

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 27, 2023. 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 Greif	Present – in person
Marisol Halpern	Absent
Sharon King Hoge	Present – in person
Karen Hamilton	Present – virtual
Cicely Harris	Present – virtual
Trudy L. Mason	Present – in person
Scott R. Nicholls	Present – in person

Staff Attendance

Lisa Daglian (Executive Director)	Present
Kara Gurl (Planning & Adv. Manager)	Absent
Jessica Spezio (Administrative Assistant)	Present – virtual
Ryan Leighton (PCAC Intern)	Present

Non-member Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Mark Levine	Borough President
Chris Carroll	MBPO staff
Cate Contino	NYCT
Mike Howard	Concerned Citizen
Andrew Kurzweil	Concerned Citizen

***Approval of Agenda for July 27, 2023 meeting.
Approval of Minutes for June 29, 2023 meeting.***

Chair/ Board Report:

Fare Increase: The MTA board recently voted to increase fares and tolls. This will go into effect on August 20th, 2023. The fare will now be \$2.90 for a single ride, a seven-day pass will go up a dollar to \$34 and the monthly will be \$132. Express buses will go up to \$7. CityTicket will still be \$5 off-peak and \$7 dollars at peak, and Far Rockaway will be added to the CityTicket system with a new Far Rockaway Ticket. [See more information about the fare changes here.](#)

Sharon asked if there is a way to calculate and publicize how much less the fare increase would have been without the money lost to fare evasion.

Andrew informed her that the fare increase is already less than the 5.5% they thought it would be with the money received in the budget. There is no specific way to calculate what the fare increase would be without fare evasion losses due to the many different types of fares.

Congestion Pricing Update: New Jersey has filed a lawsuit against congestion pricing and has hired Randy Mastro as their main attorney. Staten Island may be joining in on that suit as well.

Additional Accessible Stations: Dyckman Street on the 1 train and 8th Avenue on the N line were recently made accessible. Coming this year will be 181st Street on the A line, Tremont Avenue on the B/D, East 149th Street on the 6 train, Lorimer Street on the L, Grand Street on the L, Metropolitan Avenue on the G, 7th Avenue on the F/G line and Beach 67th on the A line. Lastly, New Dorp on the Staten Island Railway.

Sept. 5 LIRR Changes: There will be further service changes on the LIRR starting September 5th. There will be much more morning peak hour direct service to Brooklyn, so the up-and-over to the Brooklyn shuttle will be less frequent.

Upcoming Service Increases: Starting August 7th, the C train will have 8-minute headways during middays. On August 12th the 1 and 6 lines will have 6-minute headways on weekends, and on August 28th the N/ R lines will have 8 min headways during middays.

Wheelchair Pilot Program: A unique wheelchair pilot is taking place on the M7 bus that allows users of wheelchairs to secure the wheelchair themselves and get off without the bus driver's assistance.

OMNY: Chairman Lieber announced the Billionth OMNY Tap yesterday.

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Fare Evasion: The MTA has announced that they are adjusting the turnstiles to prevent people from back-cocking and entering through the turnstile without paying, and there is a new pilot on the slam gates that has a 30-second opening delay to deter people from exiting if they don't need to.

Trudy introduced Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine. Trudy shared that the Borough President served two terms as a City Council member representing the Upper West Side, Washington Heights, and West Harlem. During his second term, he chaired the City Council health committee, receiving praise for his work during the COVID-19 pandemic. Trudy announced that she takes great pride in introducing NYCTRC to the Borough President of Manhattan, who is widely recognized on a national scale.

Presentation: *Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President – The Importance of Transit to Manhattan and the Region*

View the presentation along with the Q&A: <https://youtu.be/cpDBAUHIAVs>

Mark started by mentioning the positive changes in the transit system over the past two and a half years, highlighting the increase in ridership.

He also touched on the topic of congestion pricing, mentioning that it will be implemented despite political challenges, and will provide funding for improving accessibility and modernizing the transit system.

The BP also discussed Penn Station and proposed improvements, such as the proposed redesign of the entrance on 8th Avenue and improving the station environment.

He emphasized the importance of accessibility for all riders, including those with disabilities, and mentioned plans for additional elevators and ramps.

New Business:

Burt inquired about staffing issues with the EAGLE team and suggested they be placed on regular buses, not just the SBS buses. Andrew informed him that they are beginning that process.

Stuart continued to stress the issue of clarity on the OMNY price card fee and how it should say no fare is included in the \$5 fee and that it's the cost of the actual card.

Old Business:

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Sharon informed us that the Weekender service change update is not accurate. She attempted to take the N train but it wasn't running. Andrew informed her that service outages are on the website, www.new.mta.info/alerts.

Chris informed us that this month is the 33rd Anniversary of the ADA and the MTA did a fantastic job celebrating and commended Quemuel Arroyo, the Chief Accessibility Officer.

Action Items:

None

Adjourned

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

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

Lisa Daglian
Executive Director