



A virtual meeting of the Metro-North Railroad Commuter Council (MNRCC) was convened at 12:00 p.m. on May 19, 2022, via Zoom.

**Member Attendance**

Randolph Glucksman (Chair)	Present
Francena Amparo	Absent
Richard Cataggio	Present
Francis T. Corcoran	Present
Walter Zullig	Absent
Rosalind Clay Carter	Present
Michael Stanton	Present

**Staff Attendance**

Lisa Daglian (Executive Director)	Present
Bradley Brashears (Planning Manager)	Present
Kara Gurl (Research & Com. Assoc)	Absent
Jessica Spezio (Admin. Asst.)	Present
Shaul Picker (Intern)	Absent

**Non-member Attendance**

**Name:**

**Affiliation**

Robyn Hollander  
 Kelly Sheehan  
 Peter Ramos

MTA- TOD  
 Westchester County  
 Metro-North

***Approval of Agenda for May 19, 2022 meeting.  
Approval of Minutes for April 21, 2022 meeting.***

***Chairs and Board Report***

- Metro-North resumed their “Connect With Us” Forum at the Stamford train station on April 26. Two days later, the Long Island Rail Road restarted theirs at Hicksville. Pre-pandemic, I attended a number of them in Westchester and Orange Counties.
- As of the second weekend of May, weekday ridership was generally in the high 50’s to low 60’s% range but at 90% and 87% on that weekend. There is still a very long way to go reach the pre-pandemic weekday levels, if that ever happens.
- Walter Zullig contacted me to find out if there was going to be any work on the Port Jervis Line over the upcoming Memorial Day Weekend. There will be a railroad festival each day featuring the historic Erie turntable from 10 AM – 5 PM. Visitors will see vintage trains, trucks and classic cars, historical displays and of course there will be food. The cost is \$5 for adults and children under 12 are free.
- Staff emailed our recommendations for a small number of printed timetables for each branch line at the next schedule change and the return of quiet cars that were approved at our April 21 meeting to President Cathy Rinaldi. At this writing, no response was received.

R. Glucksman: Metro-North ridership this past weekend was 90% on Saturday at 87% on Sunday. Ridership on Tuesday was 62%. We’re hoping for continued increased ridership during the week.

L. Daglian: Is that the announcement that is being made today?

R. Glucksman: Yes, that’s the one they did today which was a trifecta of the two railroads and the Transit Authority all having achieved post-pandemic record ridership. Is everyone still getting the press releases?

R. Carter: I’m not getting them, can you have them sent to me?

## MNRCC MINUTES

3

M. Stanton: I'm not getting them either.

R. Glucksman: Okay, we will get you on the list. Jess, can you take care of this for us?

R. Carter: What are we doing to promote train usage, taking into consideration the rise in gas prices as well?

L. Daglian: The announcement today was a press conference but you're right, they don't put rising gas prices into the picture. I think that's more of a personal choice as some people haven't ridden trains in over two years.

M. Stanton: I agree with Rosalind, and she raises a good point— if the MTA is aware of the disconnect and whether they are doing anything about it.

R. Carter: With increased ridership, conductors should be announcing that it is recommended to wear masks. I haven't heard those announcements being made.

M. Stanton: I have seen masks being handed out.

L. Daglian: It is still a requirement to wear masks. We will reach out regarding the marketing suggestions and mask announcement to our connections in Metro-North.

R. Glucksman: We will move on to our Bike/ Ped access presentation that Lisa will share with us.

L. Daglian: I think Rosalind and Mike, that you were part of the conversation or newly on the Council when we had the conversation about the new legislation that was passed last year, that adds a member to our Council. It does not specify how that member will be added, so we're still trying to figure that out. The added member to our Council will help us shape our bicycle and pedestrian recommendations to the MTA. A lot of people want to be able to stay on their bikes and ride them over MTA bridges, particularly the Verrazzano. People are also interested in being able to take their bikes to stations and travel with them. We have to present our recommendations to the MTA by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Presentation:** MTA Bike-Ped Access Strategic Plan Update by Jessica Mathew, Senior Advisor, Special Projects & Initiatives, Office of the MTA Chair – given by Lisa Daglian.

**Discussion of PCAC draft Bike-Ped recommendations**

## MNRCC MINUTES

4

M. Stanton: Do we have any idea how widespread bike-sharing is outside of NYC in the Metro-North territory?

R. Hollander: The group under me is working on a first mile/last mile study and development of the toolkit and pilot program, and we will be presenting to the Metro-North Commuter Rail Council in July. But most importantly, there are a couple of bike shares. There were a couple of pilots that were being done over the course of a few years, but as Lisa said, there is a pilot in New Rochelle. There are dockless bikes used elsewhere, but they have been geocoded so they can only be parked in certain areas, which is much better.

L. Daglian: One of the recommendations we made for LIRRCC was that the Code of Conduct — which was posted on the MTA website last updated in 2008, even though there's an update for the bicycles on trains page — needs to be updated to include stronger language on what's accepted, what's not accepted, and with pictures and visuals about which kinds of bikes are allowed or not allowed. How do you all feel about joining LIRRCC and making a motion to update the Code of Conduct to improve the language about these vehicles and really push it out there, and send a letter to the MTA?

R. Glucksman: I'll make a motion for that. (motion passes)

R. Carter: Do we have any data on electrical fires caused by the bikes?

L. Daglian: We have some data, most of the fires that have occurred are usually while they are being charged. People won't be charging them on the trains, they are using them to get around before and after their train rides.

R. Glucksman: Is this legislation for bicycles, e-bikes, and scooters? Is there going to be a differentiation or are they going to treat them all the same?

L. Daglian: The MTA is going to treat them all the same. I believe that it's in the legislation. What we can do is suggest whatever we want. Basically, there are recommendations that we're making to the MTA. The strategic plan that they're going to put together will include our recommendations but also look at access to bridges.

R. Glucksman: Transport for London bans e-scooters, and e-unicycles since back in December.

L. Daglian: E-bikes and scooters are not permitted on MTA equipment either, but it's not enforced the best way.

## MNRCC MINUTES

5

B. Brashears: I was just looking at some of our working recommendations and this topic you guys are talking about now, and I'm not sure if this fits into our recommendations, but they should develop definitions of these different bicycle types, what categories do these types of bikes fit into and what's allowed when, where and what is not.

R. Carter: With all these new buildings and structures, bike parking options should be suggested.

L. Daglian: Bike parking recommendations can be made. Oonee pods at Grand Central are a pilot program option currently being tested.

R. Hollander: We have definitely been in touch with the communities to understand how they are traveling, and we are dealing with 160 different land use programs.

P. Ramos: There is an all-agency task force that is working on reviewing all of the data collected and obstacles they could potentially face. They are reviewing the e-bikes, scooters, hoverboards and the size of the equipment, the type of batteries they use, and so on.

R. Carter: On Metro-North they have these racks they use, that when used are effective. How do we know what train car those racks are in?

P. Ramos: There only available on the M8 trains in the B car I believe. We are still trying to figure out how to get them on our other equipment and trains.

R. Glucksman: Could there ever be a situation where a stroller or a wheelchair loses designated space over a bicycle?

P. Ramos: There would never be competition as those are designated seats.

### **Old Business:**

#### **WageWorks update**

L. Daglian: We have a piece of legislation that Gerry Bringmann and LIRRCC has been pushing for since June 2020 and it's finally one step closer to getting people their money back from WageWorks and other commuter benefits accounts.

### **New Business:**

## MNRCC MINUTES

6

R. Cataggio: I'd like to draft a letter to the County Executive office to request a shelter similar to the one installed in Nanuet. Can the staff assist me with this?

L. Daglian: Yes of course, please send it over to us.

### **Action Items:**

- Send a letter to the MTA to update the Code of Conduct to improve the language about what bicycles and scooters are permitted onboard

Meeting recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17cfZdtfTLc>

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Daglian  
Executive Director