A virtual meeting of the Metro-North Railroad Commuter Council (MNRCC) was convened at 1:00 p.m. on November 10, 2021, via Zoom.

**Member Attendance**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Randolph Glucksman (Chair) | Present |
| Orrin Getz (Vice Chair) | Present |
| Francena Amparo | Present |
| Richard Cataggio | Absent |
| Francis T. CorcoranWalter Zullig | PresentPresent |

**Staff Attendance**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Lisa Daglian (Executive Director) | Virtual |
| Bradley Brashears (Planning Manager)Kara Gurl (Research & Com. Assoc)Jessica Spezio (Admin. Asst.) | PresentPresentPresent |
|  |  |
|  |  |

**Non-member Attendance**

**Name: Affiliation**

Derek Fenton Concerned citizen

***Approval of Agenda for November 10, 2021 meeting.***

***Approval of Minutes for October 21, 2021 meeting.***

***Chair’s and Board Report***

The postponed ceremony to mark the completion of construction work at White Plains station took place on Monday, November 1. I attended but did not speak.

Last week, Governor Hochul announced plans for improving Penn Station that would not wait for the expansion project to the south that the former Governor prioritized. Instead, the plan to rebuild would open the station to a single level and move it "to the front of the line" to make "a Penn Station worthy of New Yorkers."

Her plan would add more elevators and access to platforms, and additional entrances to the station from the development that would take place to the east and north. According to the press release: “Reimagining the station is part of the Governor's commitment to ensuring equitable transit access and achieving economic development. This will be particularly beneficial for users of the forthcoming Metro-North stations in the East Bronx (Co-op City, Morris Park, Parkchester, and Hunts Point), for whom travel times to and from Midtown will be reduced by up to 50 minutes as a result of Penn Access.”

The nine new tracks that will be built to the south in the future would come with the Gateway tunnels, which Amtrak has said won't get underway until 2035 and will require federal review. In addition, there will be more pedestrian access and open space around Penn Station. It is slated to be a 4–5-year, $6-7 billion project. The Governor has said she will work with stakeholders for input, and we will reach out to request that PCAC be represented since all of our riders have occasion to use Penn Station.

***Old Business:***

R. Glucksman: What are the current membership vacancies?

L. Daglian: We have 3 vacancies in Westchester, 1 in the Bronx, and 1 in Putnam. We had Walter and two others in the Governor’s Appointments Office, however the other two have not moved forward. We’ll continue to follow up with Albany and will reach out to the new Bronx BP when she takes office in the new year.

W. Zullig: Can we have a status on accessibility at the Suffern train station?

B. Brashears: We will look into our files and follow up on the status.

L. Daglian: I was just with Senator Schumer discussing accessibility projects so I can bring up this station.

O. Getz: NJ Transit isn’t taking care of the Suffern station along Route 17 and it borders NY, so it seems that it’s being neglected because of the actual location.

B. Brashears: There has been some correspondence with Cathy Rinaldi about this and at the MNR Accessibility Task Force – we will follow up.

F. Amparo: Can the MTA consider taking it over from NJ Transit and if so, what would it look like?

R. Glucksman: They would have to have an agreement with the state of NJ.

W. Zullig: I recall there used to be a gate you could walk across at the station and now it’s locked, and you have to go up and around to the westbound side. They made it less accessible if anything by doing that.

W. Zullig: Francena mentioned money and for your information, the ticket revenue for passengers boarding at Suffern going to Hoboken or NYC, that’s exclusive to NJ transit. Metro- North gets everything West of Suffern.

W. Zullig: Are we able to print timetables on a temporary basis?

R. Glucksman: They are available on the internet in PDF format.

***New Business:***

W. Zullig: The Village of Croton-on-Hudson has been complaining of noise pollution – the noise from trains bounces off the buildings. Is there anything that can be done? It should be mentioned to Metro-North.

B. Brashears: Jess sent a link this morning to our new Google photo drive for you all to submit any photos you may want to share. We also sent a link to our new website for you all to go over and give your input.

**Action Items:**

* Follow-up on making the Suffern station accessible.
* Mention Croton-on-Hudson noise complaints to Metro-North.

Meeting recording**:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bIl6RvHfVto**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bIl6RvHfVto)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Daglian
Executive Director