

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, October 31, 2024. 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 – virtual*
Dante Arnwine	Present – in person
Andrew Bennett	Absent
Stuart Goldstein	Present – in person
Christopher D. Greif	Present – in person
Marisol Halpern	Present – in person
Karen Hamilton	Present – in person
Cicely Harris	Present – virtual*
Khalia Hayslett	Absent (excused)
Sharon King Hoge	Present – in person
Trudy L. Mason	Present – in person
Scott R. Nicholls	Absent

Staff Attendance

Lisa Daglian (Executive Director)	Present
Brian Fritsch (Associate Director)	Present
Kara Gurl (Planning & Adv. Manager)	Present
Jack Connors (Research & Comm. Associate)	Present
Jessica Spezio (Administrative Assistant)	Present
Henry Mei (Intern)	Present

Non-member Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Amy Linden	OMNY
Cate Contino	MTAGCR
Carl Perrera	Concerned Citizen
Jesse Figueroa	Concerned Citizen

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Debra Greif	Concerned Citizen
Ann Manino	Concerned Citizen
Jason Anthony	Concerned Citizen
William Stanford Jr.	Concerned Citizen
David Kupferberg	Concerned Citizen
Andrew Kurzweil	Concerned Citizen
Eric Wollman	Concerned Citizen
Mike Ring	Concerned Citizen
Matty Buchys Hyland	Concerned Citizen

Approved- Agenda for October 31, 2024

Approved- Agenda for September 26, 2024

Approved- Agenda for July 25, 2024 meeting

Approved- Minutes for July 25, 2024 meeting

Approved- Minutes for June 27, 2024 meeting

Chair/ Board Report: by Andrew Albert

- New Transit Police Chief – Joseph Gulotta
Andrew introduced the new transit police chief, Joseph Gulotta, who previously served as the Borough Commander in Staten Island.
- Subways/Zabar's Anniversaries
Andrew mentioned the subway's 120th anniversary and Zabar's 90th anniversary, commemorated with black and white cookies at various stations.
- New Wireless service –42nd St shuttle
Andrew highlighted the wireless initiative for the Times Square Grand Central shuttle and the potential expansion to other lines.
- R211s on Staten Island Railway
Andrew outlined the replacement of the 70-year-old R44 cars with new R211 cars on the Staten Island Railway, noting improvements in ride quality.
- Roosevelt Island station-100th Re-newvated station
Roosevelt Island is now the 100th station to be re-newvated, with a new expression for renovated stations: "revived."

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- Plaques for New York Liberty basketball team – Liberty Ave C line station
The New York Liberty won the women's basketball championship, and MTA celebrated with the installation of plaques at Liberty Avenue station.
- 5th Ave redesign: A disaster for buses
Andrew expressed concerns about the proposed changes to the Fifth Avenue redesign. There is a reduced number of bus lanes and a potential negative impact on pedestrian traffic.

Trudy volunteered to speak with Dan Garodnick about the proposal and its potential negative effects on bus service.

- Weapons Scanner test ended
Andrew shared that the Evolv weapon detector pilot has been cancelled due to false positives and misdiagnosis of items as weapons.

Andrew also addressed the recent subway surfing deaths and the need for better surveillance and sensors to prevent such incidents.

Trudy suggests involving the new Chancellor of the Department of Education to address the issue of subway surfing among young people and requested that staff send a letter to the Chancellor.

- MTA budget has shrunk 3% since 2019
Andrew reported that the MTA budget has shrunk by 3% since 2019 due to efficiencies and combined projects.
- Changes to 2010-2014, 2015-2019, 2020-2024 Capital Programs
Andrew addressed the changes to three of the last four capital plans, incorporating savings from completed projects to fund new initiatives. He also emphasized the importance of federal funding for the upcoming \$68 billion capital plan, which includes state of good repair projects.
- IBX
Andrew shared the progress on the Interborough Express project, including the decision to tunnel under the All Faiths Cemetery.

Presentation: Amy Linden, Vice President, OMNY

Amy Linden, now VP and Program Executive of Operations and Services, explained her role in building the foundation for the OMNY system's operations and services. Initially, the OMNY team's focus was both on construction and operations, but with increased

emphasis on delivering resources, her role shifted to solely focusing on operations. Their objective is to provide seamless fare payment across various transit operators and customer segments, including general riders, special programs, and business clients. OMNY has seen significant adoption, with 83% of full-fare ridership using it, and the adoption rate has increased post-pandemic.

The majority of OMNY users pay via digital wallet on their phones, with Apple and Google enabling "Express Transit" for faster transactions. The OMNY Card, a closed-loop card, has also gained popularity, especially as vending machines roll out. Reduced fare customers are gradually transitioning to OMNY, with 75,000 already enrolled, and the remaining eligible customers set to receive their OMNY cards by mail starting in December.

- Stuart asked if there are any plans to sell preloaded OMNY Cards. Amy advised that there were not.
- Trudy requested better wording to say "No fare included" to inform customers that the OMNY card's fee does not count toward the fare.
- Lisa asked if Citi bikes or ferries could potentially be included in the OMNY system. Amy advised it could be an option eventually but nothing yet.
- Carl asked about 2 or 3 transfer options for trips that require multiple transfers or legs. Amy advised she doesn't handle fare policy but there are 2 transfers allowed per fare.
- Stuart suggested advertising the best fare options for tourists so they understand the options available to them.

Executive Director: Lisa Daglian

The PCAC staff is engaged in multiple initiatives and projects, focusing on transit equity, affordability, and fare policy improvements. Recently, they collaborated with RPA on a report examining the costs of exempting certain groups, like municipal workers, from congestion pricing. This well-researched report is also intended to bring attention to fare policy issues, despite some opposition from union representatives.

Staff's current efforts include updating the OMNY fare report, which previously recommended extending Fair Fares to commuter railroads, expanding CityTicket with transfers, and simplifying fare policies. New proposals this year include free fares for CUNY students, extending the senior and disability discount on the railroads to the morning peak, and introducing affordable travel incentives as congestion pricing begins.

The team is also advocating to increase the poverty threshold eligibility for fare discounts, with a goal of expanding this to 200% of the poverty line. They are planning legislative actions to secure more equitable fare structures, especially for those in

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subway deserts and underserved communities. As fare increases approach next year, PCAC will continue pushing for affordability and accessibility.

Old Business:

Chris raised concerns about reduced fare options for combo tickets and the need for clear communication with customers.

New Business:

Dante raised the need to improve accessibility and build an elevator at the Franklin Av-Medgar Evers College station. Andrew agreed that this station would greatly benefit from an elevator.

Action Items:

Trudy will reach out to Dan Gardonick regarding the 5th Avenue redesign.
Staff will write and circulate a letter to the Schools Chancellor regarding subway surfing

Adjourned

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NPG6EjXM3eA>

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

Lisa Daglian
Executive Director