

**2008 Rail~Volution
Building Support for Transit Through
Community Activism**

**The Permanent Citizens Advisory
Committee to the MTA:
“Inside” Advocacy**

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Associate Director**





What is PCAC?

- Organization consisting of three Councils created by the State of New York in 1981 to represent the interests of the riders of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) -

Long Island Rail Road Commuter Council (LIRRCC): 12 seats

Metro-North Railroad Commuter Council (MNRCC): 11 seats

New York City Transit Riders Council (NYCTRC): 15 seats



What is PCAC?

- Council members are recommended by local officials for appointment by the Governor
- *Since 1995 PCAC has had three non-voting members on the MTA Board, one from each council*



What is PCAC?

Staffing and Support

- PCAC is supported by five staff members: four transportation/land use planners and an administrative assistant
- NYS provides the funding for three planning staff salaries and office operations



What is PCAC?

- One planning staff salary is paid by a FTA grant for monitoring the MTA mega-projects and other capital construction projects
- MTA provides office space for PCAC in its headquarters building and the salary of the administrative assistant



What is PCAC?

The NYS legislation:

names the Councils as the official representatives of the riders of LIRR, MNR, and NYCT...



What is PCAC?

and directs these MTA agencies to offer full cooperation in the performance of council oversight activities, *including responding to all information requests and suggestions*, and providing agency representatives to be present at Council meetings when requested.



What is PCAC?

However, the PCAC remains an entirely independent organization. The MTA has no say over its activities, opinion, or policy.



What does PCAC do?

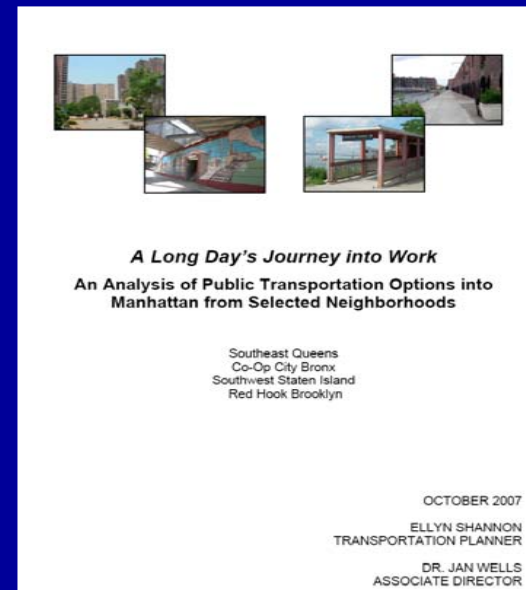
- **Councils meet monthly**
(open to the public)
 - host speakers
 - discuss rider issues
 - institute action items such as letters to MTA management, public officials, press, etc.





What does PCAC do?

- Sponsor research reports and surveys





What does PCAC do?

- Hold annual forums with presidents of the operating agencies





Advocacy for TOD

2006 Research Report:

Where is the MTA on TOD?



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

October 2006

William Henderson
Associate Director

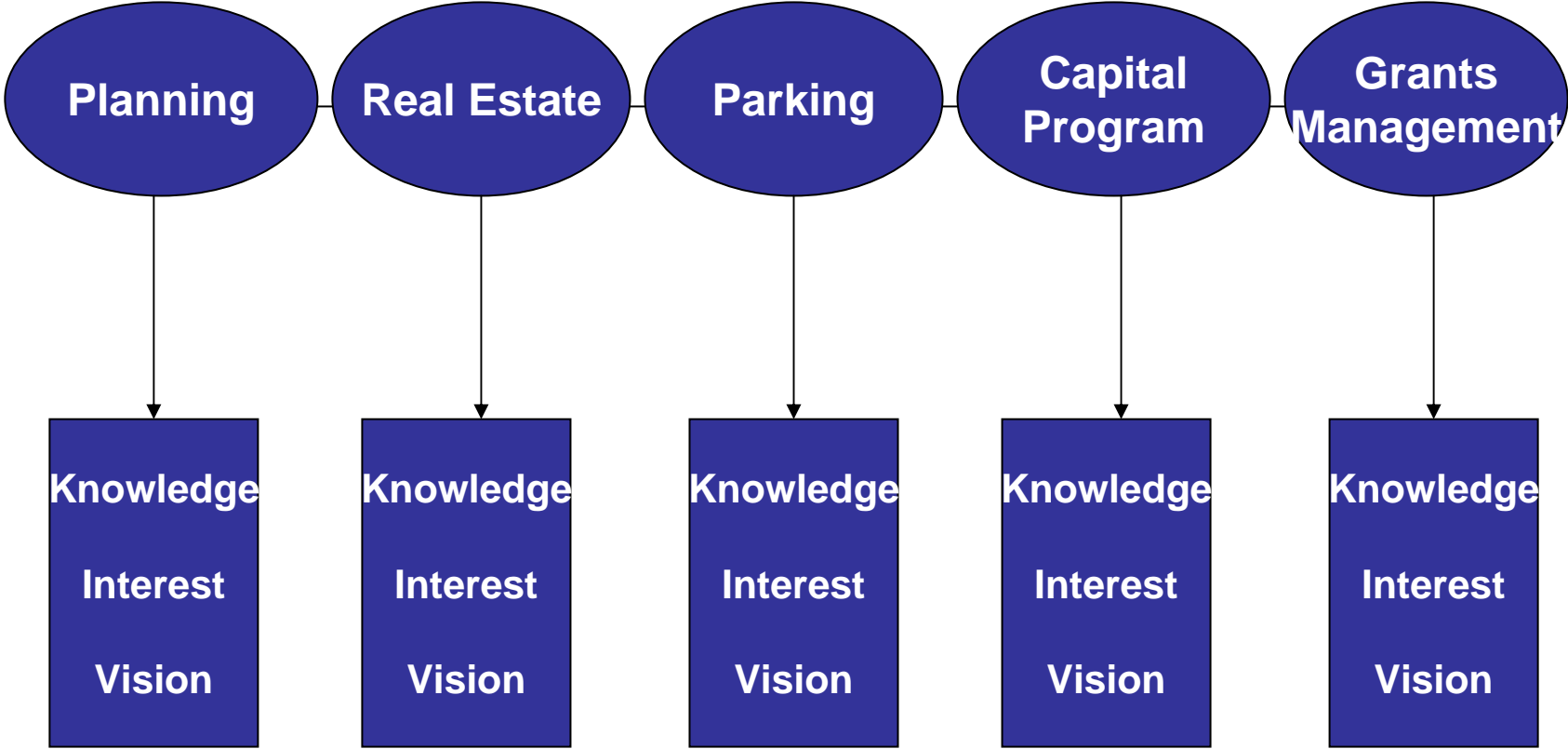
Ellyn Shannon
Transportation Planner

Karyl Berger
Research Associate

Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee to the MTA
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Internal Research and Analysis





Advocacy for TOD

Findings

- Agencies varied widely on their TOD knowledge and initiatives



Advocacy for TOD

- MNR was well advanced in their efforts to foster TOD at their stations - they had a vision and a philosophy focused on TOD





Advocacy for TOD

- LIRR was essentially devoid of any knowledge or interest in TOD
- NYCT was only involved in TOD by default related to mega-projects such as Atlantic Station
- *MTAHQ Real Estate department was the only part of Headquarters that knew or cared about TOD*



Advocacy for TOD

Outcomes

- Began to raise awareness of TOD at management level
- Departments began to talk to each other about TOD



Advocacy for TOD

PCAC followed the report with a TOD Forum co-sponsored with NYU Rudin Center in November 2006 which:

-- brought together the MTA and TOD advocates in the region

-- was the first TOD event the MTA had participated in



Advocacy for TOD

2007-2008

- *PCAC partners with other transit advocacy groups to push TOD at the MTA and LIRR*
- PCAC expands its website to highlight TOD activities of MTA
- PCAC issues its first report card in 2008 on MTA achievements including TOD initiatives



Advocacy for TOD



- PCAC begins to act as a liaison between developers, the MTA and communities

Historic station at Farmingdale, LI



Advocacy for TOD

- New leadership at MTA under Executive Director Lee Sander recognizes the importance of smart growth, *but there is still a lack of TOD expertise and coordination of departments at Headquarters*
- New leadership at LIRR under Helena Williams has been open to TOD concepts, *but staffing and outreach to communities is still lacking*



Advocacy for TOD

- MNR continues to be a model - added staff with expertise in TOD and consistently works with communities as an active partner:

Yonkers



Beacon



Harrison





Advocacy for TOD

Conclusions

- MTA is slowly joining the world of TOD
- PCAC, through its unique role as an “inside” advocate, will continue to press the MTA to partner with communities and neighborhoods to promote well-planned TOD

Check out our website:

www.pcac.org

