



Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2024

A virtual meeting of the Long Island Rail Road Commuter Council (LIRRCC) was held at 4:30 pm on Thursday, January 11, 2024. Due to a lack of in-person quorum, the public and members joined via Zoom.

Member Attendance

Gerard P. Bringmann (Chair)	Present – virtual
Bryan Peranzo	Absent
Larry Rubinstein (Vice-Chair)	Present – virtual
Christy Tolbert	Present – virtual
Peter Gorry	Absent

Staff Attendance

Lisa Daglian (Executive Director)	Present – virtual
Kara Gurl (Planning & Advocacy Manager)	Present – virtual
Jack Connors (Research & Comm. Assoc.)	Present – virtual
Jessica Spezio (Administrative Assistant)	Absent

Non-member Attendance

Name	Affiliation
Anabel Frias	LIRR
Stuart Desser	Concerned Citizen
Adam Wittenstein	Concerned Citizen
Debra Greif	Concerned Citizen

Not Approved due to lack of in-person quorum: Minutes for October 10, 2023 meeting.

Not Approved due to lack of in-person quorum: Agenda for November 8, 2023 meeting.

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Not Approved due to lack of in-person quorum: Agenda for January 11, 2023 meeting.

Chair's Report:

- I will continue to push the MTA to place the M-9a order, as the M-3 fleet needs to be retired sooner than later. Approximately 100 M-3's rapidly approaching the end of their useful life are still in service at this time.
- I will continue to push for the restoration of timed connections at Jamaica during the evening rush hour.
- I will be working with Lisa and the PCAC office to push for legislation that will help us fill the openings on the LIRR Commuters Council by eliminating the requirement that three names for every open position. We will also be working to establish a better relationship with both the Nassau & Suffolk County Executives to get nominees submitted to Albany for approval.
- I will also be working with the PCAC office to push legislation to get full voting memberships for the three riders representatives on the MTA Board. This will allow us not just a vote, but to make motions, 2nd motions, count towards quorum (which will allow the committee to function more efficiently), and serve in chairmanship positions.

Gerry mentioned that Amtrak is considering running service to Ronkonkoma as part of their expansion. He added that when they do the analysis, they'll find out it's not going to be cost-efficient for them. They planned to run three trains out to Ronkonkoma and three trains back every day and the trains would go on to Philadelphia and Washington.

Gerry informed the council of the passing of one of our long-time advocates Ron Troy who joined our meetings regularly.

Debra mentioned the Elevators at Jamaica Center constantly being out of service and how they are maintained by the Port Authority. Lisa said we would reach out to our Port Authority contact and send a follow-up letter.

Executive Director/ Staff Update:

Lisa's update: Jack has been with us for around four or five months, he is leading efforts to change the authorizing legislation for membership voting. Progress has been made on recommendations from the OMNY report, supported by Senator Comrie. The team is advocating for morning peak, disabled, and senior fares on Long Island Railroad, Metro North, as well as other specific initiatives funded by fair fares. They are also seeking public input for our 2024 priorities. The search for an associate director continues. The team is still optimistic about finding a suitable candidate. Additionally, the team is involved in discussions about housing accessibility on MTA properties and is exploring ways to improve it.

LIRR Updates: by Anabel Frias

Effective January 22, there will be schedule changes based on ridership monitoring and customer feedback. Most changes address requests for additional through trains to Brooklyn in the afternoon, with no alterations to evening and weekend schedules. Specific adjustments include the 4:49 am Far Rockaway train from Penn Station now departing from Atlantic Terminal at 4:46 am and the 3:35 pm Grand Central to Hempstead train departing from Atlantic Terminal at 3:33 pm. Additionally, the 6:39 pm Penn Station to Hempstead train will now depart from Atlantic Terminal at 6:30 pm. Riders are advised to check the Train Time app or timetables for branch-specific changes. In ADA projects, a contract was awarded in December for station improvement at Babylon, Boris Hills, and Hollis stations. Work for package one (Amityville, Lindenhurst, Massapequa Park, and Copiague) began in the summer of 2023. Projects at Laurelton, Locust Manor, St. Albans, and Auburndale stations will commence this year, with mobilization already started at Laurelton and the first outage scheduled for the weekend of January 26. The next significant milestone for Laurelton includes staging a crane for weekend work on February 23-26.

Adam mentioned the middle seat campaign, which started circulating social media on the 30th anniversary of the Colin Ferguson shooting. Anabel informed him it was not done intentionally.

Goals and Priorities:

- Transit- Housing connections
- OMNY vate
- Budget asks
- Voting membership

- Mets/ Willets point accessibility
- Times connections
- Port Jefferson electrification and moving the Yaphank station.

Stu Desser asked for the FOIL officer at MTA.

Social Media and Communications Update: by Kara Gurl

- Weather-related service issues on the Long Beach and Oyster Bay branches following this week's storm
- A few major signal issues happened this week leading to cancellations, one east of Jamaica on Tuesday 1/9, and one on Sunday 1/7 near Woodside leading to service suspensions between Penn Station and Jamaica.
- Some reports of issues with cross-honoring on the LIRR to Flushing with 7 train service suspended last weekend.
- Ongoing schedule complaints including overcrowding on multiple branches during peak and off peak times and gaps in peak service from Atlantic Terminal to Long Beach.

Debra requested more Help Point Intercoms on stations that lack LI care helpers.

A suggestion was made for platform control to be present at Woodside station especially for events.

Old Business:

New Business:

Action items:

NONE

Adjourned

Meeting recording:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.
Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Daglian
Executive Director