SUMMARY STATEMENT

ITEM NO.: DRPA-19-032
SUBJECT: Approval of Citizens Advisory Committee Membership
Nomination – Tyrone Wesley, Michael Rochester and Kristin Ricchiuti

COMMITTEE: Audit

COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: March 6, 2019

BOARD ACTION DATE: March 20, 2019

PROPOSAL: That the Board approve the nomination made by the Citizens Advisory Committee (“CAC”) to fill three (3) Pennsylvania vacancies on the Committee.

PURPOSE: To fill three (3) Pennsylvania vacancies on the CAC.

BACKGROUND: On September 15, 2010, the Board of Commissioners of the Delaware River Port Authority and the Board of Directors of the Port Authority Transit Corporation voted to create a Citizens Advisory Committee comprised of an equal number of residents of Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Those interested in becoming CAC members must complete and submit an application. Applications are available on DRPA’s website, drpa.org, in One Port Center’s lobby, at all four (4) bridges, and at all PATCO stations. Applicants may not be related to any commissioner, officer, or Authority employee. No vendors or employees of companies doing business with DRPA or PATCO are eligible.

The CAC was formed and adopted its own bylaws, which provide that a Nominating Committee of the CAC will review applications from Pennsylvania and New Jersey residents submitted to the DRPA and recommend new members. Members who have served in the past on the CAC, left the CAC in good standing, submitted an updated membership application and attend at least three (3) CAC meetings, can be reconsidered for membership to the CAC by following the below process.

When a CAC opening becomes available, the CAC’s Nominating Committee selects candidates for recommendation to the Audit Committee. Before the CAC will advance a candidate to the Audit
Committee for consideration, the Committee requires potential members to attend three (3) meetings to familiarize themselves with Authority issues, become acquainted with CAC members, and to enable the CAC to assess whether the potential new member would be an appropriate fit for such service.

The CAC’s Nominating Committee selected three (3) new members for recommendation to the Board. Audit Committee members are then invited to interview the candidates. Commissioners Murphy and Nelson participated in the interviews with Tyrone Wesley (returning member), Michael Rochester (returning member) and Kristin Ricchiuti (new member) on February 1, 2019, as did Chief Administrative Officer Toni P. Brown. The three (3) candidates were advanced to the full Audit Committee for review and consideration. A summary of the interview follows:

- **Tyrone Wesley of Philadelphia, PA**

  Tyrone Wesley is a regular Ben Franklin Bridge bridge user. He brings 25 years of work experience from his time with SEPTA, including the track department. He inspected tracks for SEPTA and has always been interested in transportation-related issues. He said he “likes to see transportation grow” and now that he is retired, this will help “keep him in the conversation”. He has been a prior member of the CAC (since 2013), regularly attends CAC meetings, and looks forward to continuing to share his mass transit and other experiences.

  Mr. Wesley’s areas of interest for CAC efforts include the overall safety of passengers using public transportation, employee safety, regular bridge maintenance and PATCO operations. He said during his tenure on the CAC, he has witnessed improvements on the PATCO line. He also said he appreciated the CEO and other staff members making themselves available to the CAC at meetings, as well as providing information on CAC requests.

  He has attended many CAC meetings since 2013, including at least five (5) CAC meetings recently. Mr. Wesley sees no reason why he would not be able to attend CAC meetings on a regular basis. There are no apparent conflicts of interest with him serving on the committee.
Mrs. Rochester is a regular PATCO and Ben Franklin bridge user. He has been a prior member of the CAC (since 2013), regularly attends CAC meetings, and looks forward to continuing to provide his input.

Mr. Rochester’s areas of interest for the CAC include community service and improving the service to PATCO customers. He said attending monthly meetings for the last six (6) years has allowed him to make his opinions known, and on several decisions, he has seen his suggestions implemented. In his interview he cited the bike pathway at the Ben Franklin Bridge as an example of a CAC suggestion on which he had input that is currently under construction. He favors the CAC continuing to be a “sounding board to provide feedback”.

He has attended many CAC meetings since 2013, including at least five (5) CAC meetings recently. During his tenure he said he has seen communication between the “CAC and PATCO Management improve significantly”. He also said “DRPA/PATCO has improved communication with customers greatly”. His priority going forward will be to continue to support improved service to customers and keep the lines of communication with Authority management open and productive.

Mr. Rochester sees no reason why he would not be able to attend CAC meetings on a regular basis. There are no apparent conflicts of interest with him serving on the committee.

Ms. Ricchiuti is a regular Walt Whitman bridge user. She is a member of the Packer Park Civic Association. She learned about the CAC from DRPA electricians and maintenance crew who came to assist with issues at the 16th & 19th Street tunnels in Philadelphia. The crew came to reinstall glass panels and install LED lighting, mentioned the CAC and told her she should consider getting involved given her proximity to the Walt Whitman Bridge and her interest in community issues and the I-76 corridor project that is about to begin.

She believes the CAC will be an excellent opportunity for her to “share the perspective of a parent and neighborhood resident”. She said she hopes to bring more arts to the tunnels and neighborhood for
beautification purposes and improve lighting in the tunnels and adding cameras there to deter inappropriate activity. Ms. Ricchiuti said she would like to be more of a voice on the CAC concerning issues of interest to the Packer Park Civic Association.

Ms. Ricchiuti is very interested in the Franklin Square Station, the park and sharing her thoughts on the needs of certain community populations. She would like to be “an important bridge between the Association, the community and DRPA/PATCO”.

She has attended at least three (3) CAC meetings. Ms. Ricchiuti sees no reason why she would not be able to attend CAC meetings on a regular basis. There are no apparent conflicts of interest with her serving on the committee.

The three (3) candidates will be presented to the Audit Committee on March 6, 2019, and, if approved, will be presented to the Board on March 20, 2019. There are currently 11 members from NJ and another eight (8) from PA, with one (1) vacancy in NJ and four (4) vacancies in PA. If these three (3) nominees are approved by the Board, there will 11 members from NJ with one (1) vacancy on the NJ side, and 11 members from PA with one (1) vacancy. Staff will continue to advertise the CAC in the hopes of attracting more applicants from PA in particular.

Current recruitment efforts include public outreach and making the CAC application accessible to interested community members. Public outreach occurs in the form of social media postings, news releases, and PATCO station signage which make the public more aware of the CAC and membership. The last news release was sent out on February 23, 2018 to the media. A copy of the CAC application, along with more information on the Committee, is posted on both Authority websites (drpa.org and ridepatco.org). There are signs advertising the CAC at every PA PATCO station. Membership opportunities for the CAC are advertised on variable screens in the PATCO stations. Potential members can also pick up copies of the CAC application at all the Authority’s public facilities - One Port Center, Ben Franklin Bridge, Walt Whitman Bridge, Betsy Ross Bridge, Commodore Barry Bridge, and at every station along the PATCO High Speedline. The applications are monitored by DRPA and PATCO staff and replenished often as needed, so they are always available to potential CAC members.
### SUMMARY STATEMENT

**Audit 3/6/2019**

- **Approval of Citizens Advisory Committee Membership Nomination for Tyrone Wesley, Michael Rochester, and Kristin Ricchiuti**

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RESOLUTION

RESOLVED: That the Board approve the appointment of Tyrone Wesley of Philadelphia, PA, Michael Rochester of Philadelphia, PA and Kristin Ricchiuti of Philadelphia, PA to serve as members of the Citizens Advisory Committee; and be it further

RESOLVED: The Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer must approve and are hereby authorized to approve and execute all necessary agreements, contracts, or other documents on behalf of the DRPA. If such agreements, contracts, or other documents have been approved by the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer and if thereafter either the Chairman or Vice Chairman is absent or unavailable, the remaining Officer may execute the said document(s) on behalf of DRPA along with the Chief Executive Officer. If both the Chairman and Vice Chairman are absent or unavailable, and if it is necessary to execute the said document(s) while they are absent or unavailable, then the Chief Executive Officer shall execute such documents on behalf of DRPA.

SUMMARY:
Amount: N/A
Source of Funds: N/A
Capital Project #: N/A
Operating Budget: N/A
Master Plan Status: N/A
Other Fund Sources: N/A
Duration of Contract: N/A
Other Parties Involved: N/A
Estimated Number of Jobs Supported: N/A