



PCAC

PERMANENT CITIZENS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE MTA

Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2024

Per Open Meeting Law requirements, an in-person meeting of the Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee (PCAC) was convened at 2 Broadway at 12:00 pm on Thursday, December 12, 2024 and 940 Rose Avenue, North Bethesda, MD 20852.* Members of the public and Council members unable to attend were present via Zoom. There was no in-person quorum for the meeting, making it an unofficial meeting.

Member Attendance

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|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Gerard Bringmann (Chair) | Present |
| Andrew Albert (Vice Chair) | Present |
| Randolph Glucksman (Vice Chair) | Present |
| Dante Arnwine (NYCTRC) | Present— virtual |
| Francena Amparo (MNRCC) | Absent |
| Andrew Bennett (NYCTRC) | Absent |
| Richard Cataggio (MNRCC) | Absent |
| Rosalind Clay Carter (MNRCC) | Present* |
| Francis T. Corcoran (MNRCC) | Present— virtual |
| Stuart Goldstein (NYCTRC) | Present |
| Peter Gorry (LIRRCC) | Absent |
| Christopher Greif (NYCTRC) | Present |
| Marisol Halpern (NYCTRC) | Present— virtual |
| Karen D. Hamilton (NYCTRC) | Present— virtual |
| Cicely Harris (NYCTRC) | Present— virtual |
| Khalia Hayslett (NYCTRC) | Absent |
| Sharon King Hoge (NYCTRC) | Present |
| Trudy L. Mason (NYCTRC) | Present |
| Scott R. Nicholls (NYCTRC) | Absent |
| Bryan Peranzo (LIRRCC) | Absent |
| Larry Rubinstein (LIRRCC) | Present— virtual |
| Michael Stanton (MNRCC) | Present |
| Burton M. Strauss, Jr. (NYCTRC) | Present |
| Christy Tolbert (LIRRCC) | Absent |
| Walter Zullig (MNRCC) | Present |

Staff Attendance

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Lisa Daglian (Executive Director) | Present |
| Brian Fritsch (Associate Director) | Present— virtual |
| Kara Gurl (Planning & Advocacy Manager) | Present |
| Jack Connors (Research & Communications Assoc.) | Present |
| Jessica Spezio (Administrative Assistant) | Present |
| Benjy Ross (Intern) | Present |
| Henry Mei (Intern) | Present |

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Non-member Attendance

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Affiliation</u> |
|--|--|
| Shanifah Rieara | Chief Customer Office and Senior Advisor |
| Gene Ribeiro; Kevin Call; Chuck Orner; Shaun Field; Ricky Setiati; Steven Flamm; Brian Duran | MTA |
| Carl Perrera | Concerned citizen |
| Matty Buchys Hyland | Concerned citizen |
| Jason Anthony | Concerned citizen |
| Andrew Kurzweil | Concerned citizen |
| Dave Kupferberg | Concerned citizen |
| Gary Prophet | Concerned citizen |
| William Stanford Jr. | Concerned citizen |
| Terrell Merritt | Concerned citizen |
| Aaron Carnegie | Concerned citizen |
| Chris Boylan | General Contractors Association |

NOT Approved Agenda for December 12, 2024

NOT Approved Agenda for September 12, 2024

NOT Approved Agenda for June 6, 2024

NOT Approved Minutes for September 12, 2024 (unofficial)

NOT Approved Minutes for June 6, 2024 (unofficial)

NOT Approved Minutes for March 7, 2024

(Due to Lack of Quorum)

LIRRCC December Chair's Report:

- Newsday recently reported that much of the Long Island Railroad's infrastructure is in critical condition, with about 80 out of 600 bridges, viaducts, and tunnels rated in poor or marginal condition.
- The LIRR plans to spend \$600 million in the next MTA capital plan to address needed repairs.
- Amtrak is starting work on one of the two East River tunnels, which will require major repairs, but only minor adjustments will be needed to LIRR's Penn Station service.
- The LIRR has completed a station spruce-up program, with at least 10 stations finished so far, and major work is underway at the Babylon station.

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- LIRR ridership recovery is above projections, reaching 88% of October 2019 levels in October 2024, though on-time performance doesn't fully reflect the rider experience due to lack of timed connections at Jamaica.
- This weekend is "SantaCon," so there will be no alcohol allowed on LIRR trains, which likely also applies to Metro-North.

MNRCC December Chair's Report:

- Metro-North Railroad and Long Island Rail Road both reported new ridership records in October 2024.
- There was a recent press event where the governor and other officials highlighted Metro-North's strong ridership recovery and upcoming station rebuilding projects.
- Metro-North has decorated some of their M8 cars with lights for the holiday season and is running extra service.
- Randy mentioned that he had the opportunity to ride the Metro-North employee holiday train, which included a chance to meet with senior management.
- Due to work being done in the Sunnyside Yard, some of the typical train sets used for the employee holiday train had to be replaced with Metro-North equipment.

NYCTRC December Chair's Report:

- Congestion pricing is set to start on January 5th, despite 11 outstanding lawsuits. There is a hearing on one of the lawsuits next week.
- The Second Avenue Subway tunneling has resumed, and CBTC installation is continuing on the 8th Ave A, C lines along 8th Ave in Manhattan and the B, D, F, and M lines along 6th Avenue.
- Work has begun on both approaches to the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, which was awaiting congestion pricing funding.
- The MTA has saved \$100 million annually through budget cutting and paying off earlier debt, with an additional \$500 million expected to be saved in the capital program.
- The R211S railcars were temporarily pulled from the Staten Island Railway due to signal issues, but are expected to be back in service within a few weeks.

Andrew offered to follow up on the specific timeline for installing CBTC along the 6th Avenue lines.

Presentation: *by Shanifah Rieara, Chief Customer Officer, and the Customer Service Team*

View presentation with Q&A here: https://youtu.be/melGJnBdx_w?t=1038

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- Shanifah Riera discussed the MTA's efforts to improve customer service, including driving down call center wait times and making Fair Fares more accessible.
- The MTA has launched a new MTA app and is working on self-service kiosks for Fair Fares.
- The MTA is focusing on customer-facing campaigns, such as safety and courtesy, and has won awards for its courtesy campaign.
- The MTA is educating the public about the start of congestion pricing and the benefits and discounts available for those who qualify.
- Shanifah and her team showed new subway map designs for late nights, weekends, winter weather, and other variations.

The MTA is improving service communication, including using in-station assets and digital screens to provide real-time updates.

Executive Director Update: Lisa Daglian

- The PCAC staff continues to do a lot of work around congestion pricing, including discussions on affordability and fares.
- Jack presented the PCAC's "Rider-First Fare Agenda" and [report](#) which includes recommendations like implementing senior/disabled AM peak fares, expanding Fair Fares, and addressing the "mid-kid gap" on commuter rail fares.
- Benjy presented a report on the City of Yes rezoning policy, estimating it could generate 70,000-97,000 new daily transit riders and \$309 million in annual revenue for the MTA.
- The report recommends the MTA continue supporting transit-oriented developments, collaborate with city agencies to improve service in growing neighborhoods, monitor and invest in impacted transit lines, adjust service based on new ridership, and make commuter rail more affordable.
- Lisa mentioned upcoming legislation on WageWorks that Senator Gillibrand's office is introducing this week.
- Lisa also highlighted the MTA's recent progress on accessibility projects, like the Queensboro Plaza station opening.

The PCAC staff is actively engaged in advocating for policies and investments that support affordability, accessibility, and ridership growth for the transit system.

Presentation: by Jack Connors, PCAC Research and Communications Associate: Rider First Fare Payment Report

The Rider First Fare Policy Report includes the following key points:

- The MTA and legislators can make transit more seamless and integrated by rethinking fare policy. PCAC recommends:
 - Implement senior and disabled AM peak fares

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- Expand Fair Fares to 200% of the federal poverty level and to the LIRR and Metro-North within NYC
- Address the "mid-kid gap" by providing discounted fares for children ages 12-17 on the commuter rails
- Create a Weekly CityTicket with transfers to subways and buses
- Create a unified city zone and single CityTicket between the LIRR and Metro-North
- Improve MTA app integration and seamless fare payment across the system

The goal is to enhance affordability, improve fare collection, simplify fare payment, and address fare evasion as the MTA implements congestion pricing and faces the next biannual fare increase.

Presentation: by Benjy Ross, PCAC Intern: City of Yes research and report

Regarding the City of Yes rezoning policy:

- The City of Yes policy legalizes transit-oriented development and reduces parking minimums, allowing for more housing units to be built.
- It is estimated to create 58,000 to 80,000 new homes in the next 15 years to help address the housing affordability crisis.
- This new housing is expected to generate an additional 70,000 to 97,000 daily transit riders, which could provide \$309 million in annual revenue for the MTA.
- Many of the neighborhoods slated for significant housing growth have transit stations with underutilized capacity, indicating the system can handle the increased ridership.
- Key recommendations include 1. Continue supporting transit-oriented developments; 2. Collaborate with city agencies to improve bus and rail service in growing neighborhoods; 3. Monitor and invest in transit lines that will see increased demand; 4. Adjust service based on the additional ridership and revenue; 5. Make commuter rail fares more affordable in transit-dependent areas.

The report emphasizes the importance of aligning housing and transit policies to maximize the benefits for both riders and the MTA.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Trudy raised a question about the timeline and plans for improving cell phone service in subway tunnels as they get wired. Lisa Daglian said they would follow up to get a schedule on that.

Adjourned

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YouTube link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=melGJnBdx_w

Action Items: None

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Daglian
Executive Director