



PCAC

PERMANENT CITIZENS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE MTA

Meeting Minutes of

June 4, 2020

A virtual meeting of the Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee to the MTA (PCAC) was convened at 12:00 noon on June 4, 2020

Member Attendance

Andrew Albert (Chair)	Present
Randolph Glucksman (Vice Chair)	Present
Francena Amparo (MNRCC)	Absent
Gerard P. Bringmann (LIRRCC)	Present
Mark Epstein (LIRRCC)	Present
Sheila Carpenter (LIRRCC)	Absent
Richard Cataggio (MNRCC)	Present
Francis T. Corcoran (MNRCC)	Absent
Orrin Getz (MNRCC)	Absent
Stuart Goldstein (NYCTRC)	Present
Christopher Greif (NYCTRC)	Present
William Guild (NYCTRC)	Present
Marisol Halpern (NYCTRC)	Present
Sharon King Hoge (NYCTRC)	Present
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)	Absent
Shaul Picker (Research Intern)	Present

Non-member Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Mark Dowd	MTA
Cate Contino	New York City Transit
Andrew Pollack	Concerned Citizen
Matt Kamper	Concerned citizen
Ron Troy	Concerned citizen
Walter Zullig	Concerned citizen
Jim Cameron	Concerned citizen
Robert Barrios	Concerned citizen
Matt Shotkin	Concerned citizen

PCAC MINUTES

2

PCAC Chair's Report:

A. Albert: As of today, the 6 and 7 expresses resumed, and the B, W, and Z will resume, in addition to regular service on Monday for phase 1 of reopening. The cleaning regimen will continue. There are exciting new technologies, such as UV light and anti-microbials the MTA is using to clean trains. The capital program is restarting (partially), and Rutgers Tube work will resume in June, allowing 8th Avenue CBTC work to resume. Work on Elmont station has resumed.

The MTA will have access to the Federal Reserve's lending pool, giving them access to \$500 billion of necessary funds, on a loan, allowing it to ratchet up service and clean facilities. Phil Eng announced there would be additional cars on the LIRR. Metro-North has increased their service levels.

Some of the things the Mayor has called for are nonstarters, like skipping stations, and making every other seat unusable. The MTA has asked the Mayor's office for volunteers to hand out hand sanitizer. There will be vending machines in stations to sell masks, gloves, and sanitizer.

T. Mason: People who have some knowledge about how the subways run should reach out to the MTA and help out on Monday to enforce social distancing and to make sure people know that trains will run regularly and should not squeeze on one train.

L. Daglian: The MTA asked the city for 3,000 volunteers and I didn't see a way to sign up.

Introduction of Speaker: Mark Dowd, MTA Chief Innovation Officer

A. Albert: How great a distance will the UV lights be effective at killing the virus?

M. Dowd: A minimum of three tripods per car with six lights are needed. Each lamp has a motion sensor, so if a worker accidentally is there, it will turn off.

A. Albert: The CDC has come out and said that the virus does not live on surfaces, so does this make the fight for microbials different?

M. Dowd: They did not say it did not live on surfaces, but said that surfaces were not as big a transmitter of it as they initially thought.

R. Troy: There is a part of the UV spectrum that doesn't harm people. Did you look into using it?

M. Dowd: That is part of the UVC, and is how I first came to Dr. Brenner, after reading about a study he was doing with it. We don't know whether it is a great idea and is safe to have in cars 24/7.

L. Daglian: Are you looking at any retrofits to make permanent the UV equipment should it work?

M. Dowd: Once we figure out what works, we will see if it can be institutionalized.

PCAC MINUTES

3

S. Picker: Since aerosols are the main way COVID spreads, have you looked at improving the ventilation in subway cars?

M. Dowd: If you can exchange ten volumes of air per hour, you have essentially made the aerosols not a concern. We are working with scientists. We cannot keep windows open. On buses, if you do that, they get hot. We are trying to find other options that work. I have called airlines to discuss air exchange, and they asked us about cleaning surfaces. Putting filters on A/C units would have trouble doing air exchange, and it would have to work harder.

S. Picker: The reason subway windows cannot be opened is steel dust, correct?

M. Dowd. Yes. The particulates in the tunnel almost make it a non-starter.

L. Daglian: What are the metrics for determining the effectiveness of these measures, and the time frame for putting them in place on the commuter rail lines?

M. Dowd: The operational feasibility, cost, and throughput, are the metrics. In about a month we will have a good idea of the feasibility.

E. Shannon: Transit Center had a presentation on bus air flow, and a thing that came up was something Toronto was doing on their buses. They talked about putting in a barrier toward the front of the bus to protect the bus operators. What are other places doing on air exchange?

M. Dowd: We might start using UV in the HVAC system. The difficulty is that if the air is moving too fast, it cannot kill it. We are going to be changing filters more often.

R. Cataggio: Does NJ Transit have a similar program? If not, are you going to share findings with them?

M. Dowd: I don't know. We work collaboratively with them. As soon as we understand how well UV and biostat work, we will share it with other agencies.

L. Rubinstein: We are talking about doing UV lights at terminals. Not all trains get to an area where you can do this. How is this going to work with scheduling if trains have to go to a yard to do this?

M. Dowd: My understanding is that we can address that. I'm not an operations person, so I can't speak to that, but they are cleaning them anyways – they will get them done.

A. Albert: It is now early June – when will you know if the various technologies you are testing are effective? August?

M. Dowd: Hopefully before then. Speaking with EPA and other systems about these technologies. Time and money are not our friends right now.

PCAC MINUTES

4

NYCTRC Chair's Report:

A. Albert: We just issued a statement asking the Mayor to immediately think about many additional bus lanes and transit signal prioritizations. Unfortunately, it seems like the Mayor needs to be pushed into this.

M. Halpern: Are they going to start charging on the buses, since they are opening on Monday?

A. Albert: I am waiting to hear if it is going to still be rear-door boarding only, if it is, I doubt they will be charging – I may find out later today.

A. Albert: Welcome back Bill Guild – glad you are feeling better and able to join us today!

T. Mason: Pat Foye put out a statement – the CDC does not want people taking mass transit – Pat indicated that buses are going to be used as much as subways – it was our understanding that the entire fleet will be used – the concern is that if people take cars there will be monumental traffic jams. The CDC should mind their own business.

L. Daglian: The CDC did revise their statement to incorporate more transit options, but it is still not a realistic approach for our city and region.

S. Hoge: Is enforcement going to be bolstered, I hope? Respectable people are leaping over the turnstile every time I have been on the subway.

A. Albert: The MTA has said that starting Monday, there will be many more police and platform conductors to monitor boarding levels. They should help with this problem.

L. Daglian: Edith had concerns that the hand sanitizer is foot operated and that people in wheelchairs are unable to use that.

LIRRCC Chair's Report: G. Bringmann

G. Bringmann: OTP was excellent last month, but last month reduced service was run, meaning that the unreliable M3s could be kept in the yard. There have been some conversations about reservations, but that is completely unworkable.

M. Epstein: The LIRR is considering having up to full service on Monday in anticipation of Phase 1 reopening.

A. Albert: I saw a letter you wrote regarding credits for monthly ticketholders for the extension of their date of termination.

M. Epstein: The MTA is claiming poverty and is unwilling to do so. I don't think we will win this battle but will continue the fight.

L. Daglian: I just got an email from Pat Warren, the Chief Safety Officer, who said they are asking for 4,000 non-operating volunteers and other MTA staff to work two shifts to distribute masks and sanitizer, which will run through June 12. They sent out a form.

PCAC MINUTES

5

MNRCC Chair's Report: R. Glucksman

R. Glucksman: New schedules will be put out for MNR on the 15th of the month. Dates will be included on the pdf.

A. Albert: Is full restoration of service on the West-of-Hudson lines contingent on New Jersey Transit?

R. Glucksman: I have seen no indication that New Jersey Transit will increase service.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Approval of Agenda for June 4, 2020 meeting.

Approval of Minutes for March 5, 2020 meeting.

Action Items:

- None

Video Links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4iVRB6oCvcs&list=PLDXH0sqF0KIgkDW3DWiHZsUF6MGc2kAtg&index=31&t=2309s>

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Daglian
Executive Director