

## DRPA CAC Meeting

June 27, 2012

Attending: Fred Stuart, Jonathan Latko, Julie Still, Behari Mehta, Julie Richburg, Sean Leonard, Al Huber, Tyrone Wesley, Michael Rochester, Ray Adamson, John Boyle, William Holmes, Kathleen Venuti, Bob Melikian

Guest: Margaret Stridick, the Parking Coordinator at Rutgers Camden, requests a reduced fare program for Rutgers students. When approached, DRPA said any such program must be for all area college students not just Rutgers. This would increase ridership, especially in off peak hours. NJ Transit offers full time students a 25% discount. Rutgers had close to 7,000 registered students last year, 2,700 bought parking permits. The others get to school another way, walking, parking near the bridge, or mass transit. Looking at demographics, she sees students who would drive to Woodcrest or other station and take train; it isn't cost effective now. She estimates 1,000 would take PATCO if a reduced fare program were offered. Students can get a NJ Transit discount on buses but they are not as quick as PATCO. Tickets or fare cards can be bought in a block a month early. She would also want PATCO to expand the \$1.25 fare to Ferry Ave to City Hall. Currently students at Rutgers pay \$7.25 a week to park. A discount would make it more cost effective to take PATCO. She suggests this discount be the same as the 40% discount for seniors and the disabled, but she would like at least a 25% discount. The committee suggests she work with the new chair of the transit committee, Tony DeSantis.

Minutes of May meeting approved.

Recommendations that were presented to the DRPA Board were distributed.

New Committee Structures:

Communications Committee – Sean Leonard, Ray, Tyrone, Mike, Julie

Transit – Tony DeSantis, John Boyle

Finance -- Kathy, Tyrone, Williams Holmes

Labor / Personnel Committee – Mike Rochester, Al Huber

Labor Committee has an upcoming meeting on July 9th, met with hr people about 6 months ago.

Sean L. says non-union employees haven't received a raise in four years. He also suggested establishing a protocol for submitting recommendations to DRPA.

Nominating committee – Sean G., Bob Malikian, Tyrone

Rest of year's meeting. Stay with 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, Sept 26, Oct 24, Nov 28, Dec 19<sup>th</sup>

Need 3 new members from each state.

Agreement that we should make a brief report to the DRPA Board at their monthly meetings.

Motion to adjourn.

Attachment: handout from Margaret Stridick

## CURRENT PATCO REDUCED FARE PROGRAM

March 14, 2011

1. RFP customers must reapply **every five years for a replacement card.**
2. During peak hours, full one-way fare must be paid:  
**Weekdays:** 6am-9am, and 4pm-7pm
  - \$1.25 PA travel only
  - \$1.45 NJ travel only (except between Broadway and City Hall)**
  - \$1.25 Broadway - City Hall**
  - \$1.25 PA - Broadway/City Hall
  - \$2.05 PA - Ferry Avenue
  - \$2.35 PA - Collingswood/Westmont/Haddonfield
  - \$2.70 PA - Woodcrest/Ashland/Lindenwold

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### **Issue:**

Rutgers-Camden's student enrollment increased from 5,200 in 2004-05 to 6,400 in 2010-11, and is projected to increase to 7,000 by 2012-13. Current parking space availability will not support increased demands.

### **Proposal:**

1. Expand the \$1.25 One Way fare rate to include Ferry Avenue to City Hall
2. Include **Rutgers-Camden Students** in the Reduced Fare Program. Student Status would need to be renewed each academic year (verifiable via People Search on Rutgers website) instead of every 5 years.

### **Benefits to PATCO:**

Increase ridership, especially in off-peak hours  
Better utilization of PATCO's ample parking  
Introduce young riders to the ease of mass transit before they embark on careers in Philadelphia and surrounding areas  
Increase revenue

### **Benefits to the Environment:**

Get cars off the roads sooner  
Recruit mass transit ridership for the future  
Boost support for funding for mass transit (current and future projects) among young voters who realize the benefits first-hand

### **Benefits to Rutgers-Camden Students:**

Reduce commuting costs (if Fares cost less than Parking Permit)  
Easier than parking on campus  
Less stressful commute

### **Benefits to Rutgers-Camden:**

Alleviate traffic in the downtown Camden University District  
Eliminate the need to acquire and maintain more parking spaces