



Citizens Advisory Committee Minutes

November 13, 2024

Location: via TEAMS

Attendance:

New Jersey: Reggie Haynes, Judy Boldurian, Straso Jovanovski

Pennsylvania: Tyrone Wesley, Robert Melikian

Emeritus Member(s): John Boyle, Stephen Benigno, Alan Becker

DRPA/PATCO: John Hanson, CEO; 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 October 9, 2024 minutes. The Minutes were approved.

Finance

CFO Sahi

- Month of October traffic was around 4.1M vehicles, 1.9% better than 2023.
- October YTD traffic was 39.9M. 1.4% better than 2023.

DRPA Traffic & Revenue

- August YTD revenue was \$217.5M. 3.3% better than budget, 2.2% better than 2023.
- August YTD traffic was 33.8M. 2.7% better than budget, 1.9% better than 2023.

PATCO Ridership & Revenue

- Final September YTD revenue was \$9.9M, 250,000 less than budget.

Operating Expense

- Preliminary August YTD operating expense is \$111.8M, which is \$12.9M favorable to budget.
- We have about 126 open positions out of a total of 954.

General DRPA

Solar Energy Savings

CE Venuto

- Showed graphics of solar array system performance. The Monitoring period was from March 2023 to February 2024.
- PATCO uses 83% of power, OPC uses 6%, BRB uses 2%, CBB uses 2%, BFB & WWB use 7%. This gives us a total of 100%.
- We generate 50% of PATCO power usage from our solar production, 41% of OPC's power, 9% to BRB, 21% at CBB.
- May 2023 our solar generation produced more than 40% of the total power usage.
- From March 1, 2023 to February 29, 2024 we saved approximately \$500,000 in energy cost.



Reggie Hayne: What I have is based on the kilowatt hour per charge in the contract. Is that a fixed rate or does that fluctuate based on the market?

CE Venuto

- It's a fixed rate.

NJ State Comptroller Case against the DRPA update

CEO Hanson

- Everything they issued a subpoena for is public record, it has all been delivered to Governor Murphy's office.
- Our attorneys determined the statute doesn't empower them to subpoena records from the DRPA.
- We told them to withdraw their subpoena and we will give them the documents they were asking for, in response to that they issued a subpoena to our general counsel.
- We filed an action on federal court for a compact interpretation to have the federal court interpret our compact.

Steve Benigno: Are you using in House counsel for this or did you hire out?

CEO Hanson

- We are using in house counsel, but we are also using the board attorneys.

Bridge and Highway

DRPA closing of the WWB and CBB when the US United States ship is being towed down the Delaware.

CSSO Finnegan

- As of right now there is no date or time in place for this move.

Steve Benigno: Are there any recommendations to move the ship during certain tide times?

CEO Hanson

- It has to be done at low tide in order to provide enough clearance to pass.

Betsy Ross Bridge Construction update

CE Venuto

- We are approximately 35-40% complete with the de-leading and re-painting project.
- We are continuing to do blasting and prime coating.
- Concrete repairs are continuing, mostly on the PA side.
- Steel repairs are continuing across the bridge.
- We are working on the bearing replacement at Richmond St.

Are there any plans on the planning for the Ben Franklin Bridge 100th Anniversary?

CEO Hanson

- The event will occur sometime in the summer of 2026, so we are about 20 months away. Our deputy CEO, Jalila Parker will be working to plan this. Nothing has been done yet.



- There is a long-range plan over the next couple of years to resurface the entire BFB.

Are there any plans for the Pearl Street Pier near the Ben Franklin Bridge on the Camden side?

CE Venuto

- We haven't had any plans for years.
- It is fenced off and has no trespassing signs.
- We may use it to stage some work equipment.

PATCO

Headhouse project Updates

GM Rink

- West headhouse is currently being torn apart, contractor anticipates 3-4 months before completing this.
- Once the west is complete, they will move to the East headhouse, which should take approximately 6 months. Structural walls supporting the headhouse had to be torn down and rebuilt)
- They will remove the glass blocks and install new windows. The stairs are being rehabbed, but they will replace the ceilings and lighting.

Lindenwold Elevator Update

GM Rink

- The elevator was down and out of service October 3rd to October 24th.
- The piston had to be repacked.

Franklin Square Station Update

CEO Hanson

- Anticipated opening in late January
- We will make the CAC aware of any festivities for the Grand Opening as soon as we have something in place.

Are there any plans to update the PATCO fare system to offer "Wave and Pay" or using credit card/phone as a payment option like SEPTA offers?

GM Rink

- We currently have a project underway to do this.
- Will be a \$16.9M project
- Will allow you to use your cell phone or credit card and Septa's card will be accepted as well.
- It will be a tap and go feature.

Reggie Haynes: Will you issue refunds if you're going to get rid of the Freedom Card at that time?

GM Rink

- Both systems will be up and running at the same time, similar to how we transitioned in the early 2000's when we had our magnetic tickets.



Questions from Social Media – NONE

Old Business – NONE

New Business

DRPA CAC Membership (4) NJ & (3) PA

Emeritus Status: Reggie Haynes-December 2024

Tyrone Wesley- March 2025

Bob Melikian- June 2025

Next CAC Meeting: January 8, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.

Next DRPA Meeting: DRPA Board Meeting on December 11, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m.