



Citizens Advisory Committee Minutes

April 10, 2019

Location: OPC Multipurpose Room, Camden, NJ

Attendance:

New Jersey: Mike Devlin, Martin King, Reggie Haynes, Judy Boldurian, Stephen Benigno, John Boyle, Alan Becker, Strasso Jovanovski

Pennsylvania: Daniel McArdle, Bob Melikian, Tom Jordan, Ben Sarullo

Emeritus Member(s)

Potential Member(s): Mojgan Mohtashami

DRPA/PATCO: John Hanson, John Rink, Robert Hicks, Brigitte Kordzian, Ed Montgomery, Barbara Wagner

Public Member(s):

Others:

Call to Order

Adoption of Minutes from November Meeting

Minutes of the March meeting were approved.

President Hanson's Comments

- April 10 Fire Incident between the Woodcrest Station and Haddonfield Station was discussed. The fire was not electrical; however, a spark from the train's third rail shoe ignited a collection of pine needles and dried leaves lying along the track causing a fire to erupt. The train operator reported the fire immediately, PATCO shut down service for 2 durations in order to put out the fire. Wind conditions caused the fire to re-ignite. The Haddonfield Fire Department used a hose to put out the fire. By 5:32 PM, PATCO resumed its regular schedule.

- PATCO/Chief of Engineering accepted the last married pair of trains, #60, overhauled by Alstom. The trains were completed on-time pursuant to the revised schedule and according to budget.
- PATCO continues its 50th Anniversary Celebration. The celebrations at Westmont and Woodcrest Stations were a hit with local vendors joining the celebrations. PATCO is working with local vendors in Collingswood to do the same at the next Anniversary Celebration on Tuesday, April 16, 2019.
- The DRPA/PATCO is in great financial shape. John Hanson was proud to announce that the DRPA received, for the 26th consecutive year, the Government Finance Officers Association Award for its 2017 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

PATCO Watchers Open Discussion with John Hanson

- The trains are on a two year rolling warranty. The early trains are coming due; however, they continue to stay in good shape. Alan Becker asked who repairs the damaged cars. Depending upon the damage, either PATCO or Alstom. In the deer incident, PATCO repaired the car. In the Conrail incident, Alstom repaired the car.
- Benjamin Franklin Bridge Walkway: The ramp is close to being done and on target for completion in April. Ornamental railings are in the process of being molded. There will be no gate at the ramp.
- DRPA will look into when the Delineator Posts will be re-installed.
- Pearl Street Pier directly adjacent to the Ben Franklin Bridge does not belong to the DRPA. There is a lot of debris gathered in that area and around the pier. CAC would like to recruit volunteers to clean-up. DRPA's only responsibility in that area is the pier that supports the bridge.
- Citizens Advisory Committee's website needs to be updated. As of May 17, 2018, there are a lot of vacancies listed on the website. DRPA to look into updating website.
- Discussed illegal car parking at the PATCO stations. John Rink advised that the DRPA police patrol the areas have been ticketing violators.
- PATCO Monthly Rider Package for discounted rates was discussed. John Hanson explained that rates were only increased by 10% which does not allow for discounted rates for the everyday rider. During the next rate hike, John Hanson will look into raising rates by a higher percentage to allow for discounted rates, costing infrequent riders a higher fare price.
- FOLLOW-UP TO QUESTIONS REGARDING THE WEST HEADHOUSE SCHEDULE CHANGE – Right now both the westbound and eastbound trains arrive at Broadway at the same times all day, which ends up being 3 minutes after the southbound River Line train arrives. In

order to accommodate, PATCO would have to make every departure (all day and in both directions) leave approximately 5 minutes later compared to the current schedule. Transit Services can make the schedule adjustments at Broadway with Riverline.

FOLLOW-UP - The changes will be made on our next schedule change.

- Security issues were also raised at the West Headhouse regarding the homeless and drug dealers/overdoses. The West Headhouse is not a part of the DRPA jurisdiction and the DRPA Police are not responsible for that particular area. However, they will provide help if necessary. The DRPA wants to reduce the amount of police presence and the issues they have to deal with in that area. Volunteers of America are also providing assistance at the West Headhouse.
- Congestion Pricing was discussed. In 2020, NY is implementing congestion pricing. Philadelphia and SEPTA are also considering the idea. John Hanson would like to see how it works out in NY and PA before considering implementing congestion pricing for bridge tolls and train fares.
- Franklin Square – 60% of the design for Franklin Square is complete. Expecting full design by March of 2020.

PATCO

- The Signage for Track 1 and Track 2 has been ordered.
- FOLLOW-UP TO TRAIN STATION PARKING LOTS – A survey was taken of the New Jersey Parking Lots. There are idling signs present at all of the parking lots. The quantity of signs and location at each stations are as follows:

| LOCATION | QUANTITY | TOTAL |
|----------------------|----------|-------|
| LINDENWOLD | 2 | 2 |
| ASHLAND | 1 | 1 |
| WOODCREST | 3 | 3 |
| HADDONFIELD (N & S) | 1+1 | 2 |
| WESTMONT | 2 | 2 |
| COLLINGSWOOD (N & S) | 2+1 | 3 |
| FERRY AVENUE | 2 | 2 |

- On Monday, April 8, 2019, PATCO placed the last two Alstom cars in revenue service.
- On Tuesday, April 16th, a ribbon-cutting for the new elevators will take place at the Collingswood Station along with PATCO's 50th Anniversary Celebration.
- PATCO will be replacing the loop tracks in the yard at Lindenwold. The renovation will take 10 weeks to complete. The contractor will be working 24/7 to replace the track. A new schedule will be put in place during the renovation adding additional trains in the morning to get them up out of the yard earlier due to construction.
- The pilot for cellphone charging at Woodcrest wasn't a great success, as charging cords had to be replaced often, namely Apple phones. We are purchasing new charging type system that we will install at Woodcrest, replacing the existing system. This system will provide outlets and USB ports for customers to use their own cords to charge.
- Ashland Station – Installation of an elevator will soon be taking place. The double stairs will be closed-off for 6-7 months. During the evening hours, the escalator will be put in a reverse position for evening use. Handouts and diagrams will be given to Riders.
- PATCO does not plan to open restrooms in the stations. The only station that has a restroom open to the public is Lindenwold.
- There are cameras at the platforms, lobbies and bike racks at all PATCO Stations.
- FOLLOW-UP TO FREEDOM CARD INTEGRATION WITH NJ TRANSIT – John Rink reviewed this issue with Director of Fare Collection. NJ Transit's infrastructure/fare media is all paper in South Jersey and do not have contactless card readers. As such, there is no way for PATCO to integrate at this time, similar to SEPTA. NJ Transit only has a few places in the northern portion of the state with contactless card readers. They can be found on some bus lines that go into New York City, Newark airport and Secaucus station. NJ Transit would need to invest a new fare collection system in order for any type of integration with PATCO to occur.

Engineering

- I-76 Corridor – The Project is out for bid and will take approximately 3 years to complete. It will take place in 2 stages: 1st stage is West of Broad Street and 2nd state is East of Broad Street. The structural work includes replacement of deck, update barrier/guard rails, paving, new green signage on 76, overhead signs replaced with fiber optics to communicate with the public. The damaged existing fencing and new fencing will be chain link. DRPA only uses chain link fencing for property at the Walt Whitman Bridge. There are no plans to add murals to any of the pedestrian tunnels at the Walt Whitman Bridge. The project will be one contract with one contractor.

- FOLLOW-UP TO THE WATER CATCHMENT PLAN – The Ben Franklin Bridge water project is a partnership with CCMUA. CCMUA will be constructing a large rain garden on the south side of the Ben Franklin Bridge between Front and Second Streets to capture storm water off the bridge. It is in the final design phase with construction estimated to start in the Fall of 2019.
- Solar Project – The Solar Project is underway. We are currently in the “Pre-Design” phase, which includes due diligence activities such as surveying and geotechnical borings. Design is estimated to begin in Spring 2019 and the first phase of construction at the Betsy Ross Bridge, Commodore Barry Bridge and One Penn Center is expected to begin in the Fall of 2019. Background information and project updates can be found on our website: DRPA Solar.

OPEN Forum:

- Role of Officers: The Officers voted on April 10, 2019. Daniel McArdle was nominated as Chair of the CAC Advisory Committee and Reggie Haynes was nominated as Vice Chair of the CAC Advisory Committee. Results will be certified at next Meeting.

Committees

- A. Finance. Nothing to report.
- B. Communications - Nothing to report.
- C. Persons with Disabilities. Nothing to report.
- D. Recruitment – Nothing to report.
- E. Personnel. Nothing to Report
- F. Operations/Engineering. See above.
- G. Old Business/New Business – Nothing to report.

Next CAC Meeting: Will be held at SEPTA Headquarters, 1234 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA on May 15, 2019 @ 6:00 p.m.

Next DRPA Board Meeting: Will be held at SEPTA Headquarters, 1234 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA on May 15, 2019 @ 6:00 p.m.