



# PCAC

PERMANENT CITIZENS  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE MTA

## Meeting Minutes of September 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, September 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

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

### Staff Attendance

Lisa Daglian (Executive Director)	Present
Brian Fritsch (Associate Director)	Present
Kara Gurl (Planning & Advocacy Manager)	Present
Jack Connors (Research & Communications Assoc.)	Present
Jessica Spezio (Administrative Assistant)	Present

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### Non-member Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Debra Greif	Concerned citizen
Ann Mannino	Concerned citizen
Carl Perrera	Concerned citizen
Matty Buchys Hyland	Concerned citizen
Jason Anthony	Concerned citizen
Martin Ascher	NYS Senate
Emma Wallach	NYS Senate
Gary Prophet	Concerned citizen
Michael Ring	Concerned citizen
Andrew Kurzweil	Concerned citizen
Dave Kupferberg	Concerned citizen
Mike Howard	Concerned citizen
Jim K	Concerned citizen
Peter Ramos	Metro-North
Danny Pearlstein	Riders Alliance

***NOT Approved Agenda for September 12, 2024***

***NOT Approved Agenda for June 6, 2024***

***NOT Approved Minutes for June 6, 2024***

***NOT Approved Minutes for March 7, 2024***

***(Due to Lack of Quorum)***

### **LIRRCC September Chair's Report:**

- Despite the LIRR 's best efforts, the lack of timed connections in Jamaica remains a problem with our commuters, especially heading eastbound in the afternoon's & evenings. The scheduling is so tight that a train can pull in 3 to 4 minutes behind its scheduled arrival time and the connection has already departed. This is very problematic in that these riders can be forced to wait anywhere from 30 to 60 minutes for the next train to destinations like Oyster Bay, Port Jefferson or stations on the Montauk branch. The situation is such that Newsday thought it was worthy of being a front-page story. As many of you know, I've been fighting for the restoration of timed connections in Jamaica since shortly after the schedule changes required by full time service to Grand Central Madison. Less than 60% of trains arrive in Jamaica within 3 minutes of their scheduled arrival time, so when you hear that the LIRR has been running with an On Time Performance of 95% (within six minutes at the final destination) you need to be aware that this does not necessarily reflect the customer experience, especially with riders making connections for diesel territory. This was reflected in a recent customer survey of

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riders in which 78% of the riders who didn't need to transfer were satisfied with LIRR while the number dropped to an unacceptable 55% with the riders that needed to make transfers. The LIRR has currently set a target of getting 70% their trains platformed within 3 minutes of arrival time. Needless to say, the LIRRCC/PCAC will continue to monitor this situation.

- Another issue that Newsday felt worthy of running a front-page story on was the increasing lack of civility among LIRR riders. While we have always had that small percentage of riders who were discourteous (feet on the seats, playing music without headphones, taking up seats with luggage, blocking aisles with bikes/mopeds, etc) it seems that the percentage has grown sufficiently since the pandemic a few years back. Unfortunately, Courtesy Campaigns by the LIRR have had little effect on the behavior of these riders.
- MTA Police, in cooperation with the train crews, have stepped up the fight against fare evasion over the few months. While train crews try to avoid confrontation with attempted fare beaters, they will call ahead to have MTA Police handle the situation at a station down the line to minimize any service disruptions. The LIRR has also tightened up their policy regarding the issuance of IOU's to passengers who can't pay their train fare. Valid ID's must be presented for ride now, pay later.
- With the completion of the mega projects (3rd Track, Grand Central Madison) over the last couple of years, it may not appear that the LIRR will be hurt too badly by the re-prioritizing of MTA Capital Projects due to the delay in the implementation of Congestion Pricing, but that's not necessarily the case. The purchase of new M-9a's to replace the M-3's which are at the end of their useful life may be put on hold if it's not deemed to fall under the category of "state of good repair" (which is the MTA priority until the Congestion Pricing issue is resolved). Continuing to run M-3's is going to have an effect on the LIRR's operating budget, as these cars are subject to more frequent repairs, particularly with the doors not functioning properly.
- On a happier note, ridership is up to about 80% of pre-covid levels and despite the concerns about Jamaica transfers, the on-time performance is currently at record highs.

C. Greif discussed the challenges faced by disabled individuals and seniors due to the transfer between platforms at Jamaica Station, highlighting delays and difficulties.

- A. Albert mentioned the lack of elevators at the eastern end of the Jamaica platform, which is a significant accessibility issue.

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### **MNRCC September Chair's Report:**

MNRCC's summer field trip took place on Thursday August 15, 2024. We were joined by several NYC TRC members as well as PCAC staff to visit the Harrison, NY TOD (transit-oriented development) project. It is located adjacent to the New Haven Line station. Our host Greg Sylvester told us that he had been with this project since it began. (I had attended the June 22, 2019, groundbreaking.) From beginning to end it took 14 years which included time lost due to the pandemic. It was amazing how much coordination was required by so many different government entities.

Greg explained how so much of the existing infrastructure i.e., sewer and water pipes, and electrical conduits and power lines had to be relocated. We visited a model apartment and saw the garage which serves residents, local shoppers as well as commuters. A delicious lunch at a nearby restaurant was enjoyed by all.

Heavy rains in the metropolitan area on Sunday, August 18, caused rainfall amounts up to 12 inches and a temporary suspension of the Danbury Branch. Due to extensive damage to the infrastructure, Waterbury branch service was replaced by bus service effective August 20 and remains so at this time.

Metro-North riders were not alone as Amtrak and NJ Transit also suffered suspensions of service for a time.

On August 16, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy announced that from August 26 through September 2, riding all NJ Transit lines would be free. Lisa and I asked Metro-North if this would include the Port Jervis and Pascack Valley Lines, and before receiving a response, Lo Hud reported that it would. I took advantage of this and with a group of friends rode the Northeast Corridor Line to Trenton where we transferred to their River Line and went to Burlington Towne Center where we had lunch before heading back home.

### **NYCTRC September Chair's Report:**

- New Chief of MTA Security is the Former NYPD Transit Chief, Michael Kemper
- G line project update— The G line project has been completed
- New wireless service is coming to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street shuttle
- New student OMNY cards will provide students with 4 rides daily with transfers seven days of the week and during the summer months.

Lisa introduced the two new members on the NYCTRC: Dante and Khalia, who shared their backgrounds and enthusiasm for serving on the Council.

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**Presentation:** *Jamie Torres-Springer, President MTA Construction and Development: Building the MTA 2025-2029 Capital Plan*

View presentation with Q&A here: [https://youtu.be/Ck90\\_YMJ\\_vs?t=1667](https://youtu.be/Ck90_YMJ_vs?t=1667)

- Jamie Torres-Springer presented the MTA's five-year capital plan, emphasizing the need to keep the system in a state of good repair. The plan includes significant investments in rail cars, structures, power, climate resilience, sustainability, shops and yards, ADA compliance, re-signaling, and station components. Jamie highlighted the importance of increasing the pace of investment in certain areas, such as rail cars and structures. The plan also includes system expansion projects like the Interborough Express and potential electrification of the Port Jefferson branch of the LIRR.

### **Executive Director Update: Lisa Daglian**

Lisa welcomed Brian Fritsch, the new Associate Director at PCAC.

- Fare Evasion: Lisa discussed the issue of fare evasion and its impact on funding, emphasizing that fare evasion revenue cannot directly support capital plans but reducing fare evasion is important to supporting the operating budget.
- PCAC staff is working on multiple reports about the need for congestion pricing, the risk of exempting municipal workers, and our fare policy proposals.
- Congestion pricing is still paused, and with it, \$15 billion in funding for the current MTA Capital Plan. PCAC staff researched other funding alternatives that could raise funds, but they do not adequately address all of the goals of congestion pricing.
- Lisa mentioned that a lawsuit has been filed against the Governor that would require her to resume congestion pricing.

### **Old Business:**

- Chris reminded members of the street naming for Edith Prentiss on October 19.

### **New Business:**

- None

## **Adjourned**

YouTube link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ck90\\_YMJ\\_vs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ck90_YMJ_vs)

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### **Action Items:**

**None**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Daglian  
Executive Director