

Per Open Meeting Law requirements, an in-person meeting of the Metro-North Railroad Commuter Council (MNRCC) was convened in publicly accessible locations at: 420 Lexington Ave, New York, NY and at 940 Rose Avenue, Bethesda, MD* at noon on Thursday, October 16, 2025. The public and members unable to attend were present via Zoom.

Member Attendance

Randolph Glucksman (Chair)	Present
Walter Zullig (Vice-Chair)	Present
Francena Amparo	Present
Richard Cataggio	Present—virtual
Francis T. Corcoran	Absent
Michael Stanton	Present—virtual
Rosalind Clay-Carter	Present*

Staff Attendance

Lisa Daglian (Executive Director)	Present
Brian Fritsch (Associate Director)	Present
Kara Gurl (Planning & Adv. Manager)	Present
Jack Connors (Research & Comm. Assoc.)	Present
Jessica Spezio (Admin. Asst.)	Present—virtual

Non-member Attendance

Name	Affiliation
Mae Patel	MNR
Rich Tjoa	Prospective Member
Josh Warren	Concerned Citizen
Andy Buder	MNR

Approval of Agenda October 16, 2025

Approval of Minutes July 17, 2025

Chair's and Board Report:

- Metro-North continues to operate its trains at around 98% on time.
- Following a very successful Open House at Croton-Harmon last October, Metro-North repeated its success again this year at New Haven. Attendees had to reserve a timeslot on a website. I took my grandson, and he had a great time. There were activities for children and displays provided by many of the railroad's departments.
- Many engines were displayed, including #303, one of the new dual-mode Model SC-42s that are now entering service on all three lines. In fact, the engineer's cab was made available for visitors to pass through and inspect.
- These 4,200-horsepower units can operate on third rail throughout the entire 102 miles of third rail trackage. The existing 200-series dual-mode engines, which are now near the end of their service lives, are restricted to using 3rd rail for power only in the tunnels leading to GCT. For the record, #301 entered service on September 22.
- New timetables went into effect on October 5, with "Super-Express" service added to/from Poughkeepsie, and some minor changes on the Hudson, Harlem and New Haven Lines.
- *Leaf Peeper* trains have returned to the Hudson Line this year on weekends between October 4 and November 9. New Haven Line riders will have eight additional Saturday trains and four trains on Sundays between November 29 and January 4, 2026.
- The Park Avenue Viaduct Replacement Project hit a major milestone with the completion of Phase 1 on October 6th. The project has replaced 8,240 track feet of the aging 132-year-old structure, without disrupting Metro-North service. The project is \$93 million under budget and years ahead of schedule thanks to an innovative construction approach.
- At the September MTA Board Meeting, fare increases, and fare policy changes were announced system-wide. Of particular interest to Metro-North Customers were the following:
 - Fare increases average approximately 4.4%. On the positive side, this fare increase is scheduled to take effect in January, approximately six months after it was initially anticipated.
 - All tickets, except monthly, will expire at 4:00 a.m. on the day after purchase. This was a minor concession, after feedback from riders at the public hearings who objected to the original (and ridiculous) expiration of 4 hrs. after purchase.
 - Round-trip tickets will no longer be sold, being replaced with an unlimited daily trip pass. This will make ticket buying more inconvenient for

weekenders heading to the Hamptons or Fire Island, who will now be required to purchase tickets twice.

- 10-trip tickets will no longer be sold. However, after purchasing 10 one-way tickets online within two weeks, you will receive the 11th trip free. This will make ticket buying much more inconvenient for the hybrid riders who have come to embrace the 10-trip ticket.
- On a positive note, senior and/or disabled riders will now be able to get their discount during the morning rush hour, ending one of the most illogical fare policies on the Metro-North.
- On another positive note, the family fare age limit has been raised to 17 for children with a fare-paying adult. Both this change and the one above have been priorities of PCAC for some time.
- On-board fare penalties are being increased from \$6 to \$8.
- The reasoning behind some of these fare policy changes is to eliminate "opportunistic fare evasion," which occurs when riders don't activate their tickets & conductors fail to collect.

Executive Director Update: By Lisa Daglian

- Legislative Agenda & Advocacy: Lisa outlined the council's legislative priorities, including requests to MTA and Metro-North, advocacy for voting seats for non-voting members on the MTA Board through the Rider Representation Act, and ongoing work with local, county, and federal government agencies to improve rider experience and representation.
- Fare & Ticketing Changes: She discussed recent changes to fare structures such as the elimination of round-trip and 10-trip tickets, the introduction of an unlimited daily trip pass, and expanded discounts for seniors and disabled riders to the morning peak. Lisa stressed the need for improved communication about these changes and pointed out the loss of some rider conveniences.
- Bylaws & Membership: Lisa provided updates on bylaw revisions, clarifying procedures for member removal due to attendance and reflecting new state guidance.
- Council Processes: Lisa spoke about council vacancies and ongoing efforts to fill open positions, through working with recommending elected officials and the Governor's office.

Bylaws/ revisions:

- The council discussed updating their bylaws, specifically related to the removal process for members who fail to meet attendance requirements.
- Based on guidance from the NY State Office of General Services, the policy now requires that such members be asked to resign following a two-thirds vote. If the

member does not respond to email, phone, and certified mail outreach, the elected official who nominated them will be contacted to suggest a suitable replacement.

- This revision replaces the previous process of immediate removal upon a two-thirds vote and adds a formal outreach and resignation process.
- There was also discussion about compliance with open meetings laws and the need for further legislative solutions to improve attendance and participation.
- The revised bylaws were moved to the November meeting for approval.

Social Media Update: By Jack Connors

- Metro-North announced the creation of their newsletter "[Mileposts](#)"
- A rider [asked](#) whether conductors could more proactively encourage riders to take their bags off of seats to avoid forcing people to stand
- Several riders had thoughts on the MTA's fare changes
 - One [asked](#) about the loss of the 10-trip ticket, several were [frustrated](#) the new promotion expires after two weeks
 - A monthly passholder was frustrated they got an [email](#) about activating their monthly pass onboard
- Finally, a [rider](#) thanked a conductor for showing her where she could charge her phone on board after it died on her way from Grand Central to White Plains

Old Business: none

New Business:

- Josh Warren, a member of the public, raised ideas for enhancing the passenger experience on Metro North trains—including Wi-Fi, quiet workspaces, and amenities like outlets and vending machines. He suggested premium features could generate additional revenue if implemented thoughtfully.
- The council discussed the feasibility and challenges of adding such features, including retrofitting costs, potential for third-party partnerships, equity considerations, and the importance of surveying rider interest before proceeding.
- Members suggested conducting a survey of riders to determine whether this and other amenities would be of interest. PCAC staff will develop draft survey language.
- Additional new business topics included suggestions on door button design and technology improvements for accessibility, as well as updates about upcoming battery-powered trains for the New Haven line and potential infrastructure changes.

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Action Items: None

Meeting recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yUFljHRb4G4>

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Daglian
Executive Director