

Per Open Meeting Law requirements, an in-person meeting of the New York City Transit Riders Council (NYCTRC) was convened at 2 Broadway at 12:00 PM and 12 E 41st St Room 204, New York, NY 10017** and at 50 West 40th St. New York, NY 10018* on Thursday, April 24, 2025. Members of the public and Council members unable to attend were present via Zoom.

Member Attendance

Andrew Albert (Chair)	Present
Burton M. Strauss Jr. (Vice Chair)	Present – virtual
Dante Arnwine	Present
Andrew Bennett	Present*
Stuart Goldstein	Present
Christopher D. Greif	Present
Marisol Halpern	Present
Karen Hamilton	Absent
Cicely Harris	Absent
Gene Haynes	Present**
Khalia Hayslett	Present
Sharon King Hoge	Present
Trudy L. Mason	Present
Scott R. Nicholls	Absent

Staff Attendance

Lisa Daglian (Executive Director)	Present
Brian Fritsch (Associate Director)	Present
Kara Gurl (Planning & Adv. Manager)	Present
Jack Connors (Research & Comm. Associate)	Present
Jessica Spezio (Administrative Assistant)	Present
Henry Mei (Intern)	Present

Non-member Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Chief Kemper	MTA Safety
Gaby Celiba	NYCT
Cate Contino	MTA GCR
Debra Greif	Concerned Citizen

NYCTRC MINUTES

2

Cindy
Brian Wilson
Fis
Jason Anthony
Mike Howard

Concerned Citizen
Concerned Citizen
Concerned Citizen
Concerned Citizen
Concerned Citizen

Approval of April 24, 2025 Agenda Approval of March 27, 2025 Minutes

Chair/ Board Report: by Andrew Albert

- New MTA Map: More geographically accurate than the Vignelli map, on which it is based showing real-time transfers and upcoming electronic billboard updates
- Congestion Pricing: Transportation Secretary Duffy threatened to halt transit funding if the MTA doesn't turn off the cameras by May 21
- Student OMNY Cards: Replacing cardboard versions with more durable plastic cards
- Federal Funding Disparity: MTA carries almost 50% of the nation's transit riders but receives only 17% of federal funding
- Accessibility Improvements: The Delancey-Essex complex will be made accessible, partially with congestion pricing funds
- Bus Service Increases: Multiple bus lines in Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island will see service improvements on June 29 and implementation of the Queens Bus Network Redesign will begin at the end of June
- Penn Station Renovation: Amtrak, not MTA, will now lead the renovation efforts according to USDOT

Presentation: "Safety & Security Update" Michael M. Kemper, Chief Security Officer, MTA and Gaby Celiba, Vice President, Security, NYCT

View presentation and Q & A: <https://youtu.be/qKvRQcsQL4Y?t=676>

1. Subway Surfing and Youth Involvement:
 - Most offenders are young teenagers (14-16 years old)
 - Many are "subway enthusiasts" who post incidents on social media
 - Repeat offenders are common due to a lenient juvenile justice system

NYCTRC MINUTES

3

2. Security Measures:

- 100% of MTA rolling stock now has cameras
- Cameras are crucial for evidence and deterrence
- Working with NYPD, NYC Public Schools, and social media companies to prevent incidents

3. Access to Train Yards and Conductor Cabins:

- Youth obtaining MTA keys through:
 - Unsupervised employee items
 - Online purchases
 - 3D printing
- Exploring technology to make train movement impossible without authorization

4. Prevention Strategies:

- Partnering with schools for education and outreach
- Developing an anti-subway surfing campaign
- Working to remove social media content promoting dangerous behaviors
- Investigating ways to "harden" MTA assets

5. New Leadership:

- Introduced Thomas Taffe as the new MTA Police Chief
- Emphasized commitment to improving transit security

Andrew asked how people had gotten their hands on the keys that gave them access to the cabs.

Chief Kemper advised they had mostly obtained them through online purchases and new 3D printing.

Khalia mentioned encouraging the youth to turn their interest in the subways into a career. Gaby mentioned they are working with the DOE and with focus groups.

Gene asked if they were fining the parents. He was informed no.

Sharon asked if the MTA was liable for surfing deaths. The MTA has been involved in legal cases about the matter.

Presentation: "BRT for the Boroughs" Henry Mei, PCAC Intern

View presentation and Q & A: <https://youtu.be/qKvRQcsQL4Y?t=3752>

Key Recommendations:

1. Install protected center-aligned bus lanes
2. Upgrade intersections with transit signal priority

3. Build accessible BRT stations with level boarding
4. Improve signage and wayfinding
5. Pilot buses with doors on both sides
6. Implemented fare gates at BRT stations

Case Study Locations:

1. Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn (B41 route)
 - Proposed center-aligned island platform
 - Potential for cross-bridge routes
 - Addresses accessibility and transfer challenges
2. Northern Boulevard, Queens (Q66 route)
 - Consistent road layout suitable for BRT
 - Proposed center-running transit with fare gates
 - Addresses chronic double parking issues

Challenges Addressed:

- Current bus service is slow (sometimes under 4 mph)
- Lack of rapid transit connections
- Fare evasion problems
- Limited bus priority projects

Funding and Implementation:

- Suggested using existing bus replacement cycles
- Coordination needed between MTA and NYC DOT
- Potential to leverage upcoming capital plans

Trudy suggested looking into Portland's BRT.

Khalia asked whether these bus platforms would be ADA accessible. Henry informed her that these upgrades would make the bus network even more accessible by reducing instances of buses not pulling up to the curb, level boarding, and ramped platforms.

Trudy and Stuart raised the issue of funding. Kara and Henry replied that funding would be needed from either NYC DOT or the MTA Capital Plan for some of these upgrades.

Associate Director Report: Brian Fritsch

The PCAC team has been actively advocating for full funding of the 2025-29 MTA Capital Plan, which currently faces a \$35.4 billion gap. We have met with legislators in Albany, continued outreach through social media and coalition partners, and pushed to ensure transit remains a priority in the upcoming budget. We are also working to protect Congestion Pricing — now 100 days in — and highlight its early success. Alongside the budget efforts, we have introduced standalone fare policy and rider representation legislation, issued a joint memo with disability and transit advocates, and are working closely with legislators to build support for key bills — including one to ensure rider representation on the MTA board.

NYCTRC MINUTES

5

Old Business:

Stuart requested a station cleaning schedule and data on specific ridership increases post-congestion pricing.

New Business:

Jason called for Eagle Team agents at St. George Terminal

Khalia noted that she had seen videos and photos of incidents on the subway and claimed that MTA workers were capturing and publicly sharing the graphic content.

Action Items:

None

Adjourned

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qKvRQcsQL4Y>

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Daglian
Executive Director