

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, 940 Rose Avenue, Bethesda, MD*, and 6 Dartmouth Rd, Highland Mills NY 10930** at noon on Thursday, April 17, 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**
Francis T. Corcoran	Absent
Michael Stanton	Present
Rosalind Clay-Carter	Present*

Staff Attendance

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

Non-member Attendance

Name	Affiliation
Brad Blevins	MNR
Chad Sholes	MNR
Andy Buder	MNR
Peter Ramos	MNR
William Stanford Jr.	Concerned citizen

Approval of Agenda April 17, 2025
Approval of Minutes February 19, 2025

Presentation: 'AI: helping to improve customer safety, security and operational experience' By: Brad Blevins, Executive Director, Strategy & Organizational Resiliency and Chad Sholes, Executive Director, Continuous Improvement

View Presentation and Q& A here: <https://youtu.be/bFwNz1je22A?t=15>

Brad Blevins from Metro-North presented their AI strategy, which focuses on two key phases:

Phase 1: Safety, Security, and Service Delivery

- Pilot projects include:
 1. Grade crossing detection using AI cameras to identify potential safety risks
 2. Forward-facing trespassing detection on trains
 3. Improving employee radio communication clarity
 4. Train door alignment detection at platforms

Phase 2: Efficiency and Optimization

- Future focus on predictive maintenance and operational improvements

Key principles of their AI approach:

- Strict governance and risk management
- Policy alignment
- Human oversight (AI assists, doesn't make final decisions)
- Careful vetting of projects through a risk assessment framework

The presentation highlighted Metro-North's commitment to using AI responsibly to enhance safety, improve service, and potentially attract new talent to the railroad industry.

Questions:

- Francena asked where the cameras would be positioned. Brad explained they would use stationary poles and cameras in consistent locations.
- Would camera footage be shared with agencies like DMV if someone illegally crosses tracks? Brad noted they would follow existing information-sharing processes and legal guidelines.
- How long is the pilot program? Brad said the first phase would be done by early fall.

- How do they select where to put them? They would start with locations that historically have had more incidents.
- How far out can the train cameras detect potential issues? Brad said he would follow up with specific technical details.
- Are these AI systems replacing current non-AI systems? Brad confirmed they are not duplicating existing systems but are looking to optimize and improve safety.

Chair's and Board Report:

- With the retirement of Cathy Rinaldi on March 31, the former Senior Vice President of Operations has become the railroad's seventh president.
- Metro-North had another phenomenal month during February, where the on-time-performance was 98.5%. Ridership is also up, with an average of 220,000 daily riders.
- New timetables went into effect on March 30 with several service improvements to enable track and infrastructure improvements to be performed.
- One Hudson Line train, #818 (now 6:08 AM Poughkeepsie), will have a run time of 94.
- Late-night Harlem Line riders will have two additional trains, and other trains in that time period have been adjusted.
- The New Haven Line will introduce Super-Express service with three westbound and three eastbound trains making their respective trips in 88-90 minutes.
- Metro-North will host an Open House between 5:30 and 7 PM on April 23 to present its plans to counter the effects on climate change on the Hudson Library. The event will take at the Hastings-on-Hudson Library located at 7 Maple Ave.
- At the February Board Meeting, the Board approved the purchase of 13 battery- and electric-powered locomotives, which will be the first of their kind in North America. Delivery is expected to begin in early 2029. The zero-emissions locomotives are designed particularly for Penn Station service and are expected to serve the New Haven line after the launch of Penn Station Access.
- Metro-North recently announced that the Breakneck Ridge station will be closed for two years as the station and its connection to the popular Breakneck Ridge

trail will undergo extensive renovations to improve passenger access and safety from the train to the trailhead.

Associate Director Update: By Brian Fritsch

Brian's report highlighted ongoing efforts to secure funding, support transit initiatives, and advance rider-focused legislation.

2025-29 Capital Plan Funding:

- \$68.4 billion total needed
- Approximately half (\$35.4 billion) currently unfunded
- Ongoing efforts to secure funding through rallies and legislative meetings
- Significant federal funding (around \$14 billion over five years) is uncertain

Congestion Pricing:

- 100 days since launch
- Positive data on traffic speeds, street safety, and business impact
- Ongoing legal challenges with federal transportation authorities
- Potential deadline of Easter Sunday for program review

Legislative Advocacy:

- Promoting Rider-First Fare Agenda incentives
- Included in Senate and Assembly one-house budgets
- Prepared standalone bills if not included in final budget
- Gathering support from various organizations like the Business Council and the Westchester County Association
- Continuing work on the Rider Rep Act

Social Media Update: By Kara Gurl

Kara's social media report covered several key points:

New Haven Line:

- Some train cars have been shortened
- Riders reporting overcrowding on peak trains
- Standing room only trains and occasional reports of passenger conflicts

Yankee Games:

- No direct train service for the first two games of the season- the railroad explained rush hour service constraints

Train Time App:

- New feature listing trains as "held" instead of delayed or canceled, which means the train is temporarily stopped (e.g., another train crossing)

Protest Activity:

- Mentions of disruptions at Grand Central, but no specific targeting of the railroad

Old Business:

Station Tours: Potential tour locations mentioned included:

- Brewster - North White Plains - Southeastern station

Potential Future Tour: suggestion for touring the new Penn Station access stations in the Bronx

- Discussion about 125th Street bathroom inactivity
- Concerns about limited train service at New Haven State Street station

Connectivity Concerns:

- Jack raised an issue about poor Shoreline East train connections in Connecticut. He suggested exploring better service coordination between Metro-North and Shoreline East. Jack will reach out to Andy Buder for contacts.

New Business:

Cleanliness Tracking:

- Discussion about the MTA's lack of public cleanliness metrics
- Suggestion to get a future presentation on cleaning schedules and standards

Action Items:

- Mike requested that staff compile a list of all Metro-North and PCAC recommendations and requests to the MTA versus to legislators

Meeting recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bFwNz1je22A>

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Daglian
Executive Director