

An in person meeting of the Long Island Rail Road Commuter Council (LIRRCC) was held at 4:30 pm on Thursday, August 7, 2025 at One West Street, Mineola, NY. The public and members unable to attend in person joined via Zoom.

Member Attendance

Gerard P. Bringmann (Chair)	Present
Brit Byrd	Present
Bryan Peranzo	Present
Larry Rubinstein (Vice-Chair)	Present
Christy Tolbert	Present
Peter Gorry	Absent

Staff Attendance

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

Non-member Attendance

Name	Affiliation
Ana Garcia	LIRR
AJ Kuhr	Concerned citizen
Stu Desser	Concerned Citizen
Christopher Greif	NYCTRC Member

Approval of Agenda August 7, 2025
Approval of Minutes May 8, 2025

Chair's Report:

* As you know, we usually hold our annual field trip in August. We had hoped to tour the train yards in Long Island City, but we found out that we would have to take a safety course (on line) prior to our visit, and one wasn't available prior to our meeting date. Therefore, we decided just to hold a regular meeting this August.

* As you've probably heard or read, the MTA is going forward with the originally scheduled 4% fare increases for 2025, however, it looks like they won't take effect until January 1st, 2026 (with the next 4% fare increase anticipated in mid-2027). As always, there will be fare hearings held prior to the formal vote on the increases. The proposed dates for these hearings, being held at 130 Livingston Street in Brooklyn, are:

Tues. 8/19 6:00pm - 10:00pm
 Weds 8/20 10:00am - 2:00pm
 Weds 8/20 5:00pm - 9:00pm

* Along with the fare increases the LIRR is looking to change the amount of time that an e-ticket is valid from 6 months to 4 hours in an attempt to cut down on fare evasion. While I strongly oppose this change, my opinion was never sought in this matter by the MTA (where I still serve as a non-voting board member), nor was I asked to weigh in on this issue by Newsday (or News12) despite two recent front-page stories. On a positive note, senior discounts will soon be offered on AM Peak trains, something that we have sought for many years.

* LIRR Customers appear to be more satisfied with service at any time since the opening of Grand Central Madison in February 2023. According to a survey taken in the Spring of this year 81% of customers are satisfied overall with the railroad. The same percentage in the Fall of 2022. The main reasons for this improvement seemed to be tied to two main points.

1 - Serious attention to getting trains to hit Jamaica within 3 minutes of the scheduled arrival time, which substantially cuts down on missed connections. Satisfaction of customers who needed to transfer rose from 50 to 69% within the last two years.

2 - better service to Atlantic Avenue. Through trains to Brooklyn have increased from 4 to 13 trains and wait times for the shuttle has been reduced to 8 minutes during rush hours.

* Regarding metrics, OTP remains strong at 96.5% year to date and ridership is at 89% of pre-pandemic levels.

LIRR Updates: By Ana Garcia

Key points included:

- Fare Hearings: Ana mentioned that most talking points about the upcoming fare hearings had already been discussed. She added that people can register to speak (virtually or in person), submit comments ahead of time, and mail letters to the MTA Government and Community Relations office. She will be present at both days of the hearings.
- Train Schedules: Ana addressed a question from the previous meeting about the gap in service between Atlantic Terminal and Jamaica in the late morning. She explained that this is due to federally mandated track inspections, which will continue for the foreseeable future.
- ADA Projects: All ADA projects are currently on time, with no outages scheduled except for an upcoming outage to support the Forest Hills ADA project at the end of September. The elevator at Auburndale is scheduled to reopen at the beginning of September.
- Service Restorations: The overnight service between Jamaica and Atlantic Terminal will be restored to 2023 levels starting September 2. There will also be bus service replacing train service between Ronkonkoma and Greenport during midday and weekday periods for track replacements.
- Ticket Machines: Ana mentioned a pilot program for new ticket machines at a handful of stations, with a full rollout planned after data is reviewed. She invited interest in visiting the new machines as a group.
- Other Updates: Ana responded to a request to look into the possibility of additional departure boards at Atlantic Terminal within the subway fare zone and will follow up on that. She also acknowledged the need for Braille on new ticket machines and shared positive feedback about recent events and station improvements.

Social Media and Communications Update: by Kara Gurl

- Ongoing crowding on peak trains, especially on the Mineola and Ronkonkoma lines, during both AM and PM peak hours.
- Dissatisfaction online about the fare changes, particularly the new four-hour window policy for tickets. This issue is especially unpopular on the Long Island Railroad, though Metro-North riders are also unhappy.
- Issues with trains occasionally skipping stops (such as Kew Gardens) without proper announcements or communication. Sometimes this was planned but not announced, leading to confusion for riders.
- Service issues due to flooding and heavy rain on the Port Washington line, highlighting the need for better resiliency and flood prevention above ground.

Executive Director update: by Lisa Daglian

- Field Trip: The annual field trip was postponed due to a required safety course not being available before the meeting date. Lisa discussed rescheduling the trip

if there is enough interest and mentioned the possibility of combining it with a visit to see new ticket machines.

- Fare Hearings and Fare Changes: Lisa provided details about the upcoming fare hearings, the proposed 4% fare increase (effective January 2026), and changes to ticket validity (from six months to four hours). She expressed concerns with the reduced ticket validity and auto-activation, and encouraged the group to provide recommendations and speak at the upcoming hearings.
 - Senior Discounts and Ticketing: Lisa highlighted the positive change allowing seniors to use discounts on AM peak trains and discussed the elimination of 10-trip and round-trip tickets, to be replaced by a discounted day pass and a new free-trip policy after 10 on-way trips in 14 days.
- Legislative and Council Membership Updates: Lisa discussed ongoing efforts to address member attendance issues, legislative changes to simplify appointments, and progress towards getting the rider representatives voting membership on the MTA Board. She also mentioned the need for letters from sponsors to support legislative amendments.

Old/ New Business:

None

Action items:

Adjourned

Meeting recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4cFbR8hX_U

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Daglian
Executive Director