



Citizens Advisory Committee Minutes

November 13, 2019

Location: OPC Boardroom, Camden, NJ

Attendance:

New Jersey: Reggie Haynes, Alan Becker, Marty King, Strasso Jovanovski, Steve Benigno, Bruce Schwartz, Ben Saracco, Mike Devlin (ph.)

Pennsylvania: Bob Melikian, Larry Davis, Dan McArdle (ph.), Tyronne Wesley (ph.), Dan Norfleet (ph.)

Emeritus Member(s) John Boyle/NJ

Potential Member(s):

DRPA/PATCO: John Rink, Ed Montgomery, Barbara Wagner

Public Member(s):

Call to Order

A motion was made to approve the October 10, 2019 Minutes. The Minutes were approved.

Updates from CEO, John Hanson

Franklin Square: John reported that, through the excellent work of the Authority's Grants Department, the DRPA was awarded a 12.6 million dollar Build Grant from the US Department of Transportation for PATCO's re-opening of the Franklin Square Station. On Monday, November 18, 2019, John joined the FTA's Acting Administrator, K. Jane Williams announcing the Build Grant Award for PATCO's reopening of the Franklin Square Station.

Of note: Engineering is working with the City's Manager's Office to schedule a meeting with the leader of the China Town Association re: the green space infringing upon Franklin Square.

OWL Service: After feedback from the CAC Members and the community served by PATCO, the Authority put together a Special Owl Task Force to study ways in which to improve the safety and

security of its employees and riders, to increase police presence and to keep as many stations open during the overnight hours. The new Owl Service Schedule will be announced soon.

On November 15, 2019, John Hanson scheduled a conference call with Captain Bollendorf and all CAC Members to discuss the launch of the new Owl Service Schedule. John and Captain Bollendorf informed the members that on December 7, 2019, the new Owl Service will go into effect. All stations will remain open with the exception of 9/10th & 15/16 Locust Street, which currently closes between 12:07 a.m. and 4:15 a.m. PATCO will operate 4 trains during Owl Service. The doors will only open on the first and last train offering the rider a safer enclosed environment and encouraging the riders to sit closer together. A police officer will be on every train between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m. on weekdays and between 2:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. on weekends. The headway will be every 60 minutes instead of 45 minutes. Owl riders are encouraged to board the train that's running in the opposite direction instead of waiting at the station for the same train to return.

Captain Bollendorf also informed the members that a security mobile app is available called "Look Up. Speak Up." This app allows riders to confidentially contact DRPA/PATCO Police, take and send photographs including a 60 second video to report safety or security issues. The app is available for download on Google Play and Apple App stores.

Solar Project: The Authority is running into regulatory issues with respect to pushback by PSE&G. The Authority, partnered with Sun Energy have worked to comply with all related laws for the installation of the solar panels. A presentation by the Authority and Sun Power has been scheduled before the Board of Public Utilities. The Authority is not sure if it will be a public meeting. The presentation will include discussions regarding the use of solar panels that don't run contiguous along PATCO property lines and the argument that solar panels/rays along the rail line and in the solar paneled parking lots will provide sufficient power to the trains that run along the rail line. There is very little risk to the Authority as Sun Power has designed and will build and maintain the solar panels with no cost to the Authority. The solar panels will provide half of the combined electric power needed for PATCO, the 4 bridges and One Port Center. Sun Power will become the power provider and operate the system for the Authority and PATCO. The Authority will gain a cost savings of \$12.2 million dollars over a 20 year term from the power purchase agreement with Sun Power. Sun Power will charge almost 2 cents less per kilowatt hour for electricity than its current provider, PSE&G.

Bridge Lighting: The bridge lighting schedule is maintained on the DRPA website under Bridges/Ben Franklin Bridge/Decorative Lighting Schedule. All requests for lighting must be in writing and approved by the CEO. The DRPA was not involved with the Ghost Ship lighting under the Ben Franklin Bridge in October 2019. An e-mail was received from the Delaware River Waterfront requesting permission for the lighting which was approved by the CEO.

New Jersey Alliance for Action 2019 Eagle Award: Bob Melikian congratulated John Hanson for receiving the New Jersey Alliance for Action 2019 Eagle Award. John thanked Bob and stated that he accepted the award on behalf of the men and women who work at the DRPA and PATCO, Chairman Boyer, Vice Chair Nash, the DRPA and PATCO Board and the contractors and consultants who support the Authority. John also thanked and expressed his appreciation to the CAC members for their input concerning the bridges and rail lines, as everyone is part of the team.

Bike/Walking Ramp at Ben Franklin Bridge: Issues were raised concerning the closing hours in which a bicyclist or pedestrian could cross the bridge. Pedestrians and bicyclists have been turned away before the closing hours posted at the Bridge. John informed the committee that he is not in support of extending hours into the dark evening hours for a small number of people and emphasized his reasons: terrorism, suicides, security, limited resources and putting DRPA law enforcement in harm's way. John informed the Committee that presently, the Engineering Department along with the family who lost their son to suicide off the Ben Franklin Bridge are working on plans/designs to prevent individuals from jumping off the bridge. John Hanson stated that he would discuss this matter further with Chief Stief.

John Boyle stated that the Bike Coalition will be forming a campaign to extend the opening hours on the ramp way.

Delinear Posts at the Ben Franklin Bridge: Questions were raised as to why the delinear posts can't remain throughout the year rather than being installed in May and removed in October of each year. Snow removal and low resources are among some of the reasons. John Hanson will discuss this issue with Val Bradford, Bridge Director at the Ben Franklin Bridge.

Capital Project Update – Allan Becker

Allan Becker presented a booklet from the Engineering Division regarding Capital Project Update Fall 2019 (attached). Mr. Becker finds attending the O&M Meetings very informative. The booklet features current work or work projected at Walt Whitman Bridge Suspension and Towers Painting; Commodore Barry Bridge Painting; Betsy Ross Bridge Painting; Ben Franklin Bridge South Walkway, Bicycle and Pedestrian Ramp; Lindenwold Yard Rehabilitation; PSTCO Elevator Installations; PATCO Woodcrest Parking Lot; PATCO Franklin Square; Walt Whitman Bridge Corridor at I-76; Ben Franklin Bridge Suspension and Anchorage Rehabilitation; Station Enhancements at Lindenwold Stations; Station Enhancements at Woodcrest Stations and Station Enhancements at Ferry Avenue Station.

Allan also discussed the continued 50th Anniversary of PATCO. There are 2 remaining events: Woodcrest Station on November 19, 2019 and Ashland the week of December 16, 2019. The Ashland event will celebrate both the 50th Anniversary and the re-opening of the stairway.

The Committee also discussed taking a tour of the Anchorage in 2020.

Questions from Twitter – Larry Davis/Answers by John Rink:

1. Why is the GTFS slow to get re: scheduling? There are no ETA's.

PATCO's GTFS data is provided by a third party vendor. Mike Williams is looking into ways to turnaround time of the data once a new schedule is produced.

2. Missing stop signs at the Woodcrest Lots and Traffic Light Timing.

Traffic light timing has been adjusted by the NJ Department of Transportation. John Rink followed up on November 14, 2019 at which time two stop signs were installed at Woodcrest Lots 8A & 8B.

3. Credit Card Failures.

Unfortunately, it happens at least once a month when the line is down during Elavon PCI Compliance/routine maintenance on their systems. The line is supposed to automatically switch over so we have service, but it doesn't always work.

4. It seems so many trains have been breaking down lately?

The break down is about the same as prior years and happens sporadically. The majority of the issues have to do with braking issues and doorway jams. Additionally, The PA system is software driven and PA updates affect the system as the coupler pulls apart. Track failures also cause delays.

5. Will there be a Santa Announcement on the trains this year?

Yes, there will be a Santa announcement along with a special guest, Frosty. There may even be a third guest!! There will be different messages from Santa and Frosty. In addition, there were volume changes throughout the fleet to make sure all announcements are made at the same volume. It should be noticeably different by riders on the train.

6. Directional Signs on Trains.

PATCO is looking into changing the messaging on the trains. Westbound, once you go over the bridge into Philadelphia, the messaging will change that the train is going to 15th/16th Locust Street. Eastbound over the bridge into New Jersey, the messaging will change that the train is going to Lindenwold, NJ.

7. Customer Service.

Customer Service will be transferring from the Broadway Station to the Woodcrest Station. The Stations will also swap hours. The Woodcrest Station is much easier to pull into and park. PATCO will also be removing the slope in the Woodcrest Station due to a lot of slip and falls. Most people fall because they are late and running towards the track.

8. Does DRPA/PATCO offer incentives/grants for employees to buy homes in Camden or Philadelphia?

No, we don't.

9. Liberty Bell Award.

On October 15, 2019, PATCO was awarded the prestigious Liberty Bell Award recognized by the City of Philadelphia for 50 years of public transit connecting people from Lindenwold, New Jersey to Center City, Philadelphia, PA. Mayor Kenney, Deputy CEO, Maria Wing and John Rink were in attendance.

10. Track Inspections.

Ultrasound inspections of the tracks are taken twice a month, especially during the change of seasons to find any flaws on the tracks. During extreme hot and cold weather the tracks will expand and contract. Most often the tracks separate during cold weather at the weld. Joint bars are put on the track at a defective weld. Going forward, inspections will be done on a Friday and Saturday night so we can make repairs on Saturday and Sunday and not impact weekday service.

11. Head Houses will serve as a shelter to Riders when the weather is hot or cold. Woodcrest will be expanding its Head House and providing more seating at the Station.

Old Business:

Committees Going Forward

Pursuant to CAC By-Laws-IX Subcommittees, the Committee has re-organized and will be working as a whole rather than a combination of subcommittees, except recruitment by Bob Melikien.

Membership: The Committee asked if Mike Williams can put something on social media requesting applicants for CAC Membership. The CAC would like to recruit 2 additional members in NJ and 3 additional members in PA.

Strasso Jovanovski's NJ membership is currently going through the Audit Committee Process.

The CAC Committee also requested that the Authority provide advanced notice on any awards given to the DRPA/PATCO.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next CAC Meeting: Will be held at OPC on January, 8, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.

Next DRPA Board Meeting: Held at OPC on November 20, 2019 @ 9:00 a.m.