

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, May 23, 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
Stuart Goldstein	Present – in person
Christopher D. Greif	Present – in person
Marisol Halpern	Present – virtual
Sharon King Hoge	Present – in person
Karen Hamilton	Absent
Cicely Harris	Present – virtual
Trudy L. Mason	Present – in person
Scott R. Nicholls	Present – virtual

## 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

## Non-member Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Michael Kemper	NYPD Transit Chief
Cate Contino	MTA
Jesse Figueroa	Concerned Citizen
Matty Buchys–Hyland	Concerned Citizen
William Stanford Jr.	Concerned Citizen
Robert Berrios	Red Hook Civic Assoc.
Khalia Hayslett	Concerned Citizen
Eric Wollman	Concerned Citizen
Jason Anthony	Concerned Citizen
David Kupferberg	Concerned Citizen

***Approval of Agenda for May 23, 2024 meeting.  
Approval of Minutes for April 24, 2024 meeting.***

**Chair/ Board Report:**

**OMNY Update**

Instead of full OMNY rollout to the commuter railroads, the TrainTime app will link with OMNY for the commuter rails. Cubic was taken out of the equation and in-house talent is being used instead, and money was saved.

**Grand Avenue Depot Electric Bus Chargers**

Electric buses are on order and with this new charging station; a bus can take a full charge in as little as 3 to 4 hours.

*Khalia asked if they had changed the electric bus vendors because the older electric buses were constantly breaking down. She was advised that there is a new vendor.*

**May Ridership Surges**

New ridership records are consistently passing 4 million riders on many weekdays.

Mr. X stated that many stations don't have posters up informing riders of the schedule changes occurring. Andrew advised that unfortunately, people rip them down.

**Fare Evasion**

The MTA is testing a new pilot on slam gates which has a 15-second delay before the door opens, and they are also looking into potential new turnstile ideas.

**Service Increases**

In July, the B, D, J and M are slated to increase to every 8 minutes on weekdays; the 3 and 5 will run every 10 minutes on weekends.

**Presentation:** Discussion with Michael Kemper, NYPD Transit Chief

View the presentation along with the Q&A: <https://youtu.be/zPhiB6qVKMo?t=63>

**Crime and safety in the New York City subway system.**

- Chief Kemper provided statistics to address concerns about the transit system.
- Chief Kemper shared his 33-year career experience at the NYPD.

**Efforts to reduce crime.**

- Mayor Adams deployed 1000 additional cops to the NYC subway system.
- Chief Kemper discussed similarities between the NYC subway system and the London Underground in addressing crime, homelessness, and mental health issues.
- There has been an 11-12% decrease in overall crime so far in the month of May.
- Chief Kemper emphasized the NYPD's challenge in providing public safety throughout the subway system, despite low crime rates, and the perception of safety versus the reality as seen in the rates.
- There has been progress working with homeless through the SCOUT program: in 4 months and 3 weeks, more than 10,000 people have gone to shelters. There are laws to remove people if they present a danger to themselves or others.

*Trudy tells Chief Kemper that he reminds her of Bill Bratton, who is an icon and changed policing around the world and in transit. The Chief shared that he talks to him regularly.*

*Stuart asked if there are patterns to who is being arrested. The Chief responded that it's recidivists and repeat offenders. Unfortunately, police have no control after the arrests are made. He shared that the legislature makes the laws and suggested that we need tougher laws.*

*Sharon asks what instructions the cops are given because she typically sees them in groups near turnstiles. Chief Kemper advised they are mainly near the fare gates or by the conductor position.*

**Executive Director:**

Lisa shared that the PCAC team is enthusiastic about Brian, our new Associate Director, joining the team. In recent months we've made progress on several fronts, including ongoing discussions with Albany lawmakers about key legislation such as voting rights for rider representatives on the MTA Board. Although these conversations may extend into next year, significant groundwork has been laid, largely due to Jack's legislative efforts and connections.

Lisa also shared that we're about to release a report about Fair Fares expansion led by Kara, with contributions from Jack and Brian. The report graphically demonstrates the benefits of expanding Fair Fares to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, potentially aiding 650,000 more people in New York City. With five weeks left until the city budget is finalized, we're collaborating with the Community Service Society and Riders Alliance to raise awareness and educate local elected officials on the benefits of this expansion.

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Stuart suggested that the City Council and City Budget Office should get a briefing on the report. Lisa shared that we've been in communication with the Independent Budget Office and Council.

### **Old Business:**

*Chris mentioned that 7 Ave B/Q needs work and cleaning.*

*Stuart mentioned he has seen station cleaning improvements at Fulton Street but not many improvements at the W 4th Street station.*

*Jason mentioned many of the restrooms in stations don't have supplies.*

*Matty asked what we thought of extending the SIR to Perth Amboy. Andrew responded that it was a good idea and for service over the bridge to Newark Airport.*

### **New Business:**

*Chris shared that there will be Congestion Pricing meetings about applying ODEP/ IDEP disability exemptions soon.*

*Mr. X requested the Franklin Ave shuttle be extended to Coney Island.*

*Sharon shared that her experience taking transit to Bayside is only 10 minutes longer than driving.*

*Mr. Berrios asked if there are plans to extend the G train from 5 to 6 train cars. Possibly after the summer GOs. He also mentioned that Red Hook is looking for a bus to Manhattan or for the M9 to extend into Red Hook. Lastly, he mentioned that the B61 is very slow.*

### **Action Items:**

**None**

### **Adjourned**

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPhiB6qVKMo>

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

Lisa Daglian  
Executive Director