

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Joint Long Island Rail Road and Metro-North Railroad Committees
Monday, October 27, 2025
10:00 a.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. Daniel Garodnick
Hon. Randolph Glucksman
Hon. Christopher Leathers
Hon. Melva M. Miller
Hon. James O'Donnell
Hon. Lisa Sorin
Hon. Midori Valdivia
Hon. Edward Valente
Hon. Neal Zuckerman

The following Committee Members were not present:

Hon. Michael Fleischer
Hon. David Mack

Representing Metro-North Railroad:

Justin Vonashek – Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer
Brian Pina – Vice President, System Safety
Eamonn Foley – Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary
Yvonne Hill-Donald – Chief Administrative Officer

Representing Long Island Rail Road:

Robert Free – President
Paul Dietlin – Senior Vice President, Operations
Chris Gough – Vice President, Corporate Safety
Edward McGoldrick – Vice President, Maintenance of Way
Haley Stein – Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary

Representing MTA Police Department:

Thomas J. Taffe – Chief of Police

Representing MTA Safety and Security Department:

Carl Hamann – Chief Safety Officer

Michael Kemper – Chief Security Officer

Also present:

John McCarthy – MTA Chief of Policy and External Relations

Shanifah Rieara – MTA Senior Advisor for Communications and Policy, Chief Customer Officer

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 López called the joint meeting to order.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The following public speakers commented:

Wendy Smith*

Naomi Hersson-Ringskog*

Mr. X

Jason Anthony, LIRR ADA Task Force

Christopher D. Greif

Benjy Ross, PCAC Research and Advocacy Intern

Iris Kelley

Andy Pollack*

Aleta Dupree*, Team Folds

* 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/october-2025>

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the minutes of the September 29, 2025 Joint LIRR/Metro-North Committee Meeting.

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. METRO-NORTH PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Metro-North President Justin Vonashek ("President Vonashek") reported that both September and year-to-date on-time performance ("OTP") through September remained strong at 97.9%.

President Vonashek stated that the laser train has been operating daily with great success. OTP for October is 98.7%.

President Vonashek stated that Metro-North served 6.3 million customers in September, which is an 8.2% increase from 2024, and a new record of 87.5% of pre-pandemic ridership. The weekday ridership increased 7% compared to 2024. More people are purchasing commutation tickets, at 40% of average daily ridership. The Leaf Peeper trains have attracted thousands of riders on the weekends. A new record was set last weekend with nearly 141,000 customers each day on the Hudson Line. Due to increased demand, an extra round-trip train was added this past weekend.

President Vonashek provided an update on the status of the Siemens Charger locomotives: four have been accepted and are in revenue service and three are undergoing acceptance testing on property. For the holidays, Metro-North will be operating Shopper Specials on the New Haven Line. From Saturday November 29 to Saturday January 3, there will be four extra inbound trains during the morning and early afternoon, and four extra outbound trains later in the afternoon. On Sundays from November 30 to January 4, there will be two extra inbound trains during the morning to early afternoon, and two extra outbound trains in the afternoon.

President Vonashek reported that for the 12-month period ending in August 2025, Metro-North's safety performance remained strong. The reportable customer injury rate was flat from the prior year. The reportable employee lost time injury rate improved by over 10% versus previous year. This was achievable through collaboration with our labor partners, addressing root causes, and developing corrective action plans.

President Vonashek announced that at Governor Hochul's request, Metro-North will be operating a roundtrip train between Grand Central Terminal and Albany beginning early next Spring. This is a result of the loss of capacity as part of Amtrak's East River Tunnel project. The service will be an extension of an existing Hudson Line Poughkeepsie train.

President Vonashek stated that Metro-North recently completed Phase One of the Park Avenue Viaduct Rehabilitation project. The Park Avenue Viaduct is over 100 years old and carries every train serving Grand Central Terminal, which is 98% of all Metro-North mainline service. Phase One of the project was completed ahead of schedule and under budget. President Vonashek

commended the MTA Construction and Development and Metro-North teams for their extraordinary collaborative effort on this project.

President Vonashek stated that legacy ticket vending machines are the backbone of fare payment, with 97% availability and generating about 30% of all ticket sales. Metro-North and LIRR have entered into a new contract with Scheidt & Bachmann to replace the aging ticket vending machines (“TVM”) and ticket office machines (“TOM”). Moving from concept to implementation in just over a year has been an extraordinary achievement. President Vonashek highlighted new features of the machines. Five pilot machines launched in September in White Plains, North White Plains, Rye, Peekskill, and the lower level of Grand Central Terminal. Full installation began in mid-October with scheduled completion in mid-2026, for a total of 248 TVMs and 37 TOMs. President Vonashek commended the team who worked on the project.

President Vonashek discussed the successful Dear New York display at Grand Central Terminal and adjacent subway stations from October 6 through October 19. More than 150 digital screens displayed portraits and stories from Brandon Stanton’s Humans of New York archive. A grand piano was placed in the main concourse and students and alumni of the Julliard School played concerts every hour between 10am and 10pm. Even Lin Manuel Miranda took a turn at the keyboard.

President Vonashek stated that Metro-North held its annual Open House in New Haven CCO shop on Saturday, October 4. With over 2600 attendees including Metro-North employees, retirees, and the public at large from around the country, the open house was a tremendous success. President Vonashek gave special thanks to Jenny Brown for her leadership and organization of this event.

President Vonashek stated that Metro-North's President's & Team Excellence Awards ceremony was held last Wednesday. This year, the President's Award went to Thomas Della Bella from Operations Training team, Jayda Hargraves-Narvaez from Fleet Management office, and Jonathan Lee, from GCT Emergency Response & Fire Safety team. The Team Excellence Awards went to the Park Avenue Viaduct Intertrack Containment Team and the On-Track Safety Immersive Training Team. This year included new Pillar Awards, recognizing excellence and achievement for each of the six Pillars of Metro-North One. Also new this year is the Metro-North One Team award, which recognizes other MTA employees who are not Metro-North employees but who are exemplary team players. For this award, we recognized Inspector Charles Pisanelli of the MTA Police Department and Mike Lewi of the MTA Service Information Office.

President Vonashek stated that two other award ceremonies took place this month. On October 14, President Vonashek attended the MTA's Latinos & Friends Employee Resource Group Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration and Recognition Ceremony where two Metro-North employees were among those honored this year. Later that week, twelve Metro-North employees were recognized at the MTA Employee Accessibility Awards.

President Vonashek concluded his remarks by acknowledging Metro-North Chief Administrative Officer, Yvonne Hill-Donald, who was named as a Railway Age 2025 Women in Rail Honoree for her contributions to the rail industry.

In response to a question from Board Member Zuckerman regarding the reasons for the significant increase of on-time performance from 94% to 98% without impacting safety, President Vonashek stated that an on-time railroad is a safe railroad. President Vonashek stated that the key is that they are managing the operation, not managing to move a metric.

Board Member Glucksman commented that the Open House was fantastic.

Board Member Valdivia congratulated Yvonne Hill-Donald for her leadership.

In response to a question from Board Member Miller regarding what improvements can be made for on-time performance, President Vonashek stated that a challenge is the age of the rolling stock. Metro-North is looking forward to the new equipment that will be coming as part of the 5-year Capital Plan, including the new Chargers, the new battery powered dual locomotives in 2027, and the M9As. President Vonashek stated that the team has done a great job dealing with issues related to aging rolling stock, including identifying any issues before the equipment is dispatched out of the yard.

Board Member Chu commented that collaboration with the Humans of New York book campaign was phenomenal.

Board Member O'Donnell requested an update on the buses in Newburgh and requested a follow-up on the list of assets in West of Hudson.

In response to a question from Co-Chair López regarding the selection of the stations for the new vending machines, President Vonashek stated that the stations were selected based on the number of customers and the ease of testing for the pilot.

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 and the Board Members' questions and comments.

6. LIRR PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

LIRR President Rob Free ("President Free") shared that LIRR ridership continued to explode last month partly due to the Ryder Cup. In September, there were 7.4 million customers, a post-pandemic record that represents 98% of September 2019 ridership. Grand Central Madison September ridership, based on load weight, was 1,780,389 million customers. The entire month of September, during the AM peak period, LIRR saw a 58/42 percent split between Penn Station and Grand Central Madison, which is above the original estimate of 60/40 percent split.

President Free stated that the September 2025 monthly ticket ridership increased by 16.7% compared to September of 2024 and an increase of 23.6% as compared to August 2025. President Free credited the ridership increase to excellent service provided by the incredible employee work.

President Free stated that OTP for September was 95.6% while YTD OTP was 96.3%. President Free stated that these numbers are even more impressive considering that the LIRR serves five major event venues, with three located on main line stations, with events regularly scheduled during PM peak service.

President Free stated that for the 12-month period ending in September, the customer injury rate decreased by 20% and employee injury rate reduction of 12% as compared to the same period last year.

President Free highlighted the completion of the Webster Avenue Bridge project in Manhasset, which fully replaced the existing 128-year-old bridge structure. The project was completed on budget and four months ahead of schedule. President Free thanked the crew and the partners at MTA Construction and Development.

President Free stated that modernization of the signal system at Hicksville will be performed on the weekend of November 8 and 9. Hicksville is a critical point in the operation, and this work will increase capacity to provide parallel movement through the interlocking. Bus service will be provided, and more details are provided on the website.

In response to a question from Board Member Miller regarding expenses for the special event venues, President Free stated that Forest Hills is an example of increased events, as seen by a dip in the September numbers compared to last year, all while doing major accessibility improvements at the location. President Free stated that LIRR was approximately 12.9 million ahead of its budget forecast. Board Member Miller stated that she is interested in how the expenses for these events are affecting revenue.

In response to a question from Board Member Valdivia regarding venue support for LIRR service, President Free stated that LIRR does not receive any contributions from the venues, although the Ryder Cup did help absorb some of the costs for that event. Board Member Valdivia stated it may be something to explore with the venues. President Free stated that there is a mutual benefit. Board Member Miller stated that there may be an opportunity to advocate for some cost sharing when venues are proposed near LIRR stations.

In response to a question from Co-Chair Herbst regarding the 60/40 split, President Free confirmed that the ratio is a regular occurrence, and now they are recently seeing 58/42 for the AM peak for the first time during the entire month. Co-Chair Herbst questioned whether the original expectation of Grand Central Madison has been realized. President Free confirmed that they are now surpassing the original expectations. Co-Chair Herbst congratulated the LIRR for the Webster Avenue Bridge. Co-Chair Herbst requested an update on the OTP at Jamaica Station. President Free stated that the numbers are regularly reported in the book, but LIRR recently

achieved 70% OTP during the AM peak, which was the goal. LIRR has already been realizing the goal during the PM peak for quite some time now.

In response to a question from Board Member Bringmann regarding the bridge at Sheep Pasture Road in Setauket, President Free stated that the new Capital Program includes three bridges on the east end that is in the process of moving forward. LIRR is supporting Suffolk County's effort to obtain funding through a grant for the Sheep Pasture Road bridge.

In response to a question from Board Member O'Donnell regarding the recently issued IG report, President Free stated that the LIRR took swift, decisive, and strong action against the implicated employees. LIRR is seeking significant penalties against those involved in wrongdoing, and there are six employees still going through the disciplinary process which could end in termination. President Free stated that in response, LIRR is reviewing management practices and enhancing management oversight, including installation of cameras, biometric clocks, and unannounced audits. President Free outlined a holistic response, including increased and enhanced training for new employees with executive level staff attending new employee orientation, enhanced management training for existing managers, and ongoing collaboration with labor organizations. President Free stated that the LIRR will not tolerate the type of behavior outlined in the IG report. Board Member O'Donnell stated that the problem is not merely a union or management problem but a corruption problem and expressed his opinion that, among other actions, these employees should have been criminally prosecuted by the Suffolk County DA. President Free stated that he will not allow this incident to be a stain on the other 7,500 LIRR employees that do an absolutely incredible job. Board Member Leathers stated that it is essential to understand the gravity of the findings of the IG report but also recognize the hardworking employees that show up to work to ensure the performance and to meet the needs of the riding public. These are the employees that are proud to work at the LIRR and are committed to the mission.

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 and the Board Members' questions and comments.

7. SPECIAL EVENTS RIDERSHIP PRESENTATION:

LIRR Senior Vice President of Operations Paul Dietlin ("SVP Dietlin") provided a presentation of ridership for special events and the efforts taken to minimize impacts to the operation. SVP Dietlin stated that the LIRR is not just a commuter railroad. Non-commutation ridership has increased 33% since 2023. LIRR serves five major venues: Citi Field, Barclays Center, Madison Square Garden, Forest Hill Stadium, and USB Arena. LIRR also serves other events at locations throughout the island when needed. In total, LIRR provides a primary mode of transportation for over 600 major events each year, many occurring during the PM peak. Potential impacts to the operation include increased load and unload times, especially since the peak hours means there is already a tight schedule. LIRR works closely with organizers of events to gain insight into each event, including information on tickets sales and zip codes to help plan the required service. Through September, the LIRR has provided service to 448 events for this year,

some days with multiple events. In August alone, there were 69 special events, with twenty days serving multiple events each day. On Saturday August 23, there were five major events: at the Garden, Citi Field, UBS, Barclays and Forest Hills.

SVP Dietlin stated that special events add a level of complexity to LIRR operation. LIRR likes to maintain a level of consistency with train schedules, crew sizes, and the number of train cars. The operation is successful because it is consistent. During an event, LIRR needs to collect tickets and control passenger flow, which can consist of 1200 riders all trying to board a train at the same time after an event. LIRR has developed an approach to manage these events while delivering safe and reliable operation as well as great customer experience. One approach is gating, where crews are stationed at platform entrances and exits to collect tickets before boarding. LIRR has gated 810,000 passengers to date. Another approach is adding station stops to existing routes and runs relief or extra trains to accommodate high passenger volume. Crews, with the assistance of MTAPD, work to keep operation moving and passenger flow controlled. These steps enable the trains to run as close as possible to schedule.

In response to Board Member Miller's question regarding other venues besides the main five venues discussed, SVP Dietlin stated that other events include the cricket tournament this year, the Ryder Cup, and an Oyster Festival in Oyster Bay.

The full 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 the presentation and the Board Members' questions and comments.

8. MTAPD REPORTS:

MTAPD Chief of Operations Thomas J. Taffe ("Chief Taffe") presented the crime and policing report for September 2025 for both railroads, which reported that crime on the railroads remains low with 14 reported incidents, a significant decrease from 30 crimes in September of 2024 and represents a 21% YTD decrease in crime. MTAPD has maintained police presence in the system by riding more trains, standing more visibly at more stations and responding proactively to conditions that affect safety and quality of life.

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 Taffe's presentation.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS:

President Vonashek noted the following Metro-North information items, which are in the Committee book: (i) 2026 Preliminary Budget (Public Comment); and (ii) Disposition of property of the Tarrytown Municipal Housing Authority.

President Free noted the following LIRR information items, which are in the Committee book: (i) 2026 Preliminary Budget (Public Comment); and (ii) November Timetable and Fall Trackwork Programs.

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

10. FINANCE:

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

11. PROCUREMENTS:

There were no procurements for LIRR or Metro-North.

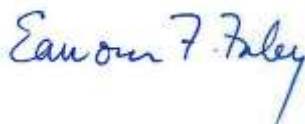
12. ADJOURNMENT:

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 stylized flourish at the end.

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