

PCAC: THE MTA'S IN-HOUSE RIDER ADVOCATES

Brooklyn Community Board 14
Brian Fritsch, Associate Director
February 5, 2026



PCAC

PERMANENT CITIZENS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE MTA

History of PCAC

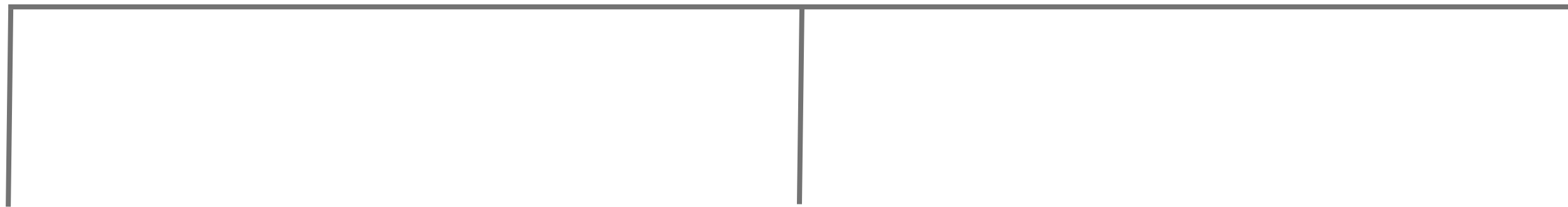
“[PCAC] shall be a source of informed, timely advice to the MTA, its subsidiaries and affiliates about finance, operations, management, planning, service issues and the Capital Program plans.”

- NY State Public Authorities Law



PCAC

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NYCTRC

NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT
RIDERS COUNCIL

Subways, buses, and SIR



LIRRCCC

LONG ISLAND RAIL ROAD
COMMUTER COUNCIL



MNRCCC

METRO-NORTH RAILROAD
COMMUTER COUNCIL



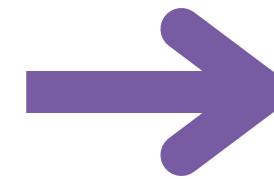
PCAC

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What Issues do we care about?

affordable fares
more frequent, reliable service
expanding bus lanes and busways
fewer delays
clear, consistent communication with riders
OMNY rollout
creating a seamless transit experience
advancing expansion projects:
IBX, Second Ave. Subway, Penn Access
bike and pedestrian access to transit
Transit-Oriented Development
better connecting zoning and transit
resiliency
protecting riders and transit from
extreme weather/flooding
sustainability
more accessible stations
giving riders a say in the next Capital Plan
weekend service planning
monitoring pandemic ridership return

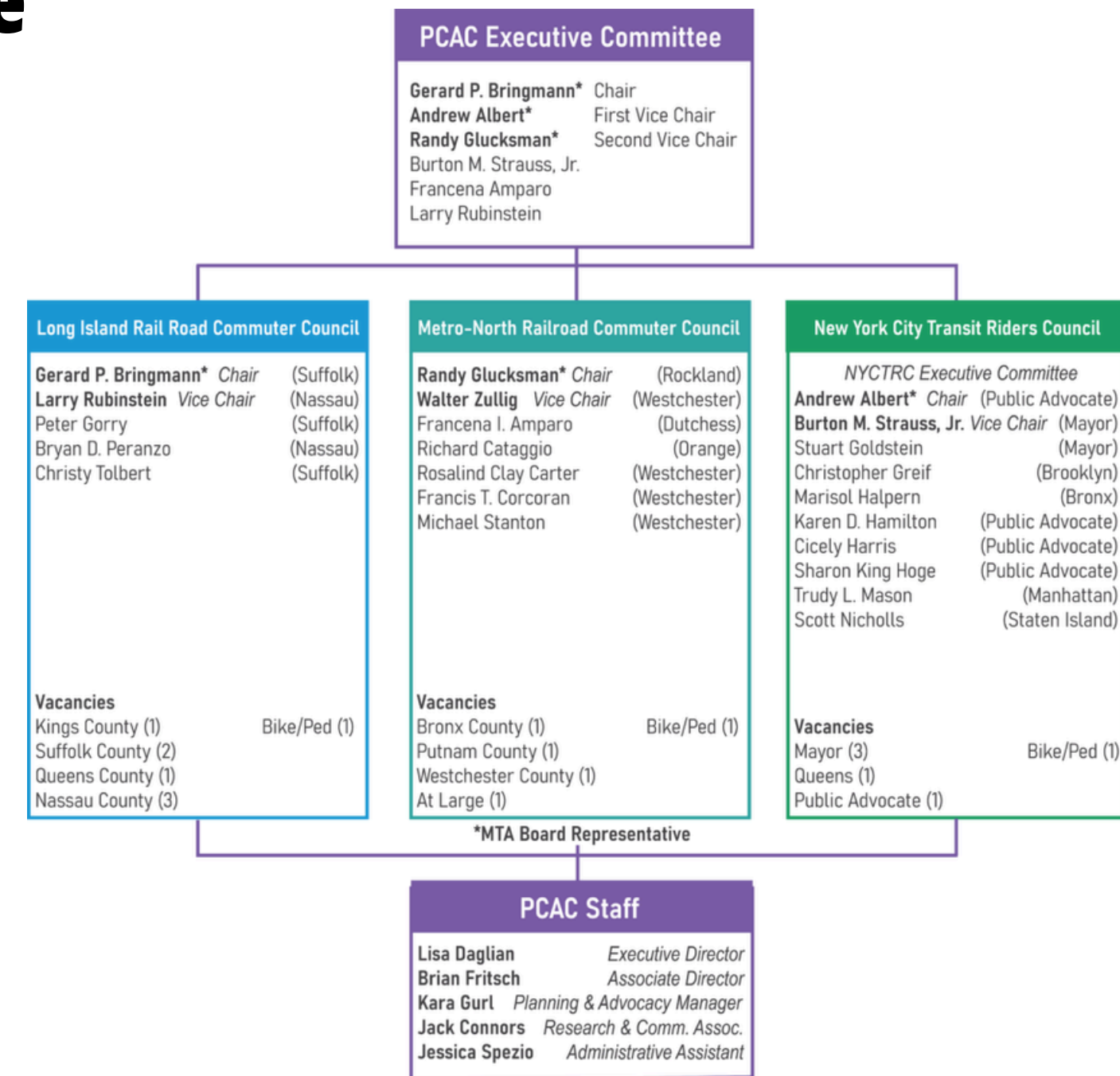
giving riders a say in the next Capital Plan
transparency
safety
rider representation on the MTA Board
ensuring the MTA's budget is fully funded
congestion pricing!
CBTC signal upgrades
construction costs and timeline
new (and more) rolling stock
getting more riders onto transit
monitoring "service adjustments"
reducing track intrusions
helping more riders pay the fare
easier connections between and across modes
more unity between the LIRR and Metro-North
station appearance and cleaning
coordination with non-MTA transportation
ensuring that elected leaders listen to riders' voices
backup service plans during GOs
... and more!



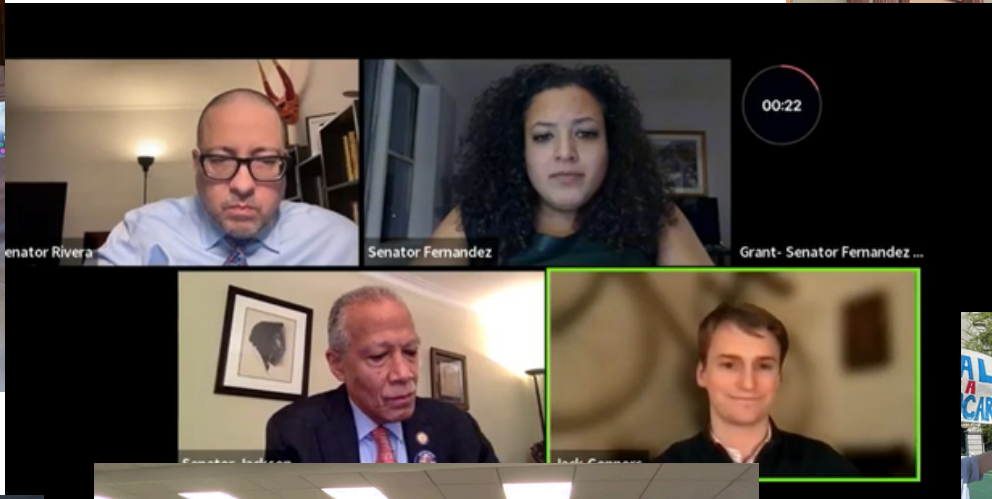
**Everything that
impacts riders and
the rider experience!**

Our role

As trusted advisors to the MTA, the PCAC researches issues, recommends viable solutions, and advocates on behalf of the region's subway, bus and Staten Island Railway riders, and Long Island Rail Road and Metro-North Railroad commuters. PCAC is the official voice of riders on the MTA system.



What we do



Transit advocates called the decision a betrayal of the mayor's campaign promises to revamp the city's bus lane network, and accused him of caving to special interests.

"This is somebody, or somebodies, whispering in the mayor's ear — against logic and against evidence that bus lanes and busways work," Lisa Daglian, head of the Permanent Citizen's Advisory Council of the MTA, told the News.

"This is a horrible decision for bus riders all over the Bronx," she said. "Paint does not keep cars out of bus lanes."



Congestion pricing and the path forward for Metro-North riders

4-minute read

Michael Stanton, Rosalind Clay Carter and Walter Zullig Special to the USA TODAY Network

Published 5:31 a.m. ET Feb. 23, 2024 | Updated 5:32 a.m. ET Feb. 23, 2024



It's true: If you're Metro-North riders like us, congestion pricing will improve your commute.

Expanding the Fair Fares Program

- Fair Fares is: half price subway and bus fares for NYC residents making 150% of the Federal Poverty Limit or less (\$23,475 for an individual or \$48,225 for a household of four)
- Our proposal: double that income level to include minimum wage employees
- Make it fully free at the current rate
- Add CityTicket and express buses as half price options
- Make the enrollment process easier



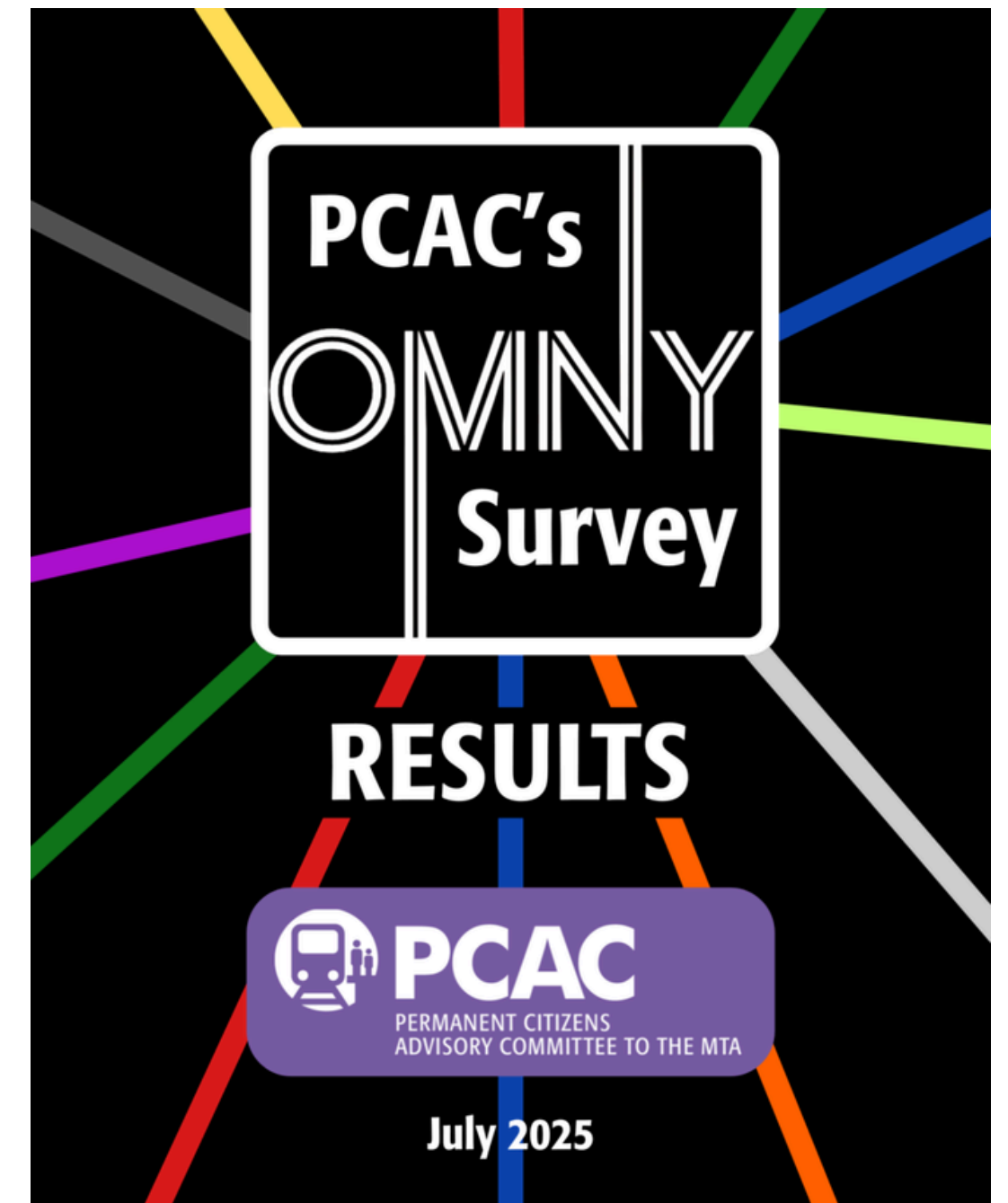
A Roadmap for Expanding Fair Fares

December 2025



Fair Changes and OMNY Adoption

- When the MTA changes fare policy, we push to make it as rider-friendly as possible
- Work with NYS legislators on potential changes that the MTA isn't inclined to do themselves
- Closely monitoring the MTA's transition to OMNY
- MetroCard sales ended Dec. 31st
- Later this year MetroCard and cash on buses will no longer be accepted



Brooklyn Bus Network Redesign

- Queens redesign completed early Sept. 2025
- Brooklyn draft plan available on MTA website
- Waiting for final draft plan to be completed
- More opportunity for feedback

Brooklyn Bus Network Redesign



Interborough Express

- Light rail to run on existing 14 miles of freight rail tracks between the Brooklyn Army Terminal and Jackson Heights, Queens
- 19 total stations with connections to 17 subway lines and Long Island Rail Road
- 160,000 daily riders with end-to-end rides around 32 minutes
- Project now in the Environmental Review process, which will provide the expected completion date and key project details



THANK YOU!

Questions?

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