

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Joint Long Island Rail Road and Metro-North Railroad Committees
Monday, June 23, 2025
12:00 p.m.

Meeting held at
2 Broadway – 20th Floor
New York, New York 10004

The following Committee Members were present:

Hon. Marc Herbst, Co-Chair
Hon. Blanca López, Co-Chair
Hon. Samuel Chu
Hon. Gerard Bringmann
Hon. Randolph Glucksman
Hon. Christopher Leathers
Hon. David Mack
Hon. James O'Donnell
Hon. Edward Valente
Hon. Neal Zuckerman

The following Committee Members were not present:

Hon. Michael Fleischer
Hon. Daniel Garodnick
Hon. Lisa Sorin
Hon. Midori Valdivia

Representing Metro-North Railroad:

Justin Vonashek – Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer
Brian Pina – Vice President, System Safety
Evan Zucarelli – Acting Senior Vice President, Operations
Haley Stein – Acting Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary

Representing Long Island Rail Road:

Robert Free – President
Thomas Kost – Senior Vice President, Operations
Lori Ebbighausen – Vice President, Corporate Safety
Paul Dietlin – Vice President, Maintenance of Way
Haley Stein – Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary
Hector Garcia – Chief of Staff

Representing MTA Police Department:

Keiyon S Ramsey – Assistant Chief, Resource Management Command Staff

The members of the Metro-North Railroad (“Metro-North”) Committee met jointly with the members of the Long Island Rail Road (“LIRR”) Committee.

1. OPENING MEETING:

Co-Chair Herbst called the joint meeting to order.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The following public speakers commented:

Murray Bodin, Concerned Grandparents
Brian Fritsch, PCAC Associate Director
Christopher D. Greif, Member of the Public
Jason Anthony, LIRR ADA Task Force
Charlton D’Souza *, Passengers United President
Andy Pollack *, Passengers United
Adam Wittenstein *, Member of the Public

* Appeared by audio/video

To hear the content of public comments, details of Committee presentations, and Committee Members’ comments and questions as well as any part of the Committee meeting, please refer to the video recording of the meeting produced by the MTA, available and maintained on the MTA website:

<https://www.mta.info/transparency/board-and-committee-meetings/june-2025>

Co-Chair Herbst welcomed new member of the Board, James O’Donnell.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the Railroads’ portion of the minutes from the May 28, 2025 meeting of the Joint Operating Committees, which was comprised of the New York City Transit Authority and MTA Bus Committee, the Joint Long Island Rail Road and Metro-North Railroad Committee, and the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority Committee.

4. METRO-NORTH AND LIRR 2025 WORK PLANS:

There were no changes to the LIRR or Metro-North Work Plans. The 2025 Metro-North and LIRR Work Plans are filed with the records of this meeting.

5. LIRR PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

LIRR President Rob Free (“President Free”) reported that ridership continued in the upward trend in May, with over seven million customers. Year to date (“YTD”) ridership has increased 10% over the same time last year.

President Free cited that, consistent with the initial projections for ridership between Penn Station and Grand Central Madison as a 60/40 split, there were two days this month where there was a 58/42 split, proving that riders are embracing Grand Central Madison.

President Free stated that on-time performance (“OTP”) was 96.7% for May and YTD OTP was also 96.7%.

President Free discussed the Amtrak incident involving a power outage in tunnel three, which is one of the tunnels used by LIRR. President Free emphasized that the efforts of LIRR, MTA, and the Governor holding Amtrak accountable lessened the impact of the incident. President Free stated that he will continue to hold Amtrak to their responsibilities to ensure that LIRR service is not affected during their capital work.

President Free noted a 30% reduction in customer injury rates and an 11% reduction in employee injury rate for the month of April this year compared to April last year.

President Free provided an update on the progress of LIRR’s strategic priorities, including bundling as many work activities as possible into a planned outage to increase productivity, work efficiently, and minimize customer impact. President Free continued by providing examples of completed projects such as the Webster Avenue Bridge replacement in Manhasset and the rail replacement project east of Ronkonkoma.

President Free announced the start of the “Summer Saturdays” program in July and August where monthly ticket riders can travel and bring up to two friends or family for \$1.00 each.

President Free reported on the smoke condition that occurred on June 10 at Grand Central Madison caused by a transformer fire west of the station during the morning rush hour. The layout of the tunnels and tracks at Grand Central Madison minimized the impact to customers. Service continued on other tracks when one tunnel was shut down. The incident also provided an opportunity to learn from the safety protocols and procedures set in place. The cause was still being investigated by FDNY.

President Free concluded his remarks by congratulating Lori Ebbighausen, Vice President Corporate Safety, on her retirement and thanking her for her years of service to the railroad.

The complete presentation is filed with the records of this meeting. The video recording of the meeting produced by the MTA and maintained in the MTA records contains a complete record of President Free's remarks.

6. METRO-NORTH PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Metro-North President Justin Vonashek ("President Vonashek") introduced Vice President of System Safety Brian Pina and thanked Brian O'Donnell for his contributions during the transition.

President Vonashek stated that performance remains strong at above 98% in May. Ridership has seen record-breaking numbers post-pandemic, with highest month in May and highest daily and weekly ridership in May, at 90% pre-pandemic.

President Vonashek introduced "Metro-North One", the new strategic vision for "One Team, One Culture, One Service" and showed a video highlighting the new vision, which is intended to carry Metro-North to its 50th anniversary in 2033. Metro-North One consists of six pillars of core priorities.

In response to a question from Board Member Zuckerman, President Vonashek advised that Metro-North One builds upon and continues the direction that began under Cathy Rinaldi's leadership and is designed to emphasize that the focus of Metro-North's service is moving people.

Board Member Valente commented that he is very supportive of the "Metro-North One" initiative and noted that the Chief Transportation Office and the Vice President of the Capital Program had gone into the field with conductors and mirrored their work, which resulted in some positive changes and a strengthening of the relationship of labor and management.

The complete presentation is filed with the records of this meeting. The video recording of the meeting produced by the MTA and maintained in the MTA records contains a complete record of President Vonashek's remarks.

7. OPERATING REPORTS:

LIRR Senior Vice President of Operations Paul Dietlin ("Senior Vice President Dietlin") presented the service and performance results for May 2025 and the upcoming work that may impact service for LIRR customers.

In response to a question from Board Member Bringmann raising concerns that the planned work for the Port Washington branch would result in long waits for customers transferring at Woodside Station, Senior Vice President Dietlin stated that there are cross-honoring transfer

options for riders going to Penn Station on weekends. Board Member Bringmann stated that there should be better communications to customers about alternative options for travel into the City. President Free stated that he will review and discuss options.

Metro-North Acting Senior Vice President of Operations, Evan Zucarelli (“Senior Vice President Zucarelli”) presented the service and performance results for April/May 2025. Senior Vice President Zucarelli provided service updates including the termination of ferry service between Newburgh and Beacon and replacement with bus service.

In response to a question from Board Member O’Donnell regarding the termination of the ferry service and if the replacement bus service could be made fare-free sooner than the planned January date. Senior Vice President Zucarelli stated that they will review and get back to him.

In response to a question from Board Member Zuckerman regarding the ridership numbers of the ferry service, Andy Buder stated that there was an average of 62 riders per day last year. The peak was 225 riders per day in 2008 and has been in decline since then. Ridership may double in the summer. The decline in ferry ridership did not translate into decline in train ridership. Riders may be reaching the train in a different way, including by using two bus services just a couple of blocks away, one run by NYSDOT and one by the county.

In response to a further question from Board Member Zuckerman regarding the reaction of the two towns, Andy Buder stated that Beacon was pleased and wants to utilize the dock themselves, and that Newburgh is looking to reevaluate the dock in 2027 when the new waterfront opens.

In response to a further question from Board Member Zuckerman, Andy Buder stated that the cost of the ferry service was approximately \$2.1 million annually.

The complete LIRR and Metro-North operating reports are filed with the records of this meeting. The video recording of the meeting produced by the MTA and maintained in the MTA records contains a complete record of the presentations.

8. SAFETY REPORTS:

LIRR Vice President of Corporate Safety Lori Ebbighausen (“Vice President Ebbighausen”) presented the safety report through April 2025, and highlighted the events sponsored by LIRR for June National Safety Month. She thanked everyone for their well wishes and for their support during her time at the LIRR.

Metro-North Vice President of System Safety Brian Pina (“Vice President Pina”) presented the customer and employee injury rate through April 2025, both of which decreased compared to the prior year for Metro-North. Vice President Pina highlighted events this month including International Level Crossing Awareness Day on June 5.

The full LIRR and Metro-North safety reports are filed with the records of this meeting. The video recording of the meeting produced by the MTA and maintained in the MTA records contains a complete record of the presentations.

9. MTAPD REPORT:

MTAPD Assistant Chief of Resource Management Keiyon S. Ramsey (“Chief Ramsey”) presented the crime and policing report for May 2025 for both railroads. Chief Ramsey highlighted that recent global developments have created an elevated threat posture, and MTAPD has actively increased police visibility and patrols despite no credible threats to NYC or our system.

Chief Ramsey reported that major crimes remain low with 24 reported incidents in May, which is a 23% decrease compared to the same period last year.

The full MTAPD report is filed with the records of this meeting. The video recording of the meeting produced by the MTA and maintained in the MTA records contains a complete record of Chief Ramsey’s presentation.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS:

President Free noted the following LIRR information items: (i) Summer Trackwork Programs; (ii) Diversity-EEO Report – 1st Quarter 2025; and (iii) Financial and Ridership Reports – May 2025.

President Vonashek noted the following Metro-North information items: (i) Diversity-EEO Report – 1st Quarter 2025; and (ii) Financial and Ridership Reports – May 2025.

The details of the information items are contained in reports filed with the records of this meeting.

11. FINANCE:

The finance reports for both railroads are contained in the meeting material.

12. PROCUREMENTS:

LIRR Assistant Deputy Chief Procurement Officer Lawrence Montreuil reported on one procurement item for an estimated total of \$23 million. LIRR seeks Board approval to ratify an Immediate Operating Need (“ION”) for an award of a three-year estimated quantity contract to Gatekeeper System US Inc. to replace the current audio-visual recording monitoring system (“AVRM”) on the M7 fleets, C3 coaches, and diesel-electric dual mode 30, and installing AVRM s system to the M3 fleet. The ION was needed to assist LIRR in meeting the Federal Railroad

Administration's ("FRA") October 2027 deadline requiring the installation of inward- and outward-facing image recording devices on all passenger train lead locomotives.

In response to a question from Co-Chair López regarding the distribution of the funding between capital and operating funds, Mr. Montreuil stated that the funding is \$22.4 million in capital funds and \$500,000 in operating funds.

13. ADJOURNMENT:

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Haley Stein", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Haley Stein
Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary
The Long Island Rail Road Company

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eamonn F. Foley", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eamonn F. Foley
Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary
Metro-North Commuter Railroad Company