



## **Citizens Advisory Committee Minutes**

**October 9, 2024**

**Location: via TEAMS**

### **Attendance:**

**New Jersey:** Reggie Haynes, Judy Boldurian, Alan Becker, Straso Jovanovski, Grace Kimbaris,

**Pennsylvania:** Tyrone Wesley, Robert Melikian

**Emeritus Member(s):** Bruce Schwartz, Jeffrey Kessler

**DRPA/PATCO:** John Rink, GM; Jerry Sahi, CFO; Mike Venuto, CE; Robert Finnegan, CSSO; Cheryl Ansert, Administrative Coordinator

**Potential Members:** Scott Pileckas, William Loughney, Thomas Lipski

### **Call to Order**

A motion was made to approve the September 11, 2024 minutes. The Minutes were approved.

### **Finance**

#### **CFO Sahi**

- Month of September traffic was around 4.0M vehicles, 2.4% better than 2023.
- September YTD traffic was 36.3M. 1.4% better than 2023.

#### **DRPA Traffic & Revenue**

- July YTD revenue was \$187.5M. 3.4% better than 2024 budget, 2.2% better than 2023.
- July YTD traffic was 29.2M. 2.8% better than 2024 budget, 1.9% better than 2023.

#### **PATCO Ridership & Revenue**

- Final August YTD revenue was \$8.75M, 1.7% less than 2024 budget and 3.2% better than 2023.
- August YTD ridership was 3.71M, 1.5% less than 2024 budget and 3.4% better than 2023.

#### **Operating Expense**

- Preliminary July YTD operating expense is \$96.7M, which is \$11.9M favorable to budget.

### **Jeff Kessler: Are the toll crossings on the bridge equal to or back to pre-Covid numbers?**

#### **CFO Sahi**

- We stopped comparing that b/c the numbers aren't relevant with the toll increase. We are still close to 94% of pre-Covid numbers.

### **General DRPA**

#### **Updates on DRPA CAC recruitment.**

#### **GM Rink**

- Mike Williams was in touch with Bob, Reggie and Alan. Awaiting responses from Alan & Reggie.
- John Rink posted CAC application on his LinkedIn page.

## **Bridge and Highway**

### **Bridge Repair timing and updates.**

#### **CE Venuto**

- Continuing work on the \$194M BFB construction project. On schedule to complete most of the work by end of the year.
- BRB painting project is about 40% complete, working on structural steel repairs, painting the toll plaza, under deck repairs and replacing bearings at Richmond Street.
- CBB upcoming project to de-lead and repaint cantilever through truss as well as some concrete deck repairs and significant structural repairs. Went out to bid a few weeks ago, we received bids of about \$220M. Once approved by the board we will start spring 2025, it will be a four-year project.
- Continuing work on Franklin Square, have about another 30 to 45 days to finish the contract work. Then PATCO and some other contractors will be working to get ticket vending machines, fare gates, cameras and fire systems together and integrated. We are looking to open sometime in the first quarter of 2025.

### **Bob Melikian: The decking on the BFB is that being done over the blacktop or is it just repairs?**

#### **CE Venuto**

- Just spot repairs. About 30,000 or 40,000 square feet of asphalt paving.
- There is a long-range plan over the next couple of years to resurface the entire BFB.

### **Reggie Haynes: With all the work going on in Franklin Square, are you also adding cell service to the station?**

#### **GM Rink**

- No companies have put any of their equipment in there yet. We've reached out to Xfinity, they do not have Franklin Square on their plan this year.

### **Daily issues are being reported in KYW, why is there an increase in incidents?**

#### **CSSO Finnegan**

- Not clear as to what is being asked. Incidents or Accidents?

### **With several toll booths being closed on the BFB is this increasing traffic, or creating conditions for accidents?**

#### **CSSO Finnegan**

- When we tighten the toll booth patterns the traffic patterns change, they may be narrower and channeled to smaller areas. This may cause traffic delays and minor incidents or accidents but nothing too severe.

### **Grace Kimbaris: I just didn't know how long they were going to be closed for. All the cars using EZ Pass must go all the way to the right. It seems not ideal.**

#### **CE Venuto**

- I will reach out and talk to the Bridge Director & the C&M Manager to express the concerns about the traffic pattern.



**Are motorized e-bikes /e-scooters allowed on the BFB walkway?**

CSSO Finnegan

- E-bikes are permitted on the walkway, however there are speed restrictions.

**Due to the Walt Whitman Bridge construction during rush hours, has there been an increase in PATCO ridership during that time frame?**

GM Rink

- We have not seen an increase in ridership with the construction on the WWB.

**PATCO**

**Update on Franklin Square**

SE Klawunn

- Work is continuing through the station. Landscaping and path construction have been completed outside. We are working on getting the faregate system inside the station.

GM Rink

- We still have to tie the fire alarm systems into our whole network and install tags in the track area for the signal system, which will tell the train to stop at the platform.

**How do the trains stay the correct distance apart when one is a few minutes late?**

GM Rink

- Our signal system controls train movements, they keep safe distances between the trains. If one is going slower the system will start to slow down any approaching and could even hold it.
- The system provides adequate block protection between trains.

**Due to the homeless in Philadelphia, has there been an increase in homeless numbers in PATCO concourses?**

GM Rink

- We have not seen an increase.
- Unsheltered people in the concourse area have been very light, with the weather change we may see that increase.

**PATCO issue, September 9<sup>th</sup> 11:57PM train didn't arrive at 15/16 Locust. Any reason for the skipped train?**

GM Rink

- It wasn't skipped, our corporate communications forgot to post the changes for the night. The train arrived at 11:58PM and left at 12:04AM.

**Last minute changes to the special schedules are updated on the status boards in stations but not always on the website, could a notification be sent to PATCO riders of the change?**

GM Rink

- When we do schedule changes, they are posted up on the screens with changes highlighted. Notifications are sent to our social media pages as well.
- Only time text alerts are put out to our riders is if there is a major change in the schedule (new schedule in place or a 20+ minute delay)



**Introduce potential new members:**

Scott Pileckas (NJ), William Loughney (NJ), Thomas Lipski (NJ)

**OPEN Forum**

**Next CAC Meeting:** November 13, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

**Next DRPA Meeting:** DRPA Board Meeting on October 16, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m.