



## Citizens Advisory Committee Minutes

February 12, 2025  
Location: via TEAMS

### Attendance:

**New Jersey:** Reggie Haynes, Judy Boldurian, Straso Jovanovski

**Pennsylvania:** Tyrone Wesley, Robert Melikian

**Emeritus Member(s):** Jeffrey Kessler, Alan Becker

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

**Potential Members:** Scott Pileckas, Joseph Byham, Thomas Lipski

### Call to Order

A motion was made to approve the January 8, 2025 minutes. The Minutes were approved.

### Finance

#### **CFO Sahi**

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

- January 2025 Preliminary traffic was roughly around 3.6M. 1.8% better than last January.
- Final Nov YTD revenue 314.8M. 23.1M better than last year
- Final Nov YTD traffic was 46.4M. 0.9M better than last year.

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

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

##### **Operating Expense**

- Preliminary November operating expense is \$155.8M, which is \$16.8M favorable to budget.

**Bob Melikian: The traffic counts v. dollars, cause obviously the tolls went up.**

#### **CFO Sahi**

- Truck traffic may be a little bit better than or at par to pre-COVID days in some months.
- Cars are still at 94 to 95%.

### General DRPA

**Why is there limited engagement with social media from DRPA? Responses to comments aren't made on the same day.**

#### **CCM Williams**

- We try to respond to inquiries/comments as quickly as possible. Some answers we know right away and we can respond to and some may take a bit longer to find the correct answer/information before responding.
- We noticed there are a lot of posts where the same people are asking the same questions over the course of a couple of days.



### **GM Rink**

- When we have an issue with the trains our CSA's will push out a message as an informational piece to advise trains are late. If someone responds to that message, they might not get a response right away because it was just a general information message to make people aware.

### **Bridge and Highway**

#### **Update on bridge construction/schedule.**

##### **CE Venuto**

- BFB rehabilitation of the suspension span is in its close out phase.
- We just put out the bid for the BFB masonry rehabilitation of the anchorages, they are due on February 19<sup>th</sup>.
- We have awarded a construction project for the WWB pin and link, which is phase 2 of the project.
- BRB painting project is still ongoing.
- CBB has 2 major projects, the weld inspection and remediation project and phase 3 of our painting project.

#### **Has ridership returned to pre-COVID numbers?**

##### **GM Rink**

- On PATCO we are still at that 50-54% range. For the month of January we are 13% better than the same month last year. So we have not seen anything close to pre COVID numbers.

#### **Are the new LED lights on the Ben Franklin Bridge operational?**

##### **CE Venuto**

- Yes, the North and South side track level and suspended roadway lights are complete and operational.
- We still have tower and anchorage lighting upgrades being worked on. We did have those operating the last couple of weeks. They were lit up green for the Eagles games. We are doing some final programming and some training and they should be complete shortly.

### **PATCO**

#### **Recent violent activities in the cars last week (Lindenwold). What can be done to keep riders safe?**

##### **CSSO Finnegan**

- There was an incident between 2 homeless people, if that is what you are referring to.
- That incident is not in our reports as a violent act. It doesn't come up in our system as a violent incident, there was no criminally filed complaint.

#### **Update on Collingswood and Woodcrest headhouses. East Headhouse at Collingswood is filled with sleepers. The patrons are speaking, but feel ignored since no visible action is taking place.**

##### **GM Rink**

- Collingswood – There were supply chain issues for material. Materials are being delivered next week. We have about 3 months of construction left and then they will move to the East side.



- Woodcrest – South platform heading East should be done late summer, early fall. That will be reopened and then they will move to the Westbound platform.

### **Franklin Square Station Update on opening delay**

#### **CE Venuto**

- We received the certificates for the elevators towards the end of the third week in January. We received our certificates for occupancy as well.
- We have an internal planning meeting in order to work out the next steps.
- We will announce a date for a grand opening in the coming weeks.

### **What if any plans are envisioned for Franklin Square to play in the Philly 250 hoteling strategy?**

#### **GM Rink**

- We are not involved in that.

### **The “Schedule” LCD ‘s in the stations show times in the midnight hours as 0:08 rather than 12:08 or 00:08.**

#### **CCM Williams**

- We will have to take a look at that, sounds like something with the software.

### **Is there an announcement program with the proper station announcement when stations are bypassed?**

#### **GM Rink**

- No, normally it’s an out of service train. We take it out of service and dead head it back to Lindenwold.

### **GTFS update – There is confusion around adjusted departure times for the Eagles game on the 26<sup>th</sup>.**

#### **GM Rink**

- We pushed out a quick schedule better than our 30 minute headway.
- We did 20 minutes trying to get more people over.

### **Update on vendor selection/roadmap of GTFS updates.**

#### **GM Rink**

- We have been working on getting some proposals and then we need to go over them with John.

### **Will customers migrating from stored-value cards to contactless have the option to receive a refund?**

#### **GM Rink**

- No, but the 2 systems will run side by side for a period of time before we turn off the other ones. So they will still be able to use the value on their cards.



**Will Reduced fare customers be able to link a credit card to their profile for use?**

**GM Rink**

- Reduced fare customers can have a registered credit card that can be used for automatic reload when their value reaches below \$5.

**Will the gates be upgraded due to the new fare collection system or remain as is?**

**GM Rink**

- Universal ticket transport, which reads the current magnetic ticket, will be removed.
- We hope to have new faregates installed at 8<sup>th</sup>& Market, City Hall, & Broadway. They will be a new fare collection system.
- The new fare gates will deter fare evading.

**Will single-use tickets transition to contactless tickets?**

**GM Rink**

- Yes, there will be a flimsy plastic card. A little better than a paper ticket, but it will be a throwaway contactless ticket.

**Will the Freedom Card be eliminated due to the new fare collection system?**

**GM Rink**

- Not at this time, but sometime in the future it will.

**Will there be interoperability with SEPTA's upgrade to Cubic?**

**GM Rink**

- The key card will only work if funds are loaded in a debit portion of their account.

**Is PATCO planning to run a simulated service to demonstrate activity before opening to the general public?**

**GM Rink**

- We are going to have both systems running together.
- We will give out more information in the future for that.

**Has there been a study on overnight ridership (cost-cutting measure) to determine which stations could close between the hours of 12AM to 5AM?**

**GM Rink**

- Nothing on that yet, but it will be looked at in the very near future.

**GM Rink: I want to tell you what we plan to do for the parade. The plan was emailed to you all.**

- We will follow the same plan we ran in 2018.
- We have trains leaving Lindenwold, Woodcrest, Ferry Ave and City Hall going to 9/10<sup>th</sup> every 15 minutes in the AM. Trains will be arriving at 9/10<sup>th</sup> every 5 minutes.
- On the way back we don't have a schedule, we just bring a train in and every 6 minutes load them up and move them out.



- Any essential employees (hospitals, SEPTA, etc.) heading to work can bypass and go straight to the front of the line, we will work to get them first on the train. We have a special train at 6:32am and 7:45 that essential workers can get on to get home.

### **Questions from Social Media:**

#### **Old Business**

**Bob Melikian: Mike, we need help recruiting members from Pennsylvania, any thoughts?**

##### **CCM Williams**

- I think we should do a member spotlight on social media to help elevate the CAC and encourage membership.
- I think linkedIn will be a strong platform to advertise on.
- We have in the past advertised on the LCD slides in the train cars, with it being a new year we should circulate those again.

#### **New Business**

DRPA CAC Membership nominations for Chairman, Vice Chair and Secretary.

Six (6) individuals that are voting members and can run for open positions (Tyrone, Bob, Straso, Judy, Grace, and Steve). In lieu of the election process, we will hold a special election April/May and keep the board as it currently stands. We have a motion to suspend elections until May.

Email sent to Toni Brown to setup interviews for Thomas, William, & Scott.

Emeritus Status: Tyrone Wesley- March 2025

Bob Melikian- June 2025

**Next CAC Meeting:** March 12, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.

**Next DRPA Meeting:** DRPA Board Meeting on February 19, 2025 @ 9:00 a.m.