

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, November 30, 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	Present – virtual
Sharon King Hoge	Present – in person
Karen Hamilton	Absent
Cicely Harris	Present – in person
Trudy L. Mason	Present – in person
Scott R. Nicholls	Present – in person

Staff Attendance

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

Non-member Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Carl Libassi	NYCT
Cate Contino	NYCT
Jasmine Melzer	Concerned Citizen
Jason Anthony	Concerned Citizen
William Stanford Jr.	Concerned Citizen
Andrew Kurzweil	Concerned Citizen
Khalia Hayslett	Concerned Citizen

***Approval of Agenda for November 30, 2023 meeting.
Approval of Minutes for October 26, 2023 meeting.***

Chair/ Board Report:

ACE replacing ABLE in May, 2024

ABLE (Automated Bus Lane Enforcement), the MTA's bus lane enforcement system, is getting updated next May to ACE (Automated Camera Enforcement). This will not only cover the bus lanes, but it will also cover the lane adjacent to the bus lane to prevent buses from getting blocked by traffic or double parking.

New post-COVID ridership records

Post COVID ridership continues to hit new milestones, including a high of 3.86 million average for the month of October, and many midweek days reached over 4 million paid riders.

Congestion Pricing update

TMRB (Traffic Mobility Review Board) recommendations on the details of congestion pricing have been released. The toll amount will be \$15 to enter the CBD during 5am-9pm travel times. [More details can be found here.](#)

Scott raised opposition to Congestion pricing because of inadequate transit options in Staten Island.

Lisa shared that there will be another comment period and room for public input over the next few months with the SAPA (State Administrative Procedures Act) process.

Re-use of vacant retail space

There is an RFP out to find better use of shuttered newsstands and retail spaces in subway stations.

Trudy mentioned that the vendor at the 77th street (downtown side) said they were told that they couldn't sell newspapers anymore.

Park Ave viaduct replacement— Foundations, tracks, signals, power

There is major essential work being undertaken on Park Avenue by 115 to 123rd Street. This is an example of why we need a well-funded capital program. While the work is

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being done, no service will be affected by the upgrades. They were also able to cut 21 months off of the original length of the project.

Real-time subway maps!

You can now see real time subway maps on the electronic screens in the stations. It shows you current real-time train service, reroutes, delays etc. including when GOs occur. This is something that we have long advocated for.

November Financial Plan

The November Financial Plan has been released and it looks better than it has in the past few years thanks to funding from Albany last year. Included in last year's state budget was a required \$400 million in operating efficiencies for next year, but the MTA went even further and found \$500 million in savings.

Fare Evasion

A new type of wide-aisle fare gate is being piloted at Sutphin Archer station that may help with fare evasion while also improving accessibility.

Sharon asked if the slam gates are still being used. Andrew advised that they are and they have added a delayed opening feature to them as a deterrent.

Mr. X asked why Allied Security guards stand in front of the gates, which makes it harder for people who need the gates to use them. Lisa advised they are there to deter fare evasion from happening.

Presentation *"Division of Station Operations Update – Q4 2023" by Carl Libassi, Senior Director, Quality Assurance, Operations Support, NYC Transit*

View the presentation along with the Q&A: https://youtu.be/7H37G_ItXZk?t=2560

Mr. Libassi informed us there has been a focused effort to enhance station cleanliness, particularly in areas with tile floors. The majority of the nearly 300 station cleaner jobs have been concentrated on using scrubbing machines. The approach involves prioritizing this work over other tasks and reducing the number of stations under each cleaner's responsibility to provide more cleaning time. Additionally, station districts have been organized, each with a dedicated tech team controlled by local managers, specifically tasked with deep cleaning, including overheads, conduits, light fixtures, and challenging areas like ADA tactile spaces. The goal is to improve overall station cleanliness through strategic resource allocation and specialized cleaning teams.

Andrew asked if cleaning still happens when there are GOs in effect. Carl advised that most of the cleaning is done overnight and they try to partner up when doing station re-NEW-vations to tackle bigger cleaning projects.

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Stuart brought up West 4th Street station's cleaning being inadequate. He also mentions that the Fulton Street complex appears to have different cleanliness patterns based on train line and specific ends of the overall station. Carl advises that HIT teams are deployed to certain stations. Stuart also asked about staffing issues to which Mr. Libassi confirmed they have staffing issues but not with hourly employees.

Chris addressed cleanliness and graffiti in elevators as a big problem. Carl advised that graffiti is a challenge to remove from Steel and tiles, and he will relay elevator cleaning concerns.

Lisa asked if they talk to other transit agencies about best practices for homeless outreach in stations. Carl shared that they do and are in contact with SEPTA in particular.

Mr. X stated that bathrooms should be open later than the 7pm closing time currently enforced. Mr. Libassi stated that the hours of 7am-7pm is the level for which the restrooms can be kept clean and safe under the current circumstances and staffing.

Jasmine Melzer thanked NYCTRC including Lisa, Andrew and Chris for their continued efforts in pushing for the 7th Ave station elevator.

Jack informed Carl that the Times Square-42nd Street bathroom had no soap and he had to find the station attendant to be let into the restroom. Carl advised he would make sure they keep restrooms stocked with materials.

Jason agreed that bathrooms should have soap and be stocked in supplies.

Old Business:

Stuart bought up the single ride OMNY ticket which he didn't know existed, or why it exists. He suggested we look at the fare media costs.

New Business:

None

Action Items:

None

Adjourned

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Video link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7H37G_ItXZk

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Daglian

Executive Director