



Meeting Minutes of November 8, 2023

A virtual meeting of the Long Island Rail Road Commuter Council (LIRRCC) was held at 4:30 pm on Wednesday, November 8, 2023. 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	Present – virtual
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
Ron Troy	Concerned Citizen
Christopher Greif	NYCTRC Member

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.

Chair's Report:

- On Sunday Lisa and I attended a press conference at the Mineola train station at which Senator Chuck Schumer announced that he had secured 1.26 billion dollars towards the restoration work needed in the East River Tunnels, as a result of flooding from Super Storm Sandy. This represents 80% of the projects cost with Amtrak picking up most of the remaining 20%. The Senate Majority Leader also announced funding for the Gateway project, Second Avenue Subway extension north to 125th Street, and the Penn Access project and Pelham Bay Bridge Replacement Project.
- New schedules will be going into effect on Monday, November 13th. The schedule changes have been met with mixed reviews from riders, but does indicate the LIRR's willingness to continue to make adjustments based on ridership trends.
- On Monday, the MTA launched its fall Customer Satisfaction Survey. You can take the survey for the LIRR, Metro-North, subways and buses, and Access-a-Ride here: <https://new.mta.info/mta-customers-research> and you can rate two services. It's important to take the survey which asks questions about things that matter to regular riders, including reliability, frequency, seat availability, fare payment options and a host of other issues, and our responses can add up to make a difference.
- Other than the aforementioned, it's been fairly quiet since my last Chair's Report. Lisa Daglian will be giving us an update on the status of our Associate Director search, as well as what the PCAC office is currently working on later in the meeting.

Executive Director/ Staff Update:

Lisa explained that she took the new MTA Customers Count survey before recommending it to others. The survey, which took about 15 minutes, was similar to the one from last April. She discussed the importance of being specific in the survey to

address station needs and preferences because the MTA uses it to guide their improvements.

Stu Desser said the survey has design issues including redundant questions. Gerry advised he would relay the comments and feedback to the LIRR.

Lisa shared that we have received promising applications for the Associate Director position. The next step involves narrowing down the candidates through initial interviews. The goal is to present a strong set of candidates to the executive committee for the second round of interviews, ideally completing the process before the end of the year.

Chris mentioned the lack of accessibility questions in the new LIRR survey. Lisa shared that she found that there were some questions about accessibility but there is room for improvement.

Social Media and Communications Update: by Kara Gurl and Jack Connors

- Many riders have complained about overcrowding and shortened trains, particularly fans leaving the Islanders game this weekend who had to contend with hourly service on the Ronkonkoma Branch due to track work and at other games and concerts.
- We're continuing to hear frustration with the LIRR's new schedule and limited fleet, particularly with service to Brooklyn, shorter rush hour trains, and the loss of timed connections.
- There were many issues with the shuttle buses replacing trains throughout October, which did not provide adequate capacity. We received a complaint from a rider who waited extensively for a scheduled shuttle bus that they later learned was canceled because of overcrowding, and when a bus finally arrived it was extremely crowded even before the last stop. This was also an issue last month including on Columbus Day weekend.

LIRR Updates: by Anabel Frias

Anabel mentioned that the LIRR is moving along with the ADA stations improvement project. Currently, they're still working on Copiague, Lindenhurst, Amityville and Massapequa Park.

Anabel shared that the November schedule changes will be effective on Monday, November 13. The changes made were based on customer travel patterns and feedback that we received since the opening of Grand Central Madison. Most of the changes are on the Port Washington Branch and the Babylon Branch.

Stu asked about the train speeds on the Montauk Line.

Old Business:

NONE

New Business:

NONE

Action items:

NONE

Adjourned

Meeting recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7XUWr9KM1IU>

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

Lisa Daglian
Executive Director