

A meeting of the New York City Transit Riders Council (NYCTRC) was convened at 12:00 pm on Thursday, March 26, 2020 via virtual conference call.

Member Attendance

Andrew Albert (Chair)	Present
Burton M. Strauss Jr. (Vice Chair)	Present
Stuart Goldstein	Present
Christopher D. Greif	Present
William K. Guild	Absent
Marisol Halpern	Present
Sharon King Hoge	Present
Trudy L. Mason	Present
Scott R. Nicholls	Present
Edith Prentiss	Present

Staff Attendance

Lisa Daglian (Executive Director)	Present
Ellyn Shannon (Associate Director)	Present
Bradley Brashears (Planning Manager)	Absent
Sheila Binesh (Transportation Planner)	Present
Deborah Morrison (Administrative Assistant)	Present

Non-Member Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Deborah Hall-Moore	NYCT
Cate Contino	NYCT
Deborah Greif	Concerned citizen
Jason Anthony	Citizens United
Andrew Pollack	Citizens United
Matt Shotkin	Concerned citizen
Robert Berrios	Red Hook Civic Association

Chair's Report attached.

Approval of Agenda for March 26, 2020 meeting.

Approval of Minutes for February 27, 2020 meeting.

Board Report

- Mass disinfecting of the system.

Ridership drops

- Subway ridership down 87%, bus ridership down 60%, and commuter rail down further.

Service changes being made according to staff availability

- The B, W, and Z train service is suspended.
- The 6 and 7 trains are not running express and are making all local stops.
- No A train service at Rockaway Park. S shuttle service will be between Broad Channel and Rockaway Park.
- Will investigate 30-minute headways on the C train which is worse than weekend service.
- Shuttle service between 241st Wakefield and East 180th Street – the 2 train is only running to 180th street.
- SIR has reduced service and hourly overnight service to match the Staten Island ferry. S40 service was added for Amazon workers from 3am-9am and 3pm-9pm.
- 35% cut in LIRR service. Rush hour service is unaffected, but off peak will see change.
- 50% cut in MNR service. It will run hourly on weekends. There are more cuts to West of Hudson service. There will be an MNR shuttle between South East and Wassaic.
- MNR has completed PTC installation on the Hudson, Harlem, and New Canaan lines.

Buses

- All buses are rear-door boarding, expect for wheelchair passengers.
- The older bus fleet cannot open the rear door if no one exits.
- The Bus Redesign public meetings have been paused.

Bridges and Tunnels

- Two-way tolling will begin on the Verrazano Bridge.
- Resident rebates will remain for Staten Islanders.
- This will relieve traffic on Canal Street.

Transformation and Capital Plan

- The reorganization is on a different timeline and pieces of the plan are suspended. We need every employee now. Transit workers come in close contact with one another and need to social distance.
- Transformation contracts approved at Board meeting – at reduced costs – but will not be implemented.
- Pay-Go capital will be replaced with long-term funding to meet liquidity needs.
- There will be no new capital commitments at this time. The existing capital program is moving forward; several projects have been put on hold.

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- L train work scheduled to finish on time at the end of April.

C. Contino: Bus network redesign planning will continue, especially in Brooklyn. Public outreach is critical, but it is unknown when this can resume.

S. King Hoge: Wassaic has been busy, many people are travelling there, especially on weekends. Can there be one train a day? **Action Item: Ask Randy Glucksman MNRRC or Cathy Rinaldi**

A. Pollack: Happy about PTC installation on Metro-North, looking forward to LIRR.

T. Mason: When the MTA announces service reductions, they need to explain why. They should report on overcrowding conditions.

A. Albert: There has been a 75% cut in service. They report on overcrowding.

L. Daglian: The MTA has been updating the public on these issues.

S. Nicholls: The MTA addressed crowding at Amazon on Staten Island by adding more service.

B. Strauss: The bus driver asked a passenger to open the back door of the bus I was on.

T. Mason: A woman from East side is mobilizing people against rear-door boarding. She thinks it is disgraceful that the MTA is giving away free bus rides in a crisis. The MTA needs to explain the reasoning that deals with the health and safety of drivers and passengers.

A. Albert: Rear-door boarding was a Union request. **Action Item: Ask Craig Cipriano about signage.**

L. Daglian. The MTA has been continually updating the public and the media has been reporting on it.

C. Greif: There needs to be signage on front of bus for how to board. There have been bus accessibility issues for people with walkers.

S. King Hoge: I have yet to ride the Q32 on loop, which is on my bucket list.

E. Prentiss: Some riders, not only wheelchair and walker users, cannot get through the back door. The service cuts impact bus riders. Press releases say wheelchairs can use the front door, but it does not address people who can't make the step. Some drivers refuse to open the front door and riders can't talk to the driver to make their case to open door. The signage should be in different languages. **Action Item.**

A. Albert: Access-a-Ride is not doing shared rides. The paratransit report was missing from the short MTA board meeting. **Action item: Send paratransit report to members.**

T. Mason: The signage should include an explanation.

AA: Perhaps it could say: If you must use the front door please tap.

C. Greif: Need signage for accessible boarding. Riders should notify the MTA and elected officials.

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A. Pollack: Buses on weekend service levels isn't enough. Bus service needs to accommodate health care workers in Kew Gardens.

J. Anthony: The S40 had signage on front and rear door, but it was unclear on specifics. I saw rear-door boarding in effect since last Saturday on the M55.

There was no signage on bus stops or the Staten Island ferry terminal. I saw frequency on the G above 20 min. Will late night service remain the same?

A. Albert: It should not be more than 20 min, but I need to check. **Action item.**

L. Daglian: G.O. work is continuing.

A. Pollack: Are the E and F trains running express?

A. Albert: Yes, because the M and R trains are making local stops.

E. Shannon: How is the communication with hospitals? Are they getting feedback from bus operators or hospital admin on routes serving them?

A. Albert: Yes, they are discussing a special bus route in Manhattan on York Avenue to serve hospitals.

T. Mason: Where were the signs on the S40 bus? They should also be on bus stops

J. Anthony: Signs were on the bus.

T. Mason: Send directive to bus drivers to curb the bus. Otherwise, it difficult to mount and dismount. The Capital Plan depends on the State budget and the House vote. **Action Item: Trudy to send email update from 2nd Ave Task Force.**

D. Hall-Moore: I will connect with Lisa and Andrew to follow up on the bus issues. GCR is actively on email.

M. Shotkin: How does someone who is vision impaired know to board from the back? **Action Item.**

R. Berrios: The bus operators are doing a good job informing the community. There are operators at Fresh Pond, Grand Ave, and others that have the virus. How can we find out what lines these drivers operate to inform riders?

A. Albert: Not sure if we can get that information. If they didn't sneeze or cough or touch something you did, you should be fine.

L. Daglian: Sarah Feinberg was recently asked this and did not answer.

E. Prentiss: Releasing the driver names is a HIPPA violation.

S. King Hoge: Releasing the routes they've been on is important for riders to get checked. **Action Item.**

R. Berrios: We have been reaching out to our police precincts to tell them to enforce no standing zones at bus stops so the buses can curb. It is not the bus drivers' fault. It is especially more challenging for articulated buses to curb.

T. Mason: Some drivers don't curb even when the stop isn't blocked. MTA can't give out names, but has mentioned the C line that was taken out to be cleaned.

L. Daglian: The MTA updates its website regularly. Sign up for Notify NYC updates.

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M. Halpern: Notify NYC is good. Register to get updated information. Good resources are available. You can select what type of information and what mode you want to receive updates on. Go to Nyc.Gov and click on Notify NYC. Updates are provided by OEM.

S. Goldstein: Yes, it's a valuable tool that provides important updates.

D. Grief: Bus drivers should be patient with people using walkers. There should be a campaign for cars not to be in the bus stop. It is difficult to board from the back of the bus.

J. Anthony: The Staten Island ferry has outdated subway and bus maps on both sides. **Action Item.**

T. Mason: Text COVID to 692692 for updates.

Adjourned

The meeting was held as a video conference call.

Action Items

- Investigate the 30-minute headways on the C train
- Ask Randy or Cathy if there can be one train a day to Wassaic.
- Ask Craig Cipriano about bus boarding signage and signage in different languages.
- Ask Craig about how to board through the front if not in a wheelchair or walker.
- How does one who is vision impaired know to board through the back door?
- Send Access-a-Ride monthly report to members
- Will late night service remain the same?
- Trudy to send email update from 2nd Ave Task Force.
- How to get information of which routes bus drivers have been infected on.
- Ask to send updated subway and bus maps to the Staten Island Ferry.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Daglian
Executive Director