The PCAC is the umbrella organization of the three MTA Rider Councils that were established in 1981 by the NY State Legislature. The PCAC advises the MTA on behalf of the ridership in the formulation and implementation of MTA policy and works to hold the MTA accountable to riders.

Our advocacy calls on a wide range of media to affect change on behalf of the MTA rider: public testimony, correspondence with elected officials and MTA management, press releases, research reports, website and Facebook articles, public events, attendance at local, regional and national conferences, interviews with newspaper, TV, and radio, and 32 public PCAC and Council meetings a year.

The following sections highlight the priority issues in 2016, supporting our mission to represent and give voice to the riders of the MTA.

**MTA Board Participation and Action Items**

- Highlighted the need to hold the City and State to their funding commitments following the approval of the MTA’s 2015-2019 Capital Program.
- Called on the State Senate to confirm the City nominees to the MTA Board.
- Requested that the MTA release board agenda books to the public in a timelier manner before meetings.
- Wrote letter to MTA CEO/Chairman Tom Prendergast expressing the need to train employees about dealing with hate crimes.

**Leadership and Staff**

- Burton Strauss and Orrin Getz joined the PCAC Executive Committee.
- Angela Bellisio was promoted to PCAC Planning Manager.

**Visit pcac.org for all Council testimonies, calendar of events, latest articles & reports**
**Council Action Items**

- Demanded a transparent investigation, and development and implementation of appropriate safeguards, following the LIRR October collision.
- Chair Epstein testified in support at the LIRR’s Main Line Third Track Project hearings.
- Wrote Newsday Letter to the Editor applauding Governor Cuomo’s announcement to move forward with the Third Track Project.
- Chair Epstein participated in a press event with Senator Charles Schumer to mark the passage of legislation raising the amount of pre-tax income allowed to pay for transit fares.
- Recommended LIRR improve on-board announcements by directly transmitting information from the rail control center to trains affected by service disruptions.
- Called on LIRR to include the rider experience in performance statistics.
- Held a Meet the Council event at Penn Station.
- Toured the progress of East Side Access (ESA).

**MTA Board Participation**

- Emphasized that the Main Line Improvement Project is critical to Long Island’s economic health, quality of life, and desirability as a community.
- Raised the need for speed control and collision avoidance at Penn Station and Jamaica as part of the Positive Train Control Project.
- Voiced objections to the Atlantic branch shuttle plan because of limited Brooklyn through service.
- Requested a plan to improve customer information especially during delays.
- Recommended improved materials for the M-9 equipment resulting in option order having new window material that does not become cloudy.

**Comings and Goings**

- Matt Kessler left the Council in August after seven years of dedicated service representing Brooklyn riders.

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**Council Action Items**

- Successfully lobbied MNR to cross-honor West of Hudson riders on the Hudson line and provide shuttle buses following service disruptions caused by Hoboken train crash.
- Successfully recommended MNR to cross-honor East of Hudson riders on the Port Jervis and Pascack Valley lines following the Tappan Zee Bridge crane collapse and Park Avenue viaduct fire.
- Sent Governor Cuomo a letter supporting the signing of Senate Bill 3458, which requires the State to inspect all at-grade rail crossings.
- Requested return of timetable racks at the Grand Central Terminal Stationmasters’ Office and the MetroCard vending machines adjacent to Track 32.
- Requested replacement Customer Information Display at the Pascack Valley Line’s Nanuet Station.
- Held a Meet the Council event at Grand Central Terminal.

**MTA Board Participation**

- Advocated for improved reliability, efficiency, and safety standards.
- Testified unsatisfactory service was provided by NJ Transit after the September 29th Hoboken train derailment.

**Comings and Goings**

- Chair Glucksman was approved as the MNRCC recommendation to the Governor as its MTA Board non-voting member.
- Orrin Getz was appointed to the Council as an at-large member and elected MNRCC Vice Chair.
- Neal Zuckerman resigned from the Council in June to assume a voting seat on the MTA board representing Putnam County.
- Wilhelm Ronda resigned from the Council in December.
Council Action Items

▪ Called for more frequent Q service and other line service adjustments at Second Avenue Subway public hearing.
▪ Called for more informative performance metrics such as subway excess travel-time and enroute on-time performance.
▪ Communicated with MTA/NYC Transit staff throughout the year about subway and bus service issues.
▪ Participated in the MTA public meetings on options for the reconstruction of the Canarsie tunnels.
▪ The Council toured the M Line viaduct in Brooklyn/Queens prior to its reconstruction.
▪ The Council toured Second Avenue Subway prior to its opening.

Freedom Ticket

▪ Met with elected officials to gain local and state support for our 2015 Freedom Ticket proposal.
▪ Worked with community groups to educate residents on the local benefits.
▪ Met with MTA senior staff to discuss Fall 2017 implementation.

MTA Board Participation

▪ Advocated for the identification of sustainable MTA funding to combat 2017 fare increases.
▪ Urged the MTA to study the proposed Freedom Ticket pilot program and implement by Fall 2017.
▪ Advocated against seasonal bus cuts and asked for pilot of single-route service addition to see ridership effects.
▪ Supported long route overlap following MS bus route split.
▪ Expressed concern for the increasing homeless problem on trains and in stations.

Comings and Goings

▪ Michael Sinansky resigned in May after 25 years of dedicated service to the Council representing Queens riders. Mr. Sinansky’s position as NYCTRC Vice Chair was filled by Burton Strauss.

MTA Fare Hearings

LIRRCC

Expressed concerns about the high percentage of fares that go to LIRR operations.
Supported capping the fare increase amounts for the most expensive fares.
Advocated for improved LIRR service in City-underserved areas.

MNRCC

Expressed concerns that those traveling greater distances will be burdened most.
Supported capping the increase at 3.75 percent for monthly and weekly tickets.
Advocated against fare increases for West of Hudson riders where service is lacking.

NYCTRC

Advocated for Plan B increase, which would be less expensive for frequent riders.
Stressed the importance of maintaining transit service and improving its delivery.