

Per Open Meeting Law requirements, an in-person meeting of the New York City Transit Riders Council (NYCTRC) was convened at 2 Broadway at 12:00 pm on Thursday, May 25, 2023. Members of the public and Council members unable to attend were present via Zoom.

### Member Attendance

Andrew Albert (Chair)	Present – in person
Burton M. Strauss Jr. (Vice Chair)	Present – in person
Stuart Goldstein	Present – in person
Christopher Greif	Present – in person
Marisol Halpern	Absent
Sharon King Hoge	Present – in person
Karen Hamilton	Present – in person
Cicely Harris	Present – in person
Trudy L. Mason	Present – in person
Scott R. Nicholls	Present – virtual

### Staff Attendance

Lisa Daglian (Executive Director)	Present
Kara Gurl (Planning & Adv. Manager)	Present
Jessica Spezio (Administrative Assistant)	Present
Ryan Leighton (PCAC Intern)	Present

### Non-member Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Jake Luce	NYCT
Cate Contino	NYCT
Ray Raimundi	MTA Press Office
Andrew Kurzweil	Concerned Citizen
William Stanford Jr.	Concerned Citizen
Eric Wollman	Concerned Citizen
Carl Perrera	Concerned Citizen
Debra Greif	Concerned Citizen

***Approval of Agenda for May 25, 2023 meeting.  
Approval of Minutes for April 27, 2023 meeting.***

**Chair/ Board Report:**

Ridership

Ridership continues to hit high records across the system. We have had multiple days of over 4 million subway riders a day which is becoming the new norm.

President Rinaldi mentioned yesterday that Connecticut is contemplating cutting subsidies to the Metro-North New Haven line, and unfortunately, Shore Line East as well.

Congestion Pricing update:

The Final EA and Draft FONSI were received from the federal government earlier in May, the next milestone towards Congestion Pricing implementation.

Fares

Fare increases are expected around Labor Day. There will be public hearings in June followed by a vote at the July Board meeting. The fare would go up to \$2.90. The weekly unlimited would go from \$33 to \$34 and the monthly unlimited would go up to \$132. Express buses would go up to \$7 a trip. There will also be weekly rolling fare capping, as we have called for in the past.

LIRR and Metro-North are also getting fare increases. There is a new peak CityTicket being proposed, and they are talking about melding Atlantic Ticket into CityTicket but not keeping the \$60 weekly. This weekly should be expanded, not removed, even if it's made peak with an increased price. [The full list of proposed fare changes can be found here.](#)

Budget update

The final state budget was great news for transit. The increase in the top rate of the Payroll Mobility Tax, albeit only for businesses within the five boroughs, will generate an additional \$1.1 billion to the MTA per year. The budget also increases New York City's share of paratransit costs to \$165 million a year. In addition, there will be a one-time payment of \$300 million in state aid, \$35 million to improve subway service, \$65 million to reduce the proposed fare increase, \$35 million in safety investments, ABLE expansion for bus lane enforcement, and casino revenue from license fees and ongoing operating funds.

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Trudy added that Senator Addabbo said that the money from casinos will not go to the MTA until 2026 at the earliest.

Service increases: The G, J, and M trains will have 8-9 minute service on weekends starting in July, which are the first of multiple rounds of subway service improvements. [More details on service improvements can be found at this link.](#)

Lastly, I want to say thank you to Bill Guild. We have received his formal resignation letter. Bill was a longtime member and was chair of the PCAC.

**Presentation:** *NYC Transit Operating Efficiencies: Jake Luce, Senior Advisor*

View the presentation along with the Q&A: [https://youtu.be/6\\_YQkYyhnLY?t=146](https://youtu.be/6_YQkYyhnLY?t=146)

Jake discussed the operating efficiencies that NYC Transit is working on as part of an effort to reduce costs without service cuts or layoffs. The strategies include utilizing technology and data to improve operations, implementing best practices, focusing on cost reduction, and making necessary investments for modernization and technology.

Trudy and Sharon shared that it should be easier to commend employees doing good work, not only to submit complaints.

Chris mentioned that although the app sometimes says there are delays and crew shortages, it doesn't always seem that way when trains are consistent.

Trudy also mentioned ABLE and the importance of informing the bus drivers about it.

Sharon asked how people can report cars in bus lanes. Lisa responded that there is a bill proposed in the City Council regarding citizen enforcement of bus and bike lanes.

**Final Budget and Congestion Pricing Updates:**

Lisa shared that the Blue Ribbon panel report on fare and payment evasion has been released, with many recommendations including focusing on the four E's of enforcement, education, environment, and equity. This includes the potential for a new fare array and retrofits.

Lisa mentioned that the draft Congestion Pricing FONSI has been delivered to the MTA, allowing the program to move forward.

**Old Business:**

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Chris stated that the 7<sup>th</sup> Ave station on the B/Q line still needs improvements and the edges have not been fixed.

### **New Business:**

Trudy commended a conductor on very effective announcements made regarding transfers and stop announcements.

### **Action Items:**

**None**

### **Adjourned**

Video link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6\\_YQkYyhLY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_YQkYyhLY)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.  
Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Daglian  
Executive Director