

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 6 Dartmouth Rd, Highland Mills NY 10930\* at noon on Thursday, May 15, 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)	Present
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
Andy Buder	MNR
Rich Tjoa	Prospective MNR Member
Mae Patel	MNR

***Approval of Agenda May 15, 2025***

***Approval of Minutes April 17, 2025***

**Chair's and Board Report:**

- The New York State budget was signed on May 9<sup>th</sup>. It totaled \$254.3 billion, with full funding for the MTA's 2025-29 Capital Plan, including over \$6 billion for Metro-North projects. The entire Capital Plan consists of 90% State-of-Good-Repair work and includes accessibility and station upgrades, new rolling stock, signal improvements, and essential resilience work. Agreement was reached with the Governor, Speaker Heastie and Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins to increase the PMT as follows: for businesses in the new highest tier – those with a payroll over \$10 million, the tax is going up 0.3 percentage points, from .6 to .895 in NYC and from .34 to .635 in the other MTA counties. They are also reducing it for small businesses and eliminating it for all local governments outside of NYC and for self-employed individuals making less than \$150,000 a year.
- In addition to the capital plan, the MTA will receive a total of \$8.2 billion in operating funding, a 3.6% increase from 2024-25 budget levels. There will also be an overall increase of 6.98% in funding for non-MTA transit, including \$11 million for the Lower Hudson Transit Link bus service, the same amount as 2024-25, and a new allocation of \$1 million for a study of Hudson Valley transit services.
- On April 23, I attended the Metro-North Open House, where the railroad presented its plans to counter the effects of climate change between Riverdale and Croton-Harmon. The event took place at the Hastings-on-Hudson Library. Also in attendance were Metro-North, MTA C&D Staff, local elected officials and representatives of elected officials. By my estimate, there were about 50 members of the public, including our Vice Chair, Walter (and his wife Suzanne) Zullig.
- At last month's Capital Program Committee meeting, we were given a presentation about OMNY, which included how Metro-North (and the LIRR) would benefit. These slides do a better job than I can explain.
- Hopefully, a settlement will be reached with NJ Transit's Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and trainmen and NJ Transit that will avoid a strike at 12:01 AM this Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. In advance of this, Metro-North published contingency plans, mostly involving cross-honoring tickets from Orange and Rockland County stations, on Hudson and Harlem Line trains. Metro-North began cross-honoring tickets effective Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Both sides met in

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Washington, DC during the afternoon of Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, but no progress was reported that would avert a strike.

- The same afternoon, NJ Transit emailed an alert that due to the possibility of a strike they will not operate rail or bus service to or from MetLife Stadium on Thursday, May 15, and Friday, May 16, 2025. The two Shakira concerts were expected to draw large crowds.

**Nomination/ Election:** Randolph Glucksman, Chair and Walter Zullig, Vice Chair.

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

**Federal Deadline:** USDOT set a May 21 deadline to end congestion pricing, threatening penalties if the plan moves forward.

**State & MTA Position:**

- Assert legal right to proceed with congestion pricing.
- Filed lawsuit against USDOT.
- Dispute USDOT's claims as legally weak.

**Leaked Memo:**

- An internal USDOT document suggests their legal argument against congestion pricing is not strong.

**Upcoming Hearing:**

- Scheduled for May 27 at 10 a.m. in Judge Liman's courtroom.
- Purpose: Consider injunction to block USDOT from enforcing penalties.

**Congestion Pricing Coalition:**

- Working closely with legal teams to monitor lawsuits.
- PCAC is unable to participate directly in lawsuits due to MTA affiliations.

**Legal History:**

- Previous related court cases have ruled in favor of the MTA.

**Next Steps:** Continued legal monitoring and courtroom presence due to high financial and policy stakes.

PCAC is also continuing to advocate for our Rider-First Fare Agenda, Rider Representation Act, and other issues in Albany and at the MTA and city levels.

**Social Media Update:** By Kara Gurl

- West of Hudson riders have expressed concern about the looming NJ Transit strike that could impact Metro-North service. The Hudson and Harlem line will be cross-honoring tickets if this does happen.
- Ongoing train crowding issues, now stretching earlier into the 2 and 3 pm hours for the evening rush.
- Reports of inadequate restroom cleaning on older trains.
- Multiple positive reports about kind and helpful Metro-North conductors and employees, including one who sang happy birthday to a rider and another who helped a rider with a TrainTime account issue.

**Old Business:**

Rich mentioned the Harriman Station follow-up. An email was sent from Andy.

**New Business:**

Mike asked about cuts to the Federal Community Development Block Grants and whether they will negatively impact the MTA. Lisa and Brian said we have not heard it's an issue, as the MTA does not receive grants from that source

**Action Items:**

Meeting recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5XamkV4Uj60>

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Daglian  
Executive Director