



# MNRCC

METRO-NORTH RAILROAD  
COMMUTER COUNCIL

## Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2021

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A virtual meeting of the Metro-North Railroad Commuter Council (MNRCC) was convened at 12:00 p.m. on April 15, 2021 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
Bradley Brashears (Planning Manager)	Present
Shaul Picker (Research Intern)	Absent
Gav Mazurek (Research Intern)	Present

### Non-member Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Peter Ramos	Metro-North Railroad

***Approval of Agenda for April 15, 2021 meeting.***

***Approval of Minutes for February 17, 2021 meeting.***

***Chair's and Board Report attached.***

R. Glucksman: Things have been quiet. Ridership is still down. A new timetable will go into effect on Monday, and service is being put back to serve Spring/Summer/Fall destinations. There has been some controversy over the Williams Bridge station in the Bronx. They closed the northbound platform suddenly in February.

L. Daglian: From what we understand, a letter went to the railroad from A.C.R.E. and Senators Comrie and Kennedy regarding capacity and asking for additional service due to crowding on the train, and looking at Williams Bridge as an example of contributing to it.

***Old Business***

R. Glucksman: In June 2018, two express trains on the Pascack Valley Line were eliminated, supposedly due to the installation of PTC, though we all knew that was nonsense as they were nowhere close to doing it, and that it actually had to do with New Jersey Transit's engineer shortage. Rockland County held a meeting about it, all the senior people at Metro-North came, we had the people from the Rockland County Public Transportation Department, myself and Carl Wortendyke. The arrangement was made that they would credit the county for the cancelled trains, and that we would get a new shelter for the Nanuet station.

Last week I got an announcement that work would begin next week. I sent an email to several people at Metro-North and asked them if a temporary shelter would be provided, and the answer is yes. The ticket vending machines will be placed outside the temporary shelter, and a canopy will be installed over the machines to protect riders.

I asked if New Jersey Transit would replace the TVMs with newer models upon the completion of work. The newer models have fewer touch points on them. New Jersey Transit indicated that they would begin a program to change them, but it is unknown whether it will result in new machines being installed.

They have buttons in the shelters in Metro-North stations that you can press to turn the heat on during the October-April time period. I tried this out at Nanuet and Tarrytown and it didn't work. The State decided that they cannot have heat on in the shelters, and they removed the doors to the shelter so there was nowhere warm to stay other than your car.

Have you heard anything on our proposed additional members?

L. Daglian: I have not. I had a conversation this morning with Amy Paulin regarding proposed legislation relating to a bicycle pedestrian committee to the MTA that has been introduced that would be structured similarly to ours to express concern about having a parallel committee and stressing the length of time it takes to get members appointed.

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R. Glucksman: One of the people from Westchester County who has been proposed has been Walter Zullig, who has participated in some of our meetings. He was General Counsel of Metro-North and has a wealth of knowledge and would be a real asset. He received his package of forms to fill out, which he did, and had them notarized. It has been over a month and he has not heard back yet.

### ***New Business***

R. Glucksman: I got an invitation to be at the White Plains station next week, where there will be an announcement to complete the rehabilitation of the station.

L. Daglian: There will be mask force next Thursday at White Plains station. Long Island is pulling some of these together as well.

F. Corcoran: Have we got any feedback on the air filtration pilot proposal?

L. Daglian: Not as of yet, I will look into it. I wanted to provide an update on WageWorks pre-tax transit benefit dollars. Francena was interviewed for a New York Times article that came out about a month ago. We had written a letter to the IRS and Treasury Department that is going out today. The Treasury Department has also launched an office of COVID response to help people with recovery-related questions and we are going to send it to them as well. There are fifteen groups that signed onto the letter, and we are the lead on it. We are asking for an amnesty or anything that can get people relief for once. We have gotten the sign on from our friends in New Jersey and Connecticut and will be sending it to Senators in New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut. We will work through some channels to see if Senator Schumer would like to do a Sunday press conference with us on this.

### ***Adjourned***

Meeting recording: [link](#)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Daglian  
Executive Director