Per Open Meeting Law requirements, an in-person meeting of the Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee (PCAC) was convened at 2 Broadway and at three additional publicly accessible locations, as noticed, at 12:00 pm on Thursday, March 2, 2023. Members of the public and Council members unable to attend were present via Zoom.

**Member Attendance**

Gerard Bringmann (Chair) Present

Andrew Albert (Vice Chair) Present

Randolph Glucksman (Vice Chair) Present ‒ Florida location

Francena Amparo (MNRCC) Absent

Richard Cataggio (MNRCC) Absent

Rosalind Clay Carter (MNRCC) Present ‒ Maryland location

Francis T. Corcoran (MNRCC) Present — virtual/remote

Stuart Goldstein (NYCTRC) Present ‒ 66 John Street location

Peter Gorry (LIRRCC) Absent

Christopher Greif (NYCTRC) Present

William Guild (NYCTRC) Absent

Marisol Halpern (NYCTRC) Absent

Karen D. Hamilton (NYCTRC) Present

Cicely Harris (NYCTRC) Absent

Sharon King Hoge (NYCTRC) Present

Trudy L. Mason (NYCTRC) Present

Scott R. Nicholls (NYCTRC) Absent

Bryan Peranzo (LIRRCC) Absent

Larry Rubinstein (LIRRCC) Absent

Michael Stanton (MNRCC) Present

Burton M. Strauss, Jr. (NYCTRC) Present

Christy Tolbert (LIRRCC) Absent

Walter Zullig (MNRCC) Present ‒ Florida location

**Staff Attendance**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Lisa Daglian (Executive Director)  Liam Blank (Associate Director) | Present  Present |
| Kara Gurl (Research & Comm Associate)  Jessica Spezio (Administrative Assistant)  Ryan Leighton (Intern) | Present  Absent  Present |
|  |  |

**Non-member Attendance**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name**  Kevin Call  Carl Hamann  Jonathan Fazio  Eric Wollman  Mark Lebow  David Kupferberg  William Stanford Jr.  Andrew Kurzweil  Mike Howard  Jason Anthony  Ron Troy  Bruce Hain  Dave Colon  Evan Simko-Bednarski  Ben Brachfeld | **Affiliation**  MTA  MTA  MTA  Concerned citizen  Concerned citizen  Concerned citizen  Concerned citizen  Concerned citizen  Concerned citizen  Concerned citizen  Concerned citizen  Concerned citizen  Streetsblog  NY Daily News  amNY |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Approval of agenda for March 2, 2023 meeting***  ***Approval of minutes for December 8, 2022 meeting***  **Presentation:** *Update on MTA Personal Electric Vehicle Policy, by Carl Hamann, Deputy Chief Safety Officer*  **View presentation with Q&A here:** [**https://youtu.be/O\_9nHVsfJas?t=49**](https://youtu.be/O_9nHVsfJas?t=49)  Various issues were raised about guidelines and policies in progress for personal electric vehicles (PEV’s) including new regulations stipulating that there is to be no charging on trains or in stations; only UL registered batteries permitted in the system; locations where e-bikes and e-scooters can be parked on trains; and size/weight restrictions of PEV’s.  Questions were raised about where signs are posted about the rules. Carl informed members that the policy is still being finalized, and signs will be put up around stations once the policy is signed off on by all parties.  Gerry suggested that requiring permits for e-bikes could be a solution. Rosalind suggested that if permits are required for e-bikes, the TrainTime app should show the permit status/which trains they are permitted on, and where..  **PCAC Executive Director Report:**  Lisa informed members about the new format for meeting minutes that was started for the new year that is more reflective of the style used by the MTA Board, with a synopsis of the conversations at meetings. She noted that PCAC’s official minutes of the meetings are the video recordings posted online on our YouTube channel. Lisa shared that Kara was officially offered the position of the Planning and Advocacy Manager, and introduced Liam Blank, PCAC’s new Associate Director. She shared that PCAC is looking to backfill the Research and Communications Associate position and introduced Ryan Leighton, PCAC’s new intern, who joined via Zoom and will be working on a fare policy report.  **PCAC/LIRRCC Chair’s Report:**   * As everyone is already aware, the big news for the Long Island Rail Road is the opening of Grand Central Madison. Starting with shuttle service to/from Jamaica, full service began this past Monday, after a Grand Opening Ceremony held on Sunday which brought together a "who's who" of everyone who's been involved with the East Side Access project including former LIRR Presidents & MTA Chairmen. Speakers included Governor Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, MTA Chairman Janno Lieber & LIRR/Metro North President Cathy Rinaldi. I want to thank the PCAC Staff for taking the time out of their weekend to attend. * With the opening of Grand Central Madison came the first major LIRR schedule change in literally decades. Total service was increased by approximately 41%, but there is still considerable controversy regarding the new schedules, which has Atlantic Avenue service as primarily a shuttle (12 minutes peak/20 minutes off-peak) and considerably less service to Penn Station. While it's hopeful that commuters will adjust to the new schedule after a couple of weeks, the LIRR has assured us that they will be monitoring the new traveling patterns of our riders and will make some adjustments where necessary/if practical. However, given the numerous reports of overcrowding – despite fewer riders than pre-pandemic and with an increase in service – and continuing concerns and complaints about changing trains, eliminated trains and unreasonable transfers being raised by commuters, we have issued a press statement asking the LIRR to move more quickly to add cars to consists and adjust schedules to address the most egregious problems. * While the LIRRCC's satellite office in Mineola is not yet ready for occupancy, Nassau County is working with us and we were given access to a Conference Room, so that we can hold our monthly meetings there. This is of critical importance, as it makes it easier for our members to attend in person, as required by the Open Meetings Law (as the Covid suspensions, allowing for remote participation has now ended). * Motorized personal conveyances on the system has become an increased concern, particularly as ridership numbers continue to increase. We are pushing the MTA to establish a definitive policy regarding this issue and have asked the MTA Safety team to speak with us at this meeting about this matter.   Burt asked if changing and adjusting the new LIRR schedules to improve issues raised will be easy. Gerry responded that it’s difficult for the LIRR to add service because there are not enough train cars. Ron noted the LIRR is short on train cars and that more M9s are needed.  Chris mentioned the Long Island Care announcements about calling in advance if you need assistance with accessibility needs.  Karen expressed disappointment with the new LIRR service to and from Atlantic Terminal and Penn Station, particularly with off-peak service.  **NYCTRC Chair’s Report:**  1. Grand Central Madison opening  2. On-time performance  3. New ADA stations coming  4. Budget discussion  5. New LIRR stations  Trudy emphasized that some of the funding options for the MTA in the state budget are unlikely to happen, particularly the proposal for casino revenue to go to the MTA. She stated that revenue from casinos would start in 2026 at the earliest.  **Presentation:** *MTA Service Alerts Update by Kevin Call, Senior Director, Service Communications*  **View presentation with Q&A here:** [**https://youtu.be/O\_9nHVsfJas?t=3012**](https://youtu.be/O_9nHVsfJas?t=3012)  Randy asked when the new service alert system will start, and whether the people who are already signed up for the old alerts will have to sign up again for these new alerts. Kevin informed him they will notify existing subscribers that they need to set up the new system. He said they will include language that says something like “MyMTA alerts is shutting down, please sign up for new MTA service alerts” with a link and how to do that.  Jason suggested that there should be real-time in-app notification updates on the MyMTA service app while they are still modifying it. Kevin advised they have a team that is actively working on overhauling the app, and it will launch with push notifications.  Trudy suggested that the app have various language options to accommodate all riders and users of the app. Kevin said that they are currently operating in over 20 languages on WhatsApp and they will look at expanding on other modes.  Karen asked if there are any geofields or geolocations used with the app so that as you get closer to something, it will give you specific alerts. Kevin said they are limited because their data isn’t that nuanced yet with user location information, but it's something they are looking at.  **MNRCC Chair’s Report:**   * Grand Central Madison officially opened on Wednesday January 25, 2023, with limited service between Jamaica and the new station. The Inaugural Train departed from Jamaica at 1045 AM and arrived on time at Grand Central Madison at 11:07 AM. By all accounts it was a very successful debut. Full service begins on February 27, 2023.   During January, a friend emailed that he was experimenting the Train Time app, planning a through trip from Metro-North to Mineola. The result would have him walking from Grand Central Terminal to NY Penn Station. I forwarded it to a contact at the Long Island Rail Road and the next day it was fixed.  **PCAC Funding Thermometer Demo:** By Kara Gurl  Kara gave a demo of PCAC’s new [MTA Funding Tool on the PCAC website](https://pcac.org/report/filling-the-operating-gap-a-funding-tool/). She explained that the tool shows the dozens of options for fully funding the MTA this budget season, and allows users to interactively compare the amount of funding raised by each option. Options proposed in the Governor’s Executive Budget and other proposals are included.  Lisa raised the importance of PCAC sending a strong message to elected leaders that transit funding is a priority, and that we will send letters to state legislators.  Rosalind suggested messaging around the budget focusing on what will happen if transit doesn’t get the funding it needs, to make the conversation more urgent. Lisa agreed that this will be part of PCAC’s messaging.  ***Old Business:***  Eric Wollman asked about the reopening of bathrooms in the stations. Andrew shared that various bathrooms have been reopened and NYC Transit will continue to open more as time goes on.  ***New Business:***  Combo ticket sales within the city were discussed.   |  | | --- | | **Adjourned** |   **YouTube link:** [**https://youtu.be/O\_9nHVsfJas**](https://youtu.be/O_9nHVsfJas)  **Action Items:**  **None**  The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.  Respectfully submitted,  Lisa Daglian  Executive Director |