mason: Design build is a good idea.

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T. Mason: Can freedom ticket be extended to Bayside on the Port Washington Branch?

A. Albert: We did a lot of research. We didn't want the Amtrak East River Tunnel work to be impacted, so it's only for SE Queens.

L. Daglian: Per phase 1 of Congestion Pricing, the Outer Borough Transit Fund was created with \$50 million. NE Queens riders are going to receive discounts. No details out yet. Capacity wasn't taken into consideration. The Port Washington branch has limited capacity.

B. Brashears: There is limited capacity on that branch and it does not have room to accommodate new riders.

M. Epstein: The issue is to take a holistic look, considering riders from Long Island.

C. Grief: We need to look at congestion on 7 line

LD: The bus redesigns are taking that into consideration. If 7 bus routes in Flushing are delayed because of street congestion, that's an issue to be addressed.

Introduction of Speaker: Chief Joseph McGrann, MTA PD Chief Operating

- We have 800 uniform police officers.
- Now another 500 coming on to address assault, fare evasion and homelessness
- Homeless: Teams at the end of the line on every line. The program started a few months ago and we have had: 23k contacts, assistance in 1200 instances, and 1200 ejected. Successful program
- Fare evasion: We position ourselves in front of the turnstiles to prevent fare evasion, not to arrest people unless absolutely essential
- Hiring 500 new police is a challenge. We want to hire the best. Hiring current certified State of NY officers to expedite process. The majority come from the NYPD.
- The NYPD has understandably declined for us to use their Police Academy as we have in the past. We are hiring from their officers.
- We have reached out to other police departments in the area to train our officers who are not currently police officers. Looking at places, preferably within the city because they will be in the transit system. We need space for police officers with firearms and parking. (Outfitting officers, storage of materials)
- The State Police and MTA Police will get cameras – proposed legislation. We are getting body cameras – end of 2020
- Crime at a record low on SIR, LIRR, MNR
- Enforcement up at railroad crossings

S. Goldstein: What are the top concerns for LIRR or MNR?

JM: Larson, assaults (on passengers, officers/employees), and bike thefts (at stations)

S. Goldstein: Do you check with other State agencies?

JM: Westchester county, Port Authority, Nassau County

JM: NYPD hires on a consistent basis, gives consistent training to officers and then once those trainees are done they go for 2 weeks of MTA-centric training.

T. Mason: Explain the difference between Transit Bureau and the State Police and how they interact?

JM: State police have jurisdiction across the state under the governor. The Transit Bureau has city jurisdiction and in Transit. LIRR and MNR police were separate and 20 years ago they

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merged. SIR came on in 2005. The State Police is used for anti-terrorism. Yes, we coordinate with State Police. The National Guard are soldiers and are different.

B. Strauss: How long is the training program for the 500 new officers?

JM: The Police academy is 6 months (book training), then 6 weeks field training with a field training officer. We are taking roll over from NYPD because training is at considerable expense. (14k/person to recruit and train)

C. Grief: The homeless issue

JM: The homeless issue is a challenge. They have a legal right to be homeless unless they are a danger to themselves or others. Code blue when we can relocate them. We reach out to local community groups, especially at 125 street and work with the BRC.

E. Prentiss: Are you training new hires to appropriately handle people with disabilities? There is a lack of awareness and sensitivity for accommodating people with disabilities.

JM: They do receive sensitively and de-escalation training. Unfortunately, empathy can't be injected to officers.

Adjourned at 2:00pm

Action Items:

- Send out ranked choice of PCAC meeting times, days, and location poll
- Send members PTC update website: https://new.mta.info/system_modernization/PTC
- Send members (Trudy) GCT navigation site: https://new.mta.info/system_modernization/42ndstreet/navigate-gcs

Video Links: [Part 1 of 1](#)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Daglian
Executive Director