A meeting of the New York City Transit Riders Council (NYCTRC) was convened at 12:00 pm on Thursday, February 17, 2022 in the 20th floor Conf. Room 4 at 2 Broadway, New York, NY 10004, and via Zoom.

**Member Attendance**

Andrew Albert (Chair) Present

Burton M. Strauss Jr. (Vice Chair) Present

Stuart Goldstein Present

Christopher Greif Present

William K. Guild Absent

Marisol Halpern Present

Sharon King Hoge Present

Karen Hamilton Present

Cicely Harris Present

Trudy L. Mason Absent

Scott R. Nicholls Present

**Staff Attendance**

Lisa Daglian (Executive Director) Present

Kara Gurl (Research & Comm. Associate) Present

Bradley Brashears (Planning Manager) Present

Jessica Spezio (Administrative Assistant) Present

Shaul Picker (PCAC intern) Present

**Non-member Attendance**

**Name Affiliation**

Rocio Zumaya Concerned citizen

Amy Linden Acting Lead, MTA Fare Payment Programs

Cate Contino NYCT Asst Dir. Govt Affairs

Mira Philipson MTA

Sara Bahri MTA

Andrew Kurzweil Concerned citizen

William Stanford Concerned citizen

David Kupferberg Concerned citizen

Jason Anthony Concerned citizen

Tomas Imperato Concerned citizen

Debra Greif Concerned citizen

Reg Baron Concerned citizen

|  |
| --- |
| ***Approval of Agenda for February 17, 2022 meeting.*** |
| ***Approval of Minutes for January 27, 2022 meeting.*** |
| ***Chair’s Report attached***  **Safety Issues**  A. Albert: We have noticed an increased police presence in the system. Police have been told to include going into train stations as a part of their scheduled beat walk. There are now announcements being made in the stations to stand back from the platform edge, and people are listening and standing back from the edge.  **New Electric Bus order**  A. Albert: We have purchased an additional 60 buses and that brings our total now to 75 electric buses. We don’t have an exact delivery date, but they have been ordered.    L. Daglian: There is a lot of competition for the buses. They are ramping up production and development of the factories to supply the demand.  **Zoning for Accessibility (ZFA)**  A. Albert: I want to say that the new zoning laws in NYC are beneficial to the MTA and to riders. Lisa will tell you a little more about a new project coming about because of ZFA:  L. Daglian: A new elevator is being installed at the 5th Avenue and 53rd Street station, servicing the E and M trains, by Extell, the developer of 570 5th Avenue. This bi-level station goes 85 feet deep below bedrock with stairs and escalators on both ends of the stations. They have shared a rendering for us to see and asked for our support. As you can see, the elevator goes from the street level all the way down to both train platforms. The building will go up between 47th and 48th Streets on 5th Avenue but will be allowed to increase its FAR under ZFA and East Midtown Rezoning.  D. Grief: Can we ask that they put in more elevators or a ramp?  L. Daglian: There is not room for a ramp at this location, or for another elevator, unfortunately.    **New Fare Promotions/ Atlantic Ticket**  A. Albert: Lastly, I want to talk about the new fares taking place on February 28th and some more information about Atlantic Ticket; Lisa is going to talk more about that.  L. Daglian: I’m going to be sharing a presentation that Sarah Meyer gave to our LIRRCC meeting last week and has allowed me to share with you all today. It will show the new fare discounts.  **View slides and presentation here:** [**https://youtu.be/AITP0yBqqls?t=1491**](https://youtu.be/AITP0yBqqls?t=1491)  C. Greif: Is there a 20-trip ticket reduced fare, and is there a discount on the commuter rails as well?  S. Bahri: Not as of yet. Reduced fare is not available on OMNY just yet either. We are constantly in communication with Sarah Meyer’s team and the OMNY project management team to make sure that it is incorporated. Fare capping, overall, is still being discussed. These discounts will apply to the customers when it does become available. Reduced fares apply now to LIRR customers.  K. Hamilton: I’m not hearing about transfers as far as the railroad and then taking the subway, what is the transfer mechanism?  L. Daglian: If you’re using OMNY, it’s a seamless transfer. We can also ask Amy about that later when she gives her presentation.  J. Anthony: I think the MTA has to improve its communication with the press. There is confusion on the signage with Atlantic Ticket, City Ticket, and fare capping.  W. Stanford: Why can’t paper schedules be printed and made available at stations?  A. Albert: You can look up the schedule online from your phone or on a computer, it is the most current and up-to-date information.  S. Goldstein: I just want to say that they should have a better way to promote the fares, not everyone has access to a phone or technology. When they promote new updates and ideas going forward, they should be printing a brochure showing the information.  S. Picker: The 20-trip tickets aren’t available on vending machines; *LIRR Today* is suggesting that they should be available in a printable format.  L. Daglian: I think they are doing away with printed tickets; the MTA wants people to use e-Tix going forward.  K. Hamilton: How do you buy an e-Tix if you don’t have a debit or credit card?  L. Daglian: We would have to look into that.  S. Goldstein: A suggestion might be that you can go to the ticket window and pay cash and they could email you the ticket.  S. Goldstein: I have a question pertaining to your report on safety and police deployment. How are they distributing the police officers? I see the heavier police presence in the city, but this needs to also be a non-Manhattan approach. They need to be riding and patrolling on trains and in stations in all the boroughs.  A. Albert: I have seen and have heard from others that it is not only Manhattan-based, but they are also out and about in all the boroughs.  L. Daglian: I also heard that the Eagle Team was out on Staten Island giving out tickets to people boarding buses and not paying their fares. It’s been a while since we heard they were out and about.  J. Anthony: To add to what Lisa said about the Eagle Team, they gave about twenty people a summons of $100 for not paying their fare. |
|  |
| **Presentation: OMNY Update, Amy Linden****, Acting Lead, MTA Fare Payment Programs. View presentation here:** [**https://youtu.be/AITP0yBqqls?t=3985**](https://youtu.be/AITP0yBqqls?t=3985)    A. Albert: They are planning on rolling out these fares in February, but the machines won’t be available until October. I understand there are programming issues so, how are people supposed to take advantage of the discounts if the machines aren’t available?  A. Linden: There are some challenges as it was intended to be a 12-month roll-out and we do have four thousand retailers selling them, but the supply-demand is not where it needs to be. We are looking for ways to get OMNY cards out there for those looking to purchase them.  C. Greif: Will there be a reduced fare weekly option? How about a monthly?  A. Linden: Yes, and the reduced fare is going to be capped at $16.20, it’ll be for 12 paid rides and the rest are free. The monthly for OMNY isn’t available but the current monthly isn’t going away for those who still use MetroCard.  D. Greif: I use Access-A-Ride and I use my OMNY card, so how does it keep track of my rides for fare capping?  A. Linden: Access-A-Ride is paratransit, and that is not included in the OMNY weekly fare capping. Those rides are not tracked through OMNY fare capping. They are completely separate systems.  J. Anthony: Can the $5 activation fee for OMNY be used for fares? Also, will the PATH be using OMNY as well?  A. Linden: Unfortunately, no. The $5 fee is to cover the cost of the actual card itself. Yes, the PATH has also chosen the same vendor as us.  W. Stanford: If you tap your credit or debit card on the reader, how does it charge the card? Also, where can people purchase OMNY cards in person?  A. Linden: It works by deducting the payment directly from your bank account if your bank card is set up to your account directly. You can purchase them at 7-Eleven, Walgreens, and various independent drug stores. You can also check online by putting in your zip code and doing a search.      ***Old Business:***  **None**  ***New Business:***   * Find out what time City Ticket starts and if it’s the same time for both commuter railroads * How do you buy an e-Tix if you don’t have a debit or credit card? |
|  |
| ***Adjourned*** |

**Action Items:**

**Video link:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AITP0yBqqls**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AITP0yBqqls)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Daglian

Executive Director