

**Minutes of the
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Finance Committee Meeting
2 Broadway, 20th Floor Board Room 1
New York, NY 10004
Monday, December 15, 2025
2:00 p.m.**

The following Finance Committee Members were present:

Hon. Neal Zuckerman, Chair
Hon. Andrew Albert
Hon. Marc Herbst
Hon. David R. Jones
Hon. Christopher Leathers
Hon. Haeda Mihaltses
Hon. Melva M. Miller
Hon. Edward Valente

The following Finance Committee Members were absent:

Hon. Samuel Chu
Hon. John Samuelsen

The following Board Members were also present:

Hon. Gerard Bringmann
Hon. Randolph Glucksman

The following staff members attended:

Jaibala Patel, Chief Financial Officer
Paige Graves, General Counsel
Lisette Camilo, Chief Administrative Officer
Olga Chernat, Deputy Chief, Financial Services
David Florio, Chief Real Estate Transactions and Operations Officer
Jake Luce, Deputy Chief, Management & Budget

To hear the content of public comments, details of Committee presentations, and Committee Members' comments and questions as well as any part of the Finance 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/december-2025>

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Neal Zuckerman called the meeting of the Finance Committee to order.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS (*attended remotely)

There were 4 public speakers:

Christopher D. Greif, ADA Accessibility Transportation Group
Jesse Figueroa, Veterans of Foreign Wars District 1 Department of New York*
Charlton D'souza, Passengers United*
Jason Anthony, LIRR ADA Task Force

3. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on November 19, 2025, were approved.

4. **MTA HEADQUARTERS AND ALL-AGENCY ITEMS ACTION ITEMS**

Jaibala Patel, Chief Financial Officer, presented the 2026 Budget and Financial Plan through 2029 for adoption.

Hon. Albert asked about the impact the additional casino revenue would have on MTA's credit ratings. Ms. Patel stated that it's another revenue source that will help the MTA operate efficiently and provide good service, and maintain its state of good repair.

Ms. Patel also addressed Hon. Albert's question about fare evasion.

Ms. Patel addressed Hon. Miller's question about how the casinos' locations were incorporated into the budget projections.

Ms. Patel addressed Hon. Mihaltse's question about how the MTA would be made whole if the casino revenue projections are not met.

Chair Zuckerman made concluding remarks about the proposed Budget and Financial Plan.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee voted to recommend the 2026 Budget and Financial Plan before the Board for approval.

Jake Luce, Deputy Chief, Management & Budget, presented the second action item, which was to add Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) services to a competitively negotiated insurance broker agreement awarded to Alliant Insurance Services (Alliant) for the placement of the Owner Controlled Insurance Program (OCIP) for Second Avenue Subway Phase II.

The alternative dispute resolution (ADR) program is an alternative method for managing workers' compensation claims for represented workers. The main goals of the program are to ultimately lower the MTA's overall insurance costs, reduce the cost of claims by getting injured workers to receive prompt treatment and return to work quickly. This program will include on-site medical care to evaluate and triage any injuries that arise during construction for Contract 2, as well as a provision for a qualified network of medical providers for injured workers to access. Based on previous experiences implementing ADR programs on MTA and other projects, Alliant estimates savings of approximately \$20 million (\$16 million in net savings).

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee voted to approve the action item.

Olga Chernat, Deputy Chief of Financial Services, presented a third action item for approval: a resolution authorizing the MTA to issue bonds, notes, and other types of debt in the coming year. Ms. Chernat reminded the Finance Committee that the Board approves the capital programs, they also approve the funding sources for those projects—including the use of debt. This annual authorization is simply a part of those larger approvals. It is not an addition to them, and it does not increase the overall amount of debt already contemplated in the capital program.

This resolution allows the MTA to move forward with the financing that is anticipated to be needed in 2026 for the approved capital projects—up to \$7 billion for transit and commuter projects and \$700 million for TBTA projects—as well as up to \$1.5 billion to support working capital needs in 2026.

These amounts are consistent with both last year's authorization and with MTA's recent borrowing levels.

Ms. Chernat also stated that MTA staff will return to the Finance Committee to report on the results of all completed financing transactions.

The authorization covers any form of debt—bonds, notes, and loans. Loans have been used in the past and could be part of MTA's borrowing mix going forward if they provide attractive financing terms and supplement MTA's bond and note issuance. The Finance Department continually evaluates opportunities with various terms and structures to finance MTA's capital needs most efficiently.

Ms. Chernat indicated that there is no feasible alternative to issuing debt to fully fund the approved capital program and requested that the Board approve this annual authorization.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee voted to approve the action item.

Mr. Luce presented a fourth action, which was to approve the work plan included in the Finance Committee book. The only change compared to the 2025 work plan that was noted for the committee members was that the Resolution to Authorize the Execution of Filing and Acceptance of Federal Funds was changed to an information item on relevant projects because a multi-year authorization is currently in place for executing documents related to federal funding.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee voted to approve the action item.

Lisette Camilo, Chief Administrative Officer, presented one MTA Headquarters item this month for Finance Committee approval in the estimated amount of \$16.95 million. This action was found in the December 2025 Finance Committee Book.

This item was a request for the Board to approve a contract extension and an increase in funding for a competitively negotiated personal services contract awarded to Metropolitan Life Insurance Company ("MetLife") to continue providing life/accidental death and dismemberment ("Life/AD&D"), and both long- and short-term ("LTD" and "STD") benefits for non-represented employees and certain represented and retired employees. The requested amount is \$16.95 million. The original contract was approved in September 2020 for \$55.5 million and a period of five years (January 1, 2021–December 31, 2025). The RFP has already been released, and an award is expected to be executed in 2026.

Negotiations for Basic Life resulted in savings of \$500,000, which is the difference in its initial and final proposal, and a \$150,000 reduction for STD. For all coverages, the rates are considered fair and reasonable from an underwriting perspective.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee voted to approve the action item.

5. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

Ms. Camilo presented two information items for NYC Transit, as follows:

The first item was a request for Board approval to exercise an option of the contract for the purchase of 165 low-floor 40-foot diesel-electric hybrid buses awarded to Nova Bus (US) Inc. and procure an additional 100 low-floor 40-foot clean diesel Option Buses.

The second item was a request that the Board ratify the declaration of an Immediate Operating Need and approve the award of an emergency estimated quantity contract to furnish and install Fare Evasion

There was one information item for Metro-North Railroad, on behalf of itself and Long Island Rail Road, as follows:

The item was a request that the Board approve the award of a noncompetitive miscellaneous service contract for the leasing of three laser train modules (one for MNR and two for LIRR) for Rail-Based Cleaning to Laser Tribology BV.

There were no information items for Bridges and Tunnels this month.

Mr. Luce presented one non-procurement information item: the Transit Adjudication Bureau's annual report. The Transit Adjudication Bureau processes Notices of Violation of the rules governing conduct in subway and bus facilities of the New York City transit system, including fare evasion. The 2025 report includes key performance metrics for TAB, and can be found in the Finance Committee book.

6. REAL ESTATE AGENDA

David Florio, Chief Real Estate Transactions and Operations Officer, presented three transactional action items for consideration and approval, one of which was a Transit-Oriented Development item.

Miriam Harris, Senior Vice President of Transit-Oriented Development, presented the first item, which was the acquisition of a permanent easement and construction license from RLF Bassett II LLC in support of the Penn Station Access Project in the Bronx.

The purpose of this action is to enable a pedestrian overpass at the south entrance of Metro-North Railroad's new Morris Park Station as part of the Penn Station Access project. The value of the transaction with the Grantor, RLF Bassett II LLC, is \$1 million. The board was asked to authorize this action to acquire the Property Interest, construct a new entrance to the Grantor's property, and enter into associated agreements regarding the pedestrian overpass.

Mr. Florio presented the other two items, which were for the MTA Metro-North Railroad and included: a lease with Azor Bake Shop Inc. dba Zaro's Family Bakery for retail space in Grand Central Terminal; and a lease with Bien Cuit LLC for retail space in Grand Central Terminal.

There was, in addition, one information item which was the report on agreements entered into directly by the Real Estate Department pursuant to board policy.

Mr. Florio addressed Hon. Miller's question regarding the rent revenue at Grand Central Terminal compared to other properties in the MTA system.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee voted to approve the action items.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Isom,
Senior Manager, Finance and Debt Management