



Citizens Advisory Committee Minutes

January 8, 2025
Location: via TEAMS

Attendance:

New Jersey: Reggie Haynes, Judy Boldurian

Pennsylvania: Tyrone Wesley, Scott Cohen, Robert Melikian

Emeritus Member(s): Larry Davis, Benjamin Saracco, Jeffrey Kessler, 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, Daniel Croyl

Call to Order

A motion was made to approve the November 13, 2024 minutes. The Minutes were approved.

Finance

CFO Sahi

- Month of December traffic was around 3.8M vehicles.
- December YTD traffic was 48.1M. 1.2% better than 2023.

DRPA Traffic & Revenue

- October YTD revenue was \$284M. 7.4% better than budget, 6.7% better than 2023.
- October YTD traffic was 42.4M. 2.5% better than budget, 2.1% better than 2023.

PATCO Ridership & Revenue

- Final November YTD revenue was \$12.2M, \$380,000 less than budget.

Operating Expense

- Preliminary October YTD operating expense is \$141.2M, which is \$15.3M favorable to budget.

Bob Melikian: Was there ridership or total car vehicles impacted by the increasing of the toll charges to cross the bridge even though I see that revenue went up, was the number of vehicles the same more or less?

CFO Sahi

- It has been trending the way it was prior to the increase. Our traffic was around 1% better than 2023 and that's what it was after the toll increase.

General DRPA

Any preparation plans with partnering with American250PA and Philadelphia 2050 for 2026?

CEO Hanson

- We are not doing that at this time.



Are issues raised on social media being addressed?

CEO Hanson

- That is a very broad question, generally, yes we address them in terms of responding to the people who ask the questions in terms of the problems that are raised.

Update on the meetings that were held with the governor related to bridge infrastructure. Was DRPA representatives included in the meetings?

CEO Hanson

- We weren't involved in them and in fact don't know anything about them.

Succession Planning programs in-place for DRPA Leadership

CEO Hanson

- We do have succession planning programs that really begin with retirement planning.

Bridge and Highway

Updates on the CBB incident on Thanksgiving (Communication breakdown from DRPA getting message out about the closure).

CEO Hanson

- Police Dispatchers put out the initial alert and then our communication team gets involved after that. I was not aware that a message was not sent out.

PATCO

Homeless in the train stations and on trains to stay warm.

GM Rink

- It is a 24/7 problem that we continue to face.
- In the morning our police go from 16th Street to 8th Street removing people, but after they leave the area the homeless can easily come back.
- Right now we have a code blue and during this time some of our neighboring towns drop people off at our stations due to a code blue.

Alan Becker: Have the crime rates stayed the same, gotten better or worse?

CEO Hanson

- The news reported yesterday that crime in Camden has dramatically dropped. Homicides are down, burglaries are down, sexual assaults are down.

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

- Planned for opening in late January, that has been postponed. No date for the opening at this point.



Will existing PATCO headways at least be maintained with the longer journey times from the Franklin Square Station opening?

GM Rink

- There is no change in the schedule after adding Franklin Square.

Is there a long-term strategy for service enhancements on PATCO? Is there a vision to return headways to every 12 minutes midday, 15 minutes on Saturdays, and 20 minutes on Sundays (currently 15, 20, and 30)?

GM Rink

- At this time we have no plans to return to pre-pandemic headways.
- At this time we have no upcoming changes to our schedule.

Is the DRPA able to share a summary of 2024 vs 2023 ridership, including ridership by time-of-day, across days of the week, and an Origin-Destination matrix of journeys from each station to another station?

GM Rink

- I sent an email to Cheryl with the information requested and she has forwarded that to Reggie to share with you all.

Can the DRPA prioritize releasing the alert information shared via social media, text message, and/or website posting in a machine-readable format such that relevant information cannot only be relayed via existing channels but also in external navigation tools like Google Maps?

GM Rink

- We are not prioritizing that right now.

What is the timeline for the DRPA's AFC system upgrade/replacement?

GM Rink

- We are still on the same target of September of this year.

Design completion percentage and proposed construction schedule for GCL.

SE Ochroch

- We have an agreement with our consultant to get to a 30% design with the intention that it would be moved into a design, build, operate, maintain contract. (contractor will take the design from 30% to 100%)
- The 30% deliverable has been completed to the best that DRPA can do at this time.

Straso Jovanovski: There were troubles with the overhead next to the arrival station display regularly off at 15/16th Locust and City Hall. City Hall had dashes displayed for the minutes on the board on Saturday night.

GM Rink

- I will have to look into that issue from Saturday night.



Was there an uptick in numbers for ridership on New Year's compared to last year?

GM Rink

- I will have to pull that data and get it to you.

Jeff Kessler: Do you have an origin destination matrix of where people boarding at each station are going?

GM Rink

- I don't have that data on hand, but we can generate reports from cubic if a specific request came in. It would only be for Freedom card users and not the paper tickets.

Scott Cohen: Are there any tentative plans to upgrade 8th and Market with the new pending 76ers stadium?

GM Rink

- We have improvements planned for the Philadelphia Stations.
- We have grant money in hand and we are looking to do that for events in 2026.
- 8th and Market doesn't touch where the 76ers will be, so there is nothing we have to do in the station to prepare for them.

Larry Davis: A while ago we talked about updating the security call boxes in the stations and the parking lots, have that update been done?

CSSO Finnegan

- I believe there are still two stations where they are being installed and after that we will have them complete across the line.

GM Rink

- The new call boxes on the platforms have dual functions. They can contact our police or our customer service depending on what you need.

Questions from Social Media: Real Time Train data-we've been asking for gtfs data for a long time and the person got back to me and said that you do publish your gtfs data but its only for the normal schedule which is seemingly never in effect.

GM Rink

- This doesn't have a big enough impact on enough people to become a priority at this time.

Jeff Kessler: Recommends we should find a way to post something to social media and it goes to all platform, instead of having to post something to a few different areas.



Old Business – NONE

New Business

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

Emeritus Status: Tyrone Wesley- March 2025

Bob Melikian- June 2025

Voted to have 2 new members presented to the Audit Committee

William Loughney

Scott Pileckas

Introduced new member Daniel Coyle

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

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