

Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the New York City Transit Authority and MTA Bus Committee, the Joint Long Island Rail Road Committee and Metro-North Railroad Committee, and the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority Committee.

May 28, 2025

2 Broadway

New York, NY 10004

10 AM

The following Committee Members were present:

Hon. Janno Lieber
Hon. Andrew Albert
Hon. Gerard Bringmann
Hon. Samuel Chu
Hon. Daniel Garodnick
Hon. Randy Glucksman
Hon. Michael Fleischer
Hon. David Jones
Hon. Marc Herbst
Hon. Christopher Leathers
Hon. Blanca Lopez
Hon. David Mack
Hon. Haeda Mihaltses
Hon. John Ross Rizzo
Hon. Lisa Sorin
Hon. Edward Valente
Hon. Neal Zuckerman

The following Committee Members were not present:

Hon. Meera Joshi
Hon. John Samuelsen
Hon. Midori Valdivia

MTA staff present:

Shanifah Rieara, Senior Advisor for Communications and Policy/Chief Customer Officer, Jai Patel, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Catherine Sheridan, President B&T, Demetrius Crichlow, President NYCTA, Justin Vonashek, President MNR, Robert Free, President LIRR, Sirish Peyyeti, IEC, Jamie Torres-Springer, President C&D, Juliette Michaelson, Deputy Chief External Relations, Jessica Lazarus, Deputy Chief Commercial Ventures, Paige Graves, General Counsel, Evan Eisland, EVP and General Counsel C&D, Chris Pangilinan, Chief Operations Planning, NYCT, Rachel Cohen, Director Contracts Management, NYCT, Bill Amarosa, Senior VP Subways, and Lisette Camilo, MTA Chief Administrative Officer, Bernard Jackson, Chief Operating Officer, NYCT.

Board Member Mihaltses called the May 28, 2025, Joint Committee Meeting to order.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS PERIOD

The following members of the public registered to speak:

Gian Pedulla, private citizen
Henry Mei, PCAC
Kara Gurl, PCAC
Daylight Peace, Fare A'int Fair
David Kupferberg, Passengers United
Yolanda Alleyne, private citizen
Iris Kelly, Disabled in Action
Charlton D'Souza, Passengers United*
Miriam Fisher, private citizen*
Aleta Dupree, Team Folds*
Jason Anthony, LIRR ADA Task Force
Christopher Greif, ADA Accessibility Transportation
Jack Nierenberg, Passengers United
Debra Greif, BFSSAC
Carl Perrera, Committee for Better Transit*
Andy Pollack, Passengers United*

*Provided live virtual comments

2. NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT

Demetrius Crichlow, President, NYCT, delivered the President's Report.

President Crichlow stated that since he took over as President, his two priorities have been safety and improving performance. He noted that projects like the Rockaways line work support those priorities. He reported that he was excited to celebrate the on time and on budget completion of the project and the restoration of service to the Rockaways with Chairman Lieber and Governor Hochul earlier that month. He explained that after Hurricane Sandy, there had been emergency repairs but that more work was necessary. He noted that the project included rebuilding portions of the line, including parts of the Rockaway viaduct and components of the South Channel Bridge.

President Crichlow indicated that he was proud of his team's extensive public outreach and communication efforts and delivery of robust shuttle and express bus service to support the roughly 10,000 riders affected by the 17 week outage. He noted the 99% performance level of the shuttle operations. He thanked the people who worked in the field: hourly employees, bus operators, train operators, station agents, supervisors, and the management team.

President Crichlow discussed how his team is making a big investment in safety by supporting the platform barrier initiative. He stated that new capital funding will allow us to meet the goal of installing stainless steel barriers at 150 stations by the end of the year.

He noted that he had visited the MTA's Tiffany Street iron shop with Chairman Lieber to see the work our skilled metal workers do on these barriers. He reported hearing from customers and employees that the new barriers give them an added piece of mind on a crowded platform. He indicated that the team has recently installed these barriers at 46th street on the M and R lines, at Wall Street on the 2 and 3 lines, and at Canal Street on the J and Z lines and that the next barriers will be installed at 125th Street on the 2 and 3 lines, Parsons and Archers on the E and J lines, and 23rd Street on the 6 line.

President Crichlow spoke about how initiatives like the platform barriers are indicative of the broader effort to bring more capital work in-house at Transit and to do the work with their specialized skilled teams that are part of NYCT's workforce. He commended their efforts as part of the 2025-2029 Capital Plan.

He thanked the NYPD Operations Division and noted that NYCT and the NYPD have worked together to make sure NYCT is a safe place. He noted that the NYPD Transit Bureau's Special Operations division takes on some of the most challenging assignments and asked everyone to recognize the work that they do.

President Crichlow reported that on time performance in March and April was at a generational high and that every month in 2025 has been better than the same month of last year. He spoke about performance gains on several lines and changes on how work is scheduled and how trains are dispatched. He reported that on-time performance this year is up by 10.4 points on the 6 line and 6 points on the J. He also referred to performance gains on the B and D lines.

President Crichlow then spoke about elevators in the system. He indicated that the system has 393 elevators, 50 of which are privately owned. He stated that 33 of the elevators are in the process of capital rehabilitation. He reported that elevator availability is currently at 98%.

President Crichlow highlighted that 96% of Access-A-Ride customers make it to their destinations within 30 minutes, and 91% make it to their destinations within 20 minutes.

William Amorosa, Senior Vice President, Subways, NYCT delivered the Subways Report. He reported that Subways achieved 84.5% weekday on-time performance in April, which was more than a point better than April of last year. He reported that weekend on time performance continued to be very strong at 86.4%. He explained how Subways line managers are looking at information at a granular level to identify and address problematic issues with particular trips and lines. He further stated that they are working with the Performance Analysis unit and their partners at Operations Planning to come up with new strategies and pilots in order to produce better results.

Chris Pangilinan, Acting Senior Vice President, Department of Buses discussed last month's Bus performance metrics. He provided an update on the partnership with the Department of Transportation to launch ACE bus lane enforcement. He also reported on the launch of the Queen's bus network redesign, phase 1 this summer.

Rachel Cohen, Vice President, Paratransit, NYCT, delivered the Paratransit Report. She discussed last month's performance metrics and trends. She noted that ridership levels now exceed pre-Covid levels and thanked the broker service partners, the Paratransit team and their contractor partners for the service they provide.

Bernard Jackson, Chief Operating Officer, NYCT discussed ridership metrics. He reported a 10% increase in paid subway ridership, half of which is attributable to new ridership and half to improved fare compliance of existing ridership.

3. JOINT RAILROAD

LIRR President Rob Free began the report for April ridership with 6.8 million riders, which is an 11.6% increase compared to April 2025 and 88% of April 2019. The year-to-date (YTD) total ridership increased 10% compared to 2024.

In response to a question from Board Member Mihaltses whether the 10% increase in total ridership has any relationship to congestion pricing, President Free stated that the LIRR has seen consistent increases over the last few years, so it does not appear to be a direct correlation to congestion pricing.

President Free stated that on-time-performance (OTP) for the month of April was 97.08%. President Free noted a significant 28% reduction in customer injuries in March 2025 as compared to March 2024.

President Free remarked on the closure of the East River Tunnel that began on May 23, 2025, while acknowledging the Board for passing the resolution to raise awareness and thanking Governor Hochul for holding Amtrak accountable.

President Free stated that the start of the summer travel season began on May 22 with the first Cannonball train leaving from Penn Station to Montauk.

President Free reported on the May 18 opening of the west end platform of the Babylon Station after renovations while the east end will remain open through the summer before renovations continue in September.

President Free stated that he recently attended the ceremony to announce the winners of the annual T.R.A.C.K.S school safety contest, including students from St. Aiden Catholic School in West Williston Park, Eastport Elementary, and Syosset High School. The winning designs will be used to make socks in partnership with "John's Crazy Socks," a company that supports employment opportunities for individuals with differing abilities.

President Free concluded his remarks with a fond farewell to Senior Vice President of Operations Tom Kost who will be retiring after 30 years of excellent service at the Long Island Rail Road.

Board Member Herbst complimented President Free on the work performed at the Babylon Station. Board Member Herbst raised an issue with the twenty-year needs assessment that included a potential outlook for the electrification of the Port Jefferson Branch. Suffolk County offered the MTA 126 acres of land of the former Lawrence Aviation property to be used as a train yard, which deal is set to expire next month. However, an easement is required from the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT), but DOT has not responded to requests for action. President Free stated that he communicated with DOT last week and emphasized the need for a permanent easement for property before construction can begin.

In response to a question from Board Member Albert regarding ridership trends since the origination of CityTicket, President Free stated that approximately 24% of total ridership is attributed to CityTicket.

In response to a question from Board Member Glucksman regarding Amtrak's project manager for the East River Tunnel project, President Free stated that Governor Hochul has requested information from Amtrak, and we are following up to seek progress reports throughout the time of the project to ensure that it proceeds as scheduled.

Metro-North President Justin Vonashek began by thanking the employees for their hard work during the New Jersey Transit strike. President Vonashek reported that Metro-North reached a 98.3% OTP for the month of April and YTD. There was an average weekday ridership of 220,000 in April, which is an increase of 5% compared to March and an increase of 8% compared to April 2024.

President Vonashek reported on the success of the New Haven Line Super Express train with an increase of over 10% ridership on these six trains since service began on March 30. Seven stations in the Bronx have also experienced increased ridership with Tremont Station leading with an increase of 166%, while future upgrades at Botanical Garden, Williams Bridge, and Woodlawn stations will make them fully ADA accessible.

President Vonashek provided that "Connect with Us" began at Cortlandt Station this season to engage directly with riders and obtain feedback. President Vonashek stated that weekend ferry service has resumed with the Haverstraw-Ossining Ferry which runs every hour.

President Vonashek stated that Metro-North welcomed the Fatality Analysis of Maintenance of Way and Signaling Committee ("FAMES") created in 2009 by the Federal Railroad Administration to study the railway worker fatalities and recommend steps for prevention. Metro-North also held its first Safety Focus Day of the year where employees discussed various safety topics.

In response to a question from Board Member López regarding ridership increases in the Bronx, President Vonashek clarified that the increase is compared to pre-Covid.

In response to a question from Board Member Albert regarding any ridership improvement to Hudson Line stations, President Vonashek stated that the ridership increases on the Hudson Line were not seen at the same level as the other lines.

4. NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT POLICE REPORT

Inspector Moriello provided the New York City Transit Police Report to the Board.

Please refer to the video produced and maintained by MTA for details of the report.

5. TRIBOROUGH BRIDGE AND TUNNEL AUTHORITY

TBTA President Sheridan stated that on May 12th, TBTA was honored to welcome Board Chair Lieber and C&D President Torres-Springer, along with bike and accessibility supporters, to celebrate the RFK Bridge's newly constructed ADA-compliant bike-ped ramp from the Manhattan span onto Randall's Island. Improvements like this, along with similar projects at the Henry Hudson and Cross Bay bridges, are important upgrades that advance the MTA's mission of supporting more biking, walking, and micro-mobility across our system.

President Sheridan stated that this month TBTA proudly celebrates milestone anniversaries at the Hugh L. Carey Tunnel, which turned 75 on May 25th, and the Cross Bay Veterans Memorial Bridge, which turned 55 on May 28th. Historical exhibits spotlighting both crossings are on display in the Vanderbilt Passage window spaces at Grand Central Terminal.

As we approach summer storm season, annual flood door testing at the Hugh L. Carey and Queens-Midtown tunnels commenced in May and will continue through June during overnight, low-volume traffic periods. These doors were installed in 2017 as part of the Agency's long-term flood mitigation program.

Turning to toll evasion enforcement, as TBTA moves into its second year of targeted operations, President Sheridan stated that enforcement by the multi-agency task force has yielded almost 1,100 arrests, more than 47,000 summonses, and nearly 4,600 vehicles towed. Those identified are responsible for more than \$55 million dollars collectively owed to the multi-agencies. The task force now includes 14 partner agencies, with the recent addition of the Suffolk County Police Department and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Police. The task force remains committed to eradicating ghost plate practices, including by stopping any vehicle with an intentionally obscured or counterfeit license plate.

In furtherance of TBTA's pursuit of additional enforcement tools, NYS Senator Gounardes has introduced a bill to allow the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles to impose a vehicle identification number (VIN) block for persistent toll violators. The bill, if passed, would also

add MTA Police and TBTA Peace Officers to the entities authorized to enforce civil judgments, increasing TBTA's enforcement capacity.

On behalf of TBTA, President Sheridan bade farewell to Vice President of Maintenance, Charlie Passarella, who is retiring after 36 years of exemplary service.

Finally, President Sheridan stated that there are no procurements this month.

5. JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Upon motion duly made and seconded the Joint Operating Committee approved as distributed the April Committee Meeting Minutes for the New York City Transit, Joint Railroad and Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority.

6. ADJOURN

Chair Mihaltses called for a motion to adjourn. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Joint Operating Committee adjourned at 12:05pm

Haley Stein
Acting General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
Metro-North Railroad

David Farber
General Counsel and
Corporate Secretary
NYCT and MTA Bus

Haley Stein
Vice President,
General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
Long Island Railroad Company

Paul L. Friman
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