A meeting of the New York City Transit Riders Council (NYCTRC) was convened at 12:00 pm on Thursday, April 28, 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 Present

Scott R. Nicholls Absent

**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**

Jason Wilcox NYPD Transit

Scott Spencer AmeriStar Rail

Cate Contino NYCT Asst Dir. Govt Affairs

Andrew Kurzweil Concerned citizen

William Stanford Concerned citizen

David Kupferberg Concerned citizen

Andy Pollack Concerned citizen

Blair Feil ASL interpreter

Valery Calderon Concerned citizen

Rachel Fauss Reinvent Albany

Ron Troy Concerned citizen

Danny Randell MTA

Debra Greif Concerned citizen

Mike Howard Concerned citizen

Frank Taylor Queens Community Board 3

Michael Bold NY Times

Charlton D’ Souza Passengers United

Tramell Thompson Progressive Action

David Meyer NY Post

Carl Perrera Concerned citizen

Jason Anthony Concerned citizen

Vincent Jenkins Concerned citizen

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| ***Approval of Agenda for April 28, 2022 meeting.*** |
| ***Approval of Minutes for March 24, 2022 meeting.*** |
| ***Chair’s Report***  A. Albert: Before we begin our meeting, I want to reinstate the rules of conduct for our meetings. Members in the room and online will be called on first, followed by members of the public.  **Ridership update**  A. Albert: We continue to see ridership increase as we hit 3.2 million riders.  **Gov. Hochul salutes April 12th heroes/Q70 Bus Announcement**  A. Albert: Governor Hochul is the first Governor ever to attend an MTA Board meeting. Chair Lieber and the Governor saluted the April 12th heroes at this month’s meeting. She also announced at the meeting that the Q70 bus would offer free rides to LGA Airport for all riders starting May 1st, 2022.  **Safety update**  A. Albert: We continue to see increased police presence on the trains and in the stations. After the incident at 36th St, many public speakers are calling out for cameras to be installed on the trains. The R211 fleet which is the incoming fleet is equipped with cameras, they would like cameras added to the R160’s and the 179’s as well.  **Fare Evasion**  A. Albert: I continue to see many different people jumping the turnstiles or waiting by the slam gate to sneak into the system. We still need to see more police presence at the turnstiles. Another great thing is that Chair Lieber is creating a Blue Ribbon Panel to brainstorm ideas on how to end fare evasion. Some of those people are David Banks, Matt Fishbine, Michael Harty, David Jones, and many others. He wants a variety of people from different aspects and affiliations across the city to work together, there are others not listed that are also on the panel.  **J line upcoming work**  A. Albert: J line service will be suspended for several weeks due to track replacement. They will be running shuttle buses from 121st to Briarwood. They will also be cross-honoring MetroCards like Freedom Ticket from Atlantic Ave to Jamaica Center.  K. Hamilton: Do the Blue Ribbon Panel members take transit themselves because that’s important. Also, you mentioned David Banks, what would his role in the education field take place?  A. Albert: I can’t answer that, but I assume that they do so they can provide feedback.  T. Mason: Karen to answer your question everyone on the panel was picked for a reason. Mr. Banks wants educators to implement certain behaviors in the school and across the education system.  C. Greif: Is there anyone from any disability organizations on the panel?  A. Albert: I’m sure there will be, the list I announced is some of the people but not all the people and they will be adding more people to the panel.  S. Goldstein: Have they mentioned any timetables?  A. Albert: I haven’t heard anything on timetables?  T. Mason: They are starting to meet this month and they should have them available in October or November.  W. Stanford: I want to suggest that there be cameras on all the trains, platforms and at bus stops as well.  A. Albert: Yes, thank you.  T. Mason: I want to address the statement that was released regarding the camera malfunction issue at the 36th Street shooting. Can we please receive and review them before they are sent out or made public?  L. Daglian: We don’t always have time to send out a statement for review and wait for the members to respond. When it comes to current events and press timing, we just don’t have the time to wait, and the statement needs to go out.  A. Albert: Our Presenter Scott Spencer from AmeriStarRail is on the line and will be giving a brief presentation on a proposal for rail service to LGA Airport. Welcome, Scott.  **Presentation- *by Scott Spencer, Chief Operating Officer, AmeriStarRail:* *The NEW AmeriStarRail AirTrain LaGuardia Solution***  View Video presentation:  <https://youtu.be/g-0EPNZ7PlQ?list=PLDXH0sqF0KIh7Y8wGBf9JTP_0LU2sQvBm&t=2183>  T. Mason: May I suggest that before you continue to show this presentation to others, you try to present this to the Governor. She will have the overall say and provide the funding for this.  S. Spencer: Yes, I’m trying to get this to the Governor. Thank you for those suggestions.  Please email me with any questions.  A. Albert: Moving along we want to welcome our next speaker The NYPD Transit Chief Jason Wilcox. We are so glad to have you here today on a special day for you as well as you celebrating your 35th year of service. We thank you for your service and welcome, you have the floor.  Chief Wilcox: Thank you for having me.  View meeting video here: <https://youtu.be/g-0EPNZ7PlQ?list=PLDXH0sqF0KIh7Y8wGBf9JTP_0LU2sQvBm&t=3426>  B. Strauss: How do you plan to get officers on the trains?  Chief Wilcox: My officers will be seen, and they will have longer train runs.  A. Albert: When officers are in the station and on the platform and a train pulls in, are they told to look in or just stand on the platform?  Chief Wilcox: The rule of transit is to look in, be seen by the conductor or train operator, and make riders aware of their presence.    M. Halpern: How long do they stay on the platform? On the overnight tours are they there all night? Do they receive calls and complaints to report to the stations?  Chief Wilcox: Yes, they receive complaints. That area is District 11 and District 12 and they are told to stay a short period, walk around and then some of the cops stay their whole tour.  S. Goldstein: Are human capital resources still down?  Chief Wilcox: It depends where you look. Its’ down since pre-Covid but we just had a class graduate and I got 67 new officers. We are okay for now, but I wouldn’t turn down any officers.  S. Goldstein: The second part of my question is to ask are there any plainclothes officers riding the system?  Chief Wilcox: No, our officers are in uniform. We leave our plainclothes officers geared toward felony crimes.  C. Greif: I see some officers not wearing masks? Are they being told to continue to wear masks?  Chief Wilcox: Yes, they should be wearing their mask and enforcing the use of masks.  S. King Hoge: I do see an increased police presence but they’re just standing around and not patrolling the station. Also, do they monitor for fare evasion and people selling swipes?  Chief Wilcox: They should be walking around and patrolling the station. Yes, they are told to monitor for all of those issues and have been giving out summons.  K. Hamilton: Why now, two and a half years into the pandemic, are these opportunistic crimes occurring?  Chief Wilcox: We have seen an increase from this time last year. Assaults are up, crowded trains cause disputes and verbal altercations which can then lead to it turning physical.  T. Mason: Are the crimes being committed on the subways taking over the above ground crimes?  Chief Wilcox: Yes, crime is up overall. The focus on the subway system is not something new.  S. Goldstein: Any patterns of who is committing offenses?  Chief Wilcox: No there aren’t any patterns. Where the officers see offenses taking place is where they act, address the conditions.  L. Daglian: There is a question in the chat that says, “Is there a way to differentiate personal phones and work phones?”  Chief Wilcox: No, we can’t distinguish the difference.  J. Anthony: Can the officers coordinate so that if a pair get off the train at a specific station, another pair of officers can get on or at the next few stops so there is coverage on the train at all times?  Chief Wilcox: We can try to coordinate as best as we can with all of our officers.  C. D’Souza: I just want to say that the other night I was at the 34th St station calling 911 and using the help point intercom and 40 minutes passed and no police officers showed up. The passageways at that station are dangerous and people are conducting drug deals and you can get robbed too.  Chief Wilcox: I will look at that because that’s a very busy station and we have officers there 24/7 as it is a critical station.  D. Greif: Can you please assign officers to stand by the slam gates/ entrance?  Chief Wilcox: Yes, I’ll make a note of it.  A. Pollack: Piano in the Park starts next week at 42nd St/ Bryant Park. Will you increase patrols there?  Chief Wilcox: We have a transit police district there at 43rd Street/ Times Square, but I will make them aware of this if they don’t already know.  S. Picker: Do the less busy stations get patrolled as well? What if you witness something happening on the local track but you’re on the express track?  Chief Wilcox: Police are all along through the system, they aren’t assigned to any particular station assignments. You should definitely try to tell a police officer or a train crew member so they can call it in. You can also call or text 311, or call 911 as we work with them on these issues.  ***Old Business:***  None  ***New Business:***  None |
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**Adjourned**

**Action Items:**

None

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-0EPNZ7PlQ&list=PLDXH0sqF0KIh7Y8wGBf9JTP_0LU2sQvBm&index=124&t=1395s>

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Daglian

Executive Director