

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, July 25, 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	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
Brian Fritsch (Associate Director)	Absent
Kara Gurl (Planning & Adv. Manager)	Absent
Jack Connors (Research & Comm. Associate)	Present
Jessica Spezio (Administrative Assistant)	Present

## Non-member Attendance

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Affiliation</u></b>
Chris Pangilinan	NYCT Chief, Operations Planning
Cate Contino	MTA
Kaylia Haslett	Prospective NYCTRC Member
Jesse Figueroa	Concerned Citizen
Matty Buchys–Hyland	Concerned Citizen
Jason Anthony	Concerned Citizen
Leslie Taege	Concerned Citizen
Rich O'Molley	Concerned Citizen
Eric Wollman	Concerned Citizen

***Approval of Agenda for July 25, 2024 meeting.***  
***Approval of Minutes for June 27, 2024 meeting.***

**Chair/ Board Report:**

- **Crime Reduction**

Andrew reported a significant decrease in subway crime, with a 7.8% year-to-date reduction, a 26.6% reduction from the previous year, and a 44% decrease from the same period last year.

Stuart asked for the breakdown of where the crime is still high, and whether anything is being done to focus on problem areas. Andrew said that there are parts of South Brooklyn and parts of the Bronx where it has not subsided to the extent it has subsided elsewhere.

- **Heat-Related Issues**

Andrew discussed the MTA's handling of the recent heatwave, noting that air conditioning issues on the R62 fleet were the worst, particularly on the numbered lines due to their narrower stations.

- **Repairs to East River Tunnels**

Andrew reported that Amtrak will be closing, one at a time, two of the four tubes under the East River that head towards Penn Station that were damaged from superstorm Sandy. We now have a greater number of Long Island Rail Road trains going to Grand Central Madison as opposed to Penn, so they can do this without affecting service levels.

- **Lawsuits re: Pause on Congestion Pricing**

Andrew reported on two new lawsuits filed against the MTA and the Governor on the topic of the congestion pricing pause, including one for cutting bus service, with judges demanding the restoration of all bus cuts.

- **Weapon Detectors in Stations**

Andrew shared that detectors are coming to subways soon. No specific date was given on when. Concerns about the detectors picking up weapons accurately while not impacting pacemakers and implants were raised by members

- **Deferred Station Accessibility**

Andrew shared that due to the pause on congestion pricing, many accessibility projects are on hold. Right now, we only have 151, out of 472, stations accessible. Wakefield

241st on the 2, Brook Avenue on the 6, 3rd Avenue/138 Street on the 6, 168 Street on the 1 train, and 145th Street on the A, C, B, D are being paused, for a total of 23 subway stations, along with Forest Hills and Hollis on the Long Island Railroad.

Cicely stressed the need for trusted messengers to speak to upper Manhattan Community Boards about congestion pricing and its potential transit benefits.

Chris mentioned accessibility issues for wheelchairs, walkers, strollers.

### **Executive Director- Lisa Daglian**

Lisa shared that we are continuing our focus on Congestion Pricing, reiterating that the key is not solely about funding this next Capital Plan, but about the “three-legged stool” that funds transit, improves air quality and reduces traffic. As the legislature looks to fund the next plan, they also have to address the current \$16.5 billion deficit in the last plan. PCAC is exploring best practices from other states for funding transit and will make some recommendations. PCAC’s other priorities include expanding Fair Fares and fare discounts with CityTicket, but decisions about operating funds and future legislative strategies depend largely on the outcome of Congestion Pricing.

Jack spoke on the new student OMNY cards after attending the press conference this morning with Chair Lieber and Mayor Adams. The new perks of these cards are 4 swipes with transfers daily that include late nights/ weekends and summer use, unlike the old student MetroCard.

Khalia asked why the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law can't fill in some of that 16-and-a-half billion-dollar deficit caused by the governor reneging on Congestion Pricing. Lisa answered that the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) funds projects through grants. They don't give money directly, which is what the MTA would need to replace this funding.

**Presentation:** Operations Planning Update, by Chris Pangilinan, Chief, Operations Planning, NYCT

**View the presentation along with the Q&A:** <https://youtu.be/feCRHmxqbcU?t=492>

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The discussion focused on operations planning for transit, highlighting key areas of responsibility and goals for 2024 and 2025. The team is involved in:

1. Planning and Scheduling: This includes managing bus and subway schedules to improve on-time performance and accommodate short-term changes, such as ongoing subway shutdowns and bus shuttles.
  2. Data Analysis: Analyzing ridership patterns and peak loads to optimize service delivery. This involves manual data collection by traffic checkers and the exploration of new technologies to improve accuracy and efficiency.
  3. Customer Service and Support: Traffic checkers help direct customers, update signage for service changes, and gather data on ridership and crowding.
  4. Major Projects: Notable projects include the Queens bus network redesign and long-term planning for subway shutdowns, like the Rockaway branch on the A line.
- Overall, the focus is on improving service quality through better planning, data collection, and technology integration.

Lisa asked if there is origin/destination data used by the team. Chris advised her there is.

Khalia asked if there is OMNY Paratransit data. Chris advised that there is new data.

### Old Business:

Karen asked about the Queen bus network redesign and the next steps. Cate advised revisions are coming in the fall.

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### **New Business:**

Karen asked if we are looking into “Project 2025” and its potential impacts on transit.

### **Action Items:**

None

### **Adjourned**

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

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

Lisa Daglian  
Executive Director