A meeting of the New York City Transit Riders Council (NYCTRC) was convened at 12:00 pm on Thursday, September 23, 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 |
| Trudy L. Mason | Virtual |
| 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** |
| Jason Anthony | Amazon Labor Union |
| Andrew Kurzweil | Rail Users Network |
| Andy Pollack | Concerned Citizen |
| Ron Troy | Concerned Citizen |
| Frank Annicaro | Acting President, MTA Bus Company and Senior Vice-President, New York City Transit Department of Buses |
| Cate Contino | NYCT Govt. Comm Relations |
| Mark Holmes  | NYCT Department of Buses |
| Elliot Ward | NYCT Department of Buses |
| Sunil Nair  | NYCT Department of Buses  |

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| ***Approval of Agenda for September 23, 2021 meeting.*** |
| ***Approval of Minutes for July 22, 2021 meeting.*** |
| ***Chair’s Report attached.*** |
| ***Board Report:*** |
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| * Ridership continues to climb on all parts of the transit system after school opened on Friday. We hit close to 2.5 million riders. It's the highest we've had up to now and that's a great sign – it’s better than the McKinsey predictions.
* We now have cameras installed in all 472 subway stations and this is a wonderful thing. They are not all high definition, but some are watched in real time and some record and hold what they've seen for up to 30 days, which is good If a crime has been committed or somebody reports an assault or anything like that. To have all stations covered now is really wonderful, that's something that former president Sarah Feinberg was very much in favor of, and we supported.
* Since Ida and the storm that preceded, Henri, resiliency updates have been made, but nowhere near what we need to do. We are hoping that congestion pricing will be put into effect. It's already the law in NY state and we will get the money we need for the MTA’s $51 billion capital program. This will give us bonding capabilities of $15 billion a year, and that's a lot towards making the system resilient.
* We have a new head of subway car maintenance. You may have seen the releases ‒ her name is Siu Ling Ko. She is the first female head of subway car maintenance. She's been in maintenance for quite a while and she seems to really know her stuff, so it's very exciting to welcome her.
* I went to the unveiling of the new 42nd Street shuttle. It's like night and day from the old shuttle. You can now walk all the way towards the Sixth avenue line and there is a free transfer until midnight between the B/D/F/M and the 1/2/3/7 S/A/C/E. You now have an amazing amount of transfer capabilities at Times Square. So, if you have a chance to use the 42nd Street shuttle.
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| * Mask Enforcement: It's all over the news today and as I was traveling down here, I saw the police enforcing it for the first time. I have to say and Sharon, that it was not being enforced but mask enforcement is really taking place as of today. I saw police at various stations on my way down here looking in the car, walking up and down the train.
* Congestion pricing hearings started today. The first of 13 hearings (10 regular, three environmental). Lisa and Bradley will be testifying at these meetings along with many other people who have signed up to speak.

C. Greif:. Accessibility has been an issue because there is a concern for a person who is traveling from New Jersey to Manhattan or to the other boroughs.C. Greif: I don't know if you heard the hearings today but so you know that most disability groups are now in favor of moving this along.S. King-Hoge: I just wonder if you said there are a bunch of comments coming in, are they mostly positive or is there any feeling about that? A. Albert: What we heard at the board meeting was that there have been about 400 comments received that were largely positive. |
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| ***Old Business*** |
| C. Greif: Mask enforcement/ Mask Force ‒ will continue to hand out masks.B. Brashears: Freedom Ticket will be launching October 5/6th.S. Goldstein: Staff shortages continue to be a problem causing delays as they are trying to provide service with the crews they have available.  |
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| ***New Business: None*** |
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| **Introduction of Speaker: Frank Annicaro- Acting President, MTA Bus Company and Senior Vice-President, New York City Transit Department of Buses. – VIDEO TIME 49:15** S. Goldstein: How were we measuring ridership during the pandemic when we weren’t collecting fares? F. Annicaro: The buses have automatic passenger counters. T. Mason: Are the drivers made aware to curb buses for easier access to the bus?F. Annicaro: Yes, they are trained to do so but we will echo that message. T. Mason: Can a request be made that the bus stay in the lane until the light changes before pulling out of the stop?F. Annicaro: They will investigate that with the team. T. Mason: Regarding the 2nd Ave SBS - seems there is no logic to the placement of bus stops. Ex: M15 - the limited bus stops further north and the SBS stops further south, passengers seemed to be confused as to where to stand to catch the bus. F. Annicaro: They will investigate that with the team. L. Daglian: Should there be another 7-train shutdown, can they run express buses as shuttles?F. Annicaro: Operations Planning is looking into that.S. Picker: Bus lanes in Queens run during peak hours in peak direction, are there any plans for bus only lanes? Possibly painting bus lanes and posting signs for 7am-7pm?F. Annicaro: Road operations and NYPD are working hard on bus lane enforcement. Having them pay a fine if they break the rules has been implemented as well. J. Anthony: What about having the S40/ S90 limited bus service operate in both directions during peak hours to Amazon, the biggest employer on Staten Island? As employees are waiting for the bus, the bus will go ‘out of service’ before picking up employees at the Amazon location. F. Annicaro: Our team is attempting to make plans to contact Amazon to advise them directly on the detours when they happen. We will also have our Road Operations and Operations Planning teams investigate these service issues and do a ‘ride along’ to make sure the drivers aren’t doing shortcuts or cutting service. S. King-Hoge: How are you handling fair evasions and the safety of the bus operators.F. Annicaro: The automatic passenger counter helps give us the ridership count versus the payers data. Bus operators are to remind riders of the fare and aren’t expected to enforce payment. Fare evasion is a continued issue.A. Pollack : How come the Q66 bus has had some stops eliminated along the route? F. Annicaro: I’ll have someone from Road Operations answer that.S. Wyss : They are working on making Northern Blvd safer and some of the stops were very close, as close as 450ft, so they spaced the stops out. The DOT has also widened the sidewalks and that has allowed us to increase bus speeds for better service. C. Grief: Do we have an idea when the Brooklyn Bus Redesign will occur? We also have concerns on assaults of bus drivers in southeast Brooklyn, as we are seeing a rise in assaults. F. Annicaro: No set date on the Redesign but it is in the docket and we are currently working on the Bronx Redesign. We are aware that assaults are on the rise, we are working with our Eagle Team. We are also working on training our bus drivers to deescalate and avoiding altercations at all costs.  |
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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