

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 and 57 Leonard St, NY\* on Thursday, March 27, 2025. Members of the public and Council members unable to attend were present via Zoom.

## Member Attendance

Andrew Albert (Chair)	Present
Burton M. Strauss Jr. (Vice Chair)	Present – virtual
Dante Arnwine	Present – virtual
Andrew Bennett	Present – virtual
Stuart Goldstein	Present
Christopher D. Greif	Present
Marisol Halpern	Present – virtual
Karen Hamilton	Present
Cicely Harris	Present – virtual
Gene Haynes	Present
Khalia Hayslett	Present – virtual
Sharon King Hoge	Present
Trudy L. Mason	Present
Scott R. Nicholls	Present*

## Staff Attendance

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

## Non-member Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Bobby Samuel	MTA C&D
Cate Contino	MTA GCR
Carl Perrera	Concerned Citizen
Debra Greif	Concerned Citizen

## NYCTRC MINUTES

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Andy  
Rick Horan  
Andrew Kurzweil  
Jason Anthony  
Eric Wollman

Concerned Citizen  
Concerned Citizen  
Concerned Citizen  
Concerned Citizen  
Concerned Citizen

**\*Executive Session of NYCTRC members was convened from 12:00 PM to 12:15 PM\***

***Approval of March 27, 2025 Agenda***  
***Approval of February 27, 2025 Minutes***

### **Chair/ Board Report: by Andrew Albert**

- MTA hired new consultants (AECOM and HNTB) to oversee the Second Avenue subway extension to 125th Street, with three new stations planned.
- Ridership is up 9% compared to last February, and congestion pricing has brought in over \$100 million in two months.
- 43 more stations have been named to become accessible in the next capital plan, with an additional 17 not yet named.
- Bus speeds have improved due to congestion pricing, with some buses potentially eliminating fixed schedules.
- Ongoing construction progress on the Rockaway shuttle and A/C line train upgrades.
- ACE cameras are being installed on multiple bus routes to prevent bus lane and bus blocking.
- Student OMNY cards will be replaced with more durable plastic versions by year-end.
- The MTA is pushing back against federal threats to reduce transit funding and cancel congestion pricing, highlighting that New York carries almost 50% of the nation's transit riders but receives only 17% of federal transit dollars.

Trudy asked why the MTA hired new consultants for the Second Avenue Subway Phase II instead of using MTA C&D. Brian responded by saying two main reasons are it's a temporary workforce for a short-term project. And secondly, these consultants have specialties that the in-house team doesn't have.

Marisol asked if there was a criteria for ACE routes? Cate replied that ACE routes are selected by high priority/high-ticket areas.

**Presentation:** Bobby Samuel, Vice President, Broadband Strategy & Implementation *MTA C&D Planning* “Expansion of public wireless connectivity at NYCT”

View presentation and Q & A: <https://youtu.be/RGyUwf1WDY8?t=2168>

1. Project Goals:
  - Provide cell service in all tunnels
  - Install Wi-Fi at all above-ground stations
  - Generate revenue for MTA
2. Current Status:
  - Cell and Wi-Fi are already installed in underground stations
  - Signed expansion license in December 2022
  - Will install connectivity in 300 tunnel segments
3. Expansion Strategy:
  - Coordinating with existing capital projects like CBTC to minimize outages and GOs
  - Working with carriers like Verizon and T-Mobile
  - Focusing first on: - Time Square shuttle - Crosstown CBTC project - G line 4/5 from Borough Hall to Fulton Street and the 4/5/6 from Yankee Stadium to Grand Central
4. Timeline:
  - 10+ years to complete entire system
  - 20 years of operation
  - 25-year option at contract end
5. Financial Details:
  - Over \$600 million capital investment
  - Minimum guaranteed revenue
  - Potential for increased revenue over time

## **Associate Director Report: Brian Fritsch**

View slide show: <https://youtu.be/RGyUwf1WDY8?t=3518>

- Budget season advocacy efforts at the state and city levels
- Rallies at City Hall and in Albany to encourage funding the MTA 25-29 Capital Plan
- Discussions with legislators about funding the \$35.4 billion Capital Plan gap
- Rallies supporting congestion pricing
- Advocacy for Fair Fares program expansion

## *NYCTRC MINUTES*

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- Working to advance the Rider-First Fare Agenda in the budget
- Potential federal funding challenges
- Safety and crime reduction efforts

### **Old Business:**

Stuart requested the station cleaning schedule. Station cleanliness was raised on the B/Q line, specifically the Kings Highway station.

### **New Business:**

None

### **Action Items:**

None

### **Adjourned**

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RGyUwf1WDY8>

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

Lisa Daglian  
Executive Director