

Per Open Meeting Law requirements, an in-person meeting of the New York City Transit Riders Council (NYCTRC) was convened at 2 Broadway and 2434 N Sherman Drive, IN 46218* at 12:00 pm on Thursday, March 28, 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 – in person
Stuart Goldstein	Present – in person
Christopher D. Greif	Present – in person
Marisol Halpern	Absent
Sharon King Hoge	Present – virtual
Karen Hamilton	Present – virtual
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)	Absent

Non-member Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
John McCarthy	MTA
Shanifah Riera	MTA
Cate Contino	MTA
Khalia Hayslett	Sunshine Network
Debra Greif	Concerned Citizen
Jesse Figueroa	Concerned Citizen
Matty Buchys–Hyland	Concerned Citizen
Andrew Kurzweil	Concerned Citizen
Eric Wollman	Concerned Citizen

***Approval of Agenda for March 28, 2024 meeting.
Approval of Minutes for February 29, 2024 meeting.***

Chair/ Board Report:

- Congestion Pricing update

As you all know, Congestion Pricing has been approved. There were some protestors at the MTA Board meeting but most people were in favor of it. Some exemptions were made to certain commuter buses and more city vehicles.

Khalia asked how disabled drivers will be exempt. Lisa shared that they can apply for the exemption, called the Individual Disability Exemption Program ([IDEP](#)) online and it will open 60 days before implementation.

- Crackdown on fare evasion

Operation Fare Play, an effort to add 800 more NYPD officers near turnstiles around the system, has begun to reduce fare evasion.

- SCOUT Teams

The new SCOUT team expansion has started to help individuals with severe mental illness and to get them the resources they need so that they don't harm themselves or others. They will be out and about in the system looking to help people in need.

- Bus CCTV screens

They will start the installation of CCTV cameras on buses near the driver's seat. We are not sure how they will be monitored or if they will be monitored in real-time.

- Crime update

A metal detector pilot announcement was made earlier today. It will be able to detect a weapon on someone who is coming in through the turnstile.

Scott asked what can the NYPD do if they found weapons on someone? Andrew shared that details are still being shared.

NYCTRC MINUTES

3

- CBTC update

The F/M service will be back to usual on April 1 after months of track work has been completed.

Presentation: John McCarthy, Chief, MTA External Relations, on Congestion Pricing and Transit Safety and Shanifah Rieara, Chief Customer & Senior Advisor, Communications and Policy

View the presentation along with the Q&A: <https://youtu.be/8bM4TD032oE?t=1812>

Transit Safety:

John McCarthy and Shanifah Rieara shared information on the MTA's recent safety initiatives in partnership with the city and state, including the new metal detectors displayed by the NYPD; the MTA planning to hire a Criminal Justice Advocate; the expansion of SCOUT teams; and the Fair Fares Day of Action around the city.

Lisa expressed interest in Fair Fares and suggested that it should also be promoted on Access-A-Ride.

Trudy asked if David Jones from the Community Service Society is being engaged to promote Fair Fares. Lisa shared that CSS has been a leader in the creation and promotion of Fair Fares.

Lisa shared that the Blue Ribbon panel recommended sending Fair Fares MetroCards with funding on them, and suggested that this recommendation be implemented.

Khalia asked if the MTA is using apps like the HRA's to promote Fair Fares. She was informed they are not but will take that suggestion back.

Karen asked if enrollment was available at public libraries. Shanifah shared that riders cannot currently enroll in Fair Fares at libraries but they are looking at expanding opportunities for enrollment.

Scott mentioned the importance of longer-term mental health support so that people do not end up back on the streets quickly. John shared that SCOUT teams do use a longer-term approach and check in with people to ensure they're getting the help they need.

Stuart asked if there was a sense of how many people around the system are in need of this program and whether there is data that will be used to track how many people are benefitting. "John said that they will be monitoring how many people are receiving help."

Congestion Pricing:

John McCarthy and Shanifah Rieara also shared information about Congestion Pricing and exemptions for people with disabilities, commuter buses, and city workers on official duty, following the MTA Board's approval of the tolling structure.

Scott inquired about when there is an FDR outage that pushes drivers into the Central Business District out of necessity, would cars still need to pay the fee? He was informed that many different "what if" situations could happen, but the ultimate goal of Congestion Pricing is to reduce traffic and non-essential trips into the zone, so they will be tolled.

Burt asked if the readers could be shut off for some time if needed. John responded that they cannot comment definitively at this time.

Khalia asked for information on accessibility funding from Congestion Pricing. She was informed that this capital plan has the largest investment in ADA in MTA history and is largely funded by Congestion Pricing.

Stuart mentioned our concern about the rising cost of capital projects with delays to Congestion Pricing funding. He asked if the MTA will use the already-installed toll readers to learn whether traffic volumes will lead to the anticipated amount of funding needed. John shared that according to federal traffic data and modeling, the MTA will get the legislatively required funding from Congestion Pricing.

Executive Director:

- Budget/ Albany Priorities: Staff has been working to get our three budget proposals, called the "FARES Act," over the finish line:
 - Creating a weekly CityTicket with transfers to subways and buses
 - Extending the Senior/Disability/Medicare discount on the railroads to the AM Peak
 - Extending Fair Fares to the commuter railroads within NYC and increasing eligibility to 200% of the federal poverty level
- Lisa shared that we are also working to advance the Rider Representation Act, which would give the non-voting rider representatives on the MTA Board a voting seat.

Karen asked if information would be going out on Safety during the eclipse.

NYCTRC MINUTES

5

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Action Items:

None

Adjourned

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8bM4TD032oE>

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

Lisa Daglian
Executive Director