

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 Wednesday, April 24, 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	Absent
Christopher D. Greif	Present – virtual
Marisol Halpern	Present – in person
Sharon King Hoge	Absent
Karen Hamilton	Present – in person
Cicely Harris	Present – in person
Trudy L. Mason	Present – in person
Scott R. Nicholls	Absent

Staff Attendance

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

Non-member Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Richard Davey	NYCT
Cate Contino	MTA
Jesse Figueroa	Concerned Citizen
Matty Buchys–Hyland	Concerned Citizen
William Stanford Jr.	Concerned Citizen
Mike Howard	Concerned Citizen
Nico Kean	Red Hook Civics
Carl Perrera	Concerned Citizen
Jason Anthony	Concerned Citizen

***Approval of Agenda for April 24, 2024 meeting.
Approval of Minutes for March 28, 2024 meeting.***

Chair/ Board Report:

Toll Evasion

MTA Bridges and Tunnels has been doing a great job of trying to prevent toll evasion. They have been setting up stop points by the Hugh Carey Tunnel and other locations. They have made 21 arrests and have issued 793 summonses so far.

Congestion Zone Confusion

Many people are raising concerns about where they will be charged, particularly with the bridges going into the CBD. Exiting the Queensboro Bridge upper level and the Brooklyn Bridge going to the FDR South/ Park Row into the Financial district are two locations that bring up confusion as to whether they will be included in being charged the fee. [More information on tolling can be found here.](#)

Fare-Free Bus Pilot to End

We have been advised that the fare-free bus pilot program will not continue past September as there is no money in the budget to extend the program further. We believe that targeted affordability programs make more sense.

#7 Line Updates

The 111th street, 82nd St/Jackson Heights stations have been completed and they will now start Flushing-bound work in the stations.

86 St #1 Uptown Service Suspended

Northbound service will be suspended for five weeks due to structural work being done. Once it's completed, they will do the southbound as well.

Siena Poll-Congestion Pricing

According to a Siena College Poll, 63% of respondents are opposed to Congestion Pricing.

Lisa added that the MTA is doing outreach to educate people on the benefits of Congestion Pricing.

Trudy said there is a lot of confusion about where the money from Congestion Pricing will be used and conflicting messaging from the news.

Marisol shared that with recent news of money for Congestion Pricing mitigations going to New Jersey, some of that money should also go to the Bronx.

Interborough Express

The Governor's budget has allocated 52 million dollars in the state budget for the IBX project. It is still unclear if it will be above ground or underground at this time.

Presentation: Discussion with Richard Davey, President, NYC Transit

View the presentation along with the Q&A: https://youtu.be/xyFOs4m_Ofc?t=819

Rich gave an overview of Safety, Service, and Cleanliness and his North Star of customer service.

- Crime is down 5% year-over-year.
- ABLE is changing over to ACE on May 27th. They have also gotten an additional camera contractor to help with installations.
- Customer satisfaction was rated at 70% overall on the biannual survey.

Andrew asked how many people took the survey and Rich shared that 100,000 people responded to the survey, mostly stating that safety, homelessness, and emotionally disturbed people are their biggest issues.

- NYCT is finding \$300 million in operating efficiencies.

Andrew mentioned he sees many police officers in the stations but the officers are not observing the fare gates/entrance turnstiles, therefore missing fare evaders.

Rich advised that MTA PD is more focused on that, but some of the NYPD officers who are on OT may not be aware of what exactly they should be monitoring. He also said Chief Kemper and the team are doing a great job.

Marisol asked about extending the free bus pilot, however Rich said that it will be discontinued as there is no funding for it. He shared that programs like Fair Fares are a more effective way of targeting discounts for low-income riders.

Karen raised the issue of the bus stops being moved farther from Subway stations on the crosstown buses, specifically the M34 bus. Rich said he would look into that.

NYCTRC MINUTES

4

Trudy suggested countdown clocks on the street level so people can see how long until their next train. She also said they need to make countdown clocks more accurate.

Cicely inquired about the SCOUT program and mentioned the homeless needing resources. Rich advised they are doing their best at the ends of the lines but it has been a struggle. Teams of MTA police along with clinicians are traveling throughout the system trying to provide support to those who need it.

Executive Director:

Lisa announced that we have a start date for our new Associate Director. She also mentioned the state budget deal was finalized and we are awaiting details.

Unfortunately, our FARES Act did not make it, which included creating a Weekly CityTicket, expanding Fair Fares to the LIRR and Metro-North within NYC, and extending the Senior/Disabled/Medicare discount to the AM peak.

Marisol asked if we are incorporating City of Yes in our discussions about fare discounts. Kara informed her that we have submitted a letter of support and will incorporate fare discounts into future conversations about the initiative.

Old Business:

Trudy mentioned M15 select bus/ SBS and how they should both stop at the same stop, not be one block apart, as they currently are on the Upper East Side.

New Business:

Mike mentioned that the device update to v.3 on the buses is no good and they should go back to v.2.

Action Items:

None

Adjourned

Video link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xyFOs4m_Ofc

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Daglian
Executive Director