A meeting of the New York City Transit Riders Council (NYCTRC) was convened at 12:00 pm on Thursday, October 28, 2021 in the 20th floor Conf. Room 4 at 2 Broadway, New York, NY 10004 and via Zoom.

**Member Attendance**

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| Andrew Albert (Chair) | Present |
| Burton M. Strauss Jr. (Vice Chair) | Present |
| Stuart Goldstein | Virtual |
| Christopher Greif | Present |
| William K. Guild | Absent |
| Marisol Halpern | Virtual  |
| Sharon King Hoge | Present |
| Karen HamiltonTrudy L. Mason | PresentPresent |
| Scott R. Nicolls | Absent |

**Staff Attendance**

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| Lisa Daglian (Executive Director) | Present |
| Kara Gurl (Research & Communication Associate)  | Present |
| Bradley Brashears (Planning Manager) | Present |
| Jessica Spezio (Administrative Assistant)Shaul Picker (PCAC intern) | PresentVirtual |

**Non-member Attendance**

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| **Name** | **Affiliation** |
| Yvonne Morrow  | Concerned Citizen  |
| Andrew Kurzweil | Rail Users Network |
| Andy Pollack | Concerned Citizen |
| Ron TroyMike HowardCraig Cipriano Cate Contino | Concerned CitizenConcerned CitizenInterim NYC Transit PresidentNYCT Govt. Comm Relations |
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| ***Approval of Agenda for October 28, 2021 meeting.*** |
| ***Approval of Minutes for September 23, 2021 meeting.*** |
| ***Chair’s Report attached.*** |
| ***Board Report:**** **Freedom Ticket - Phase 2 Launch**

A. Albert: We just launched Freedom Ticket Phase 2 last week at the Woodside train station where we were joined by State Senator Comrie and Council Member Grodenchik and others from our PCAC team. Chair Lieber has said he is considering Freedom Ticket and is forming a working group that I will be on and David Jones will Chair. C. Greif: I have also shared the videos and tweets to inform others who weren’t able to attend.* **Bronx Bus Network Redesign-Tuesday, Nov. 9 (6-8 PM via Zoom)**

A. Albert: They did a great job on the redesign and have accommodated the Bronx residents. Please log in and watch on Zoom. * **MTA Leadership changes**

Please see New Org Chart for details – it is all in a press release that the staff will send to the members.* **Ridership updates**

A. Albert: As of last Thursday, we have a combined ridership of over 5 million. I have also noticed fewer “staff shortage” notices on the station screens. The hiring process, bringing back some retirees and all efforts are showing positive results. Ridership is also increasing faster than the McKinsey reports expected. * **Recent press coverage**

A. Albert: There was an article published in the Post that got taken out of context regarding comments I made and one of the reporters decided to make this a confrontational thing and tried to make it seem like I was blaming riders for their victimhood, which was clearly not the case. I have been an advocate for the riders for 35 years. We reached out to them, and they did make some changes to the article, which also included some things about Lisa. A. Albert: Yesterday was the 117th Anniversary of the subway system. A. Albert: Under 30% of our 472 stations are not accessible and that is not acceptable. When we get congestion pricing, it will help largely to making this system the kind of place we want it to be for all of our riders. C. Greif: I’m really glad that all 59 community board members were all in favor of passing the proposal for ZFA (Zoning for Accessibility).L. Daglian: We would like to welcome our newest member: Karen Hamilton.* **Fare capping/ OMNY**

A. Albert: Fare capping works that if you buy so many rides for a period of time that you use, then any ride above that is free.  |
| ***Old Business:***C. Greif: Service announcements in the stations on crew shortages continue to be posted, however I’m not noticing any shortages on the Q line. S. Goldstein: F Diamond is running again and on schedule. S. King Hoge: Fare evasions continues to be an issue, especially at the E/J platform slam gate entrance at Jamaica. Will more police be sent to that location?A. Albert: I have heard that Sutphin-Archer is also getting more police at that station after various complaints. |
| ***New Business:***K. Hamilton: Do we know anything about the 5th Ave bus proposal?A. Albert: It might be addressed in January once the new Mayor comes into their role. There were issues with the proposal that might be addressed. S. Goldstein: Is it true there is a new/old subway map in the making? A. Albert: Yes, I did hear something like that but it’s not replacing the current Vignelli map.   |
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| **Introduction of Speaker: Craig Cipriano, Interim NYC Transit President – video time- 48:35**A. Albert: 472 stations have cameras, are they fare controlled cameras?C. Cipriano: The camera installations are an ongoing project. There will be cameras added to platforms, and throughout the stations. T. Mason: Do the forward-facing cameras on buses take pictures of cars to enforce blocking bus lanes? Are tickets issued automatically? C. Cipriano: Some buses do have capabilities to snap photos, but not all cameras have been installed. We are hoping to add cameras to 300 buses to have picture-taking capabilities. C. Greif: Announcements aren’t being made on the Q Train platform at the Neck Rd station (Manhattan bound) ‒ will forward email to Craig for complaint log.C. Cipriano: Please send me the email and I will follow up.C. Greif: I’ve also noticed some trains, mostly the A or C, that looked so dirty ‒ it looked like they had gone through a dust cloud.C. Cipriano: Yes ‒ I noticed a dusty/dirty train myself and I will investigate this.  S. Goldstein: We need to not lose sight of station cleaning as well as heavily soiled stations – both stations and trains are not being maintained.K. Hamilton: When crime rates go up, does ridership fall? Are bus drivers instructed to curb the buses? Do the future bus design plans take mobility issues into consideration?C. Cipriano: There is no correlation in ridership. Crime is down and ridership is continuing to rise. Yes, they should be curbing the buses, we will have our Road Operations team follow up once again on this issue. Yes, the new prototype bus that was down here at 2 Broadway will have more flip up seats in the front where you can store walkers. B. Brashears: Are there any plans to provide public information on the successes of the SPEED Unit? This may help attract riders back, knowing that the agency is working hard at speeding up service.  C. Cipriano: The press team will certainly look into doing so when the time comes.B. Brashears: With the Bronx Bus Redesign, have there been any discussions as far as connecting bus service to Metro-North commuter rail stations?C. Cantino: We can continue to consider options, please send any specifics my way.L. Daglian: This is a question from the chat – when will the restrooms open in the stations again?C. Cipriano: As of now we have no plans on opening restrooms, we don’t have enough cleaners at the moment due to the budget.  |
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| ***Adjourned*** |

**Action Items: None**

**Video link:** [**PCAC YouTube**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ePeQs3x_Vc&t=262s)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Daglian

Executive Director