



Citizens Advisory Committee Minutes

April 9, 2025

Location: via TEAMS

Attendance:

New Jersey: Reggie Haynes, Judy Boldurian, Stephen Benigno, Straso Jovanovski, Robert Melikian

Pennsylvania: Tyrone Wesley, Robert Melikian, Scott Cohen

Emeritus Member(s): Jeffrey Kessler, Larry Davis, John Boyle, Tyrone Wesley

DRPA/PATCO: John Rink, GM; John Hanson, CEO; Jerry Sahi, CFO; Michael Rakowski, PDM; Robert Finnegan, CSSO; Cheryl Ansert, Administrative Coordinator

Potential Members: Scott Pileckas, Joseph Byham, Daniel Coyle

Call to Order

Approval of March 12, 2025 meeting minutes.

Finance

CFO Sahi

DRPA Preliminary Traffic

- March 2025 traffic was roughly around 3.9M. 28k better than last year.
- March YTD traffic is around 10.1M. 138k less than last year, primary reason for the decrease is the Leap year last year & February 29, 2024 accounted for 135k of traffic.

DRPA Final Revenue & Traffic

- Final January YTD revenue was \$29.6M , \$270k better than budget and \$5.7M higher than previous year.
- Final January YTD traffic was 3.8M. 10k better than budget and \$90k higher than previous year.

PATCO Ridership & Revenue

- Final January YTD ridership revenue was \$1.1M. \$30.k higher than previous year.
- Final January YTD ridership was 460, 10k higher than previous year.

Preliminary Operating Expense

- January YTD operating expense is \$15.2M, which is \$1.3M favorable to budget.

General DRPA

Steve Benigno: Is there a certain department or division that has a lot of vacancies?

CEO Hanson

- Yes, the Police department has about 33. We put a \$10K signing bonus out there for this hiring process in hopes of getting more applicants.

Update on power consumption savings from Solar Panels.

PDM Rakowski

- We are working on our annual report and will address that in the next meeting.



Status NJ case against DRPA regarding Holtec lease.

CEO Hanson

- There is no case against DRPA regarding Holt lease.

Status of DRPA Police recruitment efforts.

CEO Hanson

- We put a \$10K signing bonus on the police officer recruitment.

Bridge and Highway

Status on Bridge ridership, revenue, etc.

CEO Hanson

- Jerry gave the financial status.

Will there be more lane closures on all the bridges due to roadwork? If so, when?

PDM Rakowski

- As we approach the busy travel season we anticipate minimal disruptions on the Betsy Ross, Walt Whitman, and Ben Franklin bridges.
- We will be installing a new barrier machine down at the Commodore Barry Bridge in hopes that it will ease traffic impacts during the summer.

PATCO

Franklin Square Opening Celebration status. (ridership projections)

GM Rink

- The numbers from 1:35 on Thursday, April 3rd until midnight Tuesday, April 8th were 2,856 entries into Franklin Square.

Status on when the Owl service will be suspended

CEO Hanson

- Can't say right now. We have an agreement being prepared for the City of Philadelphia to agree with us to close off the concourses in order to remove every person and thoroughly clean.

Are there any future expansion plans for PATCO in Philadelphia?

CEO Hanson

- There are none right now.



What are the plans for continuous maintenance and cleaning for the SEPTA owned portions of PATCO in Philadelphia?

CEO Hanson

- SEPTA does not own any area of PATCO in Philadelphia.
- Our plan is to shut down the stations, prevent people who don't belong from entering, clean them out and thoroughly clean the area for 6 months and then re-evaluate.

What is the cleaning schedule for all PATCO station?

GM Rink

- Half of our cleaning force works 10PM to 6:30AM and we have a few custodians working during the day.
- Our day shift quickly responds to any reports we get and they clean each station. When they are free they may run the floor scrubbers in 2 or 3 stations per day.
- At night they do the heavy cleaning including pressure washing. So each night during the week they power wash at the Jersey stations, the Philadelphia stations are power washed during the weekends.

Daniel Coyle: With the new Commissioner of NJ Transit has there been any improvement in the relationship between PATCO and NJ Transit?

CEO Hanson

- There has been.

Questions from Social Media

Larry Davis: Has there been any more discussion with PennDOT regarding Walt Whitman ramps or 95 expansion?

CEO Hanson

- No, there has been None.

When do they expect the new overnight schedule to start?

CEO Hanson

- It's still being negotiated with the city.

There is no automatic door button on the doors at Franklin Square. Could you bring that up at your next meeting?

GM Rink

- There is no requirement to have the blue button as long as the doors meet the threshold requirements of the pull/push force and it meets ADA.

Old Business

New Business

Possible new member – Lupe Diaz

Withdrew Nomination – William Loughney



Next CAC Meeting: May 7, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.

Next DRPA Meeting: DRPA Board Meeting on April 16, 2025 @ 9:00 a.m.