



Citizens Advisory Committee Minutes

February 11, 2026

Location: Teams

Attendance:

New Jersey: Reggie Haynes, Stephen Benigno, Judy Boldurian, Dan Coyle, Scott Pileckas

Pennsylvania:

Emeritus Member(s): Alan Becker, Robert Melikian, John Boyle, Tyrone Wesley

DRPA/PATCO: John Rink, GM; Jerry Sahi, CFO; Cheryl Ansert, Administrative Coordinator; Nicole Ochroch, PM; Robert Finnegan, CSSO

Potential Members: Lupe Diaz, Joseph Byham, Matthew Schwarz

Call to Order: Approval of February 11, 2026 meeting minutes.

Finance

CFO Sahi

DRPA Preliminary Traffic

- January 2026 YTD traffic was 3.4M, 139 thousand lower than prior year.
- The decline was primarily due to a major snowstorm in late January that adversely impacted traffic, prior to the storm traffic was trending around 100 thousand better than prior year.

DRPA Final Revenue & Traffic

- Final November YTD revenue was \$362.4M.
- Around \$16.0M, or 4.6% favorable to budget, higher traffic volume is driving this favorability.
- Versus 2024, revenue was favorable by around \$47.6M, primarily driven by toll increase implemented as of September 1, 2024.
- November YTD traffic was 46.85M.
- Around 1.87M, or 4.2% higher than budget, commercial vehicles were 8.2% and passenger vehicles were 3.8% higher than budget.
- Versus prior year traffic was 420k, or .9% favorable.

PATCO Ridership & Revenue

- November YTD revenue was \$12.96M, \$36k or 0.3% higher than 2025 budget, versus 2024 revenue was favorable by \$720k or 5.9%.
- November YTD ridership was 5.39M. 58k, or -1.1% less than 2025 budget. 205k, or 3.9% higher than prior year.

Preliminary Operating Expense

- Preliminary November YTD Operating expenses were \$167.3M, which is around \$17.1M favorable to budget.
- This favorable variance is primarily driven by \$14.59M of savings from employee related costs, currently we have around 118 open positions out of 954 total budgeted positions. The majority of the \$2.5M savings in operating expenses is timing related.
- Total DRPA operating expenses are \$108.5M, 9.3% favorable to budget.
- Total PATCO operating expenses are \$58.7M, 9.3% favorable to budget.

General DRPA

Capital Projects/Construction Update: Progress report on active structural and roadway projects.

PM Ochroch

- CBB Paint – Kick off meeting was this week and they will be starting in early March. Completing the safe span bridge.
- BRB Paint – Coming out of winter shutdown and will be getting back to work at the end of the month.
- Interlocking Projects – Kick off meeting was two weeks ago and Notice to proceed last week.
- Woodcrest Platform – Moving over to Platform 2 and substantial completion of Collingswood Headhouse.
- Viaduct Project – Testing materials and then planning for this Spring construction schedule.
- WWB Tower Link – Delays due to ice in river and requirements for metal bottom safety boat. Warmer weather should help with their schedule.

Bridge and Highway

Bridge Celebration Planning: Finalize logistics and timeline for upcoming commemorative events.

PM Ochroch

- We have tentative plans and a timeline right now for July 11th. There is an ongoing task force going through the details and John Hanson should be able to share more information next month.

Winter Weather Impact Study: Analysis of how extreme cold, snow, and ice affect structural integrity and traffic flow. Correlation between recent weather patterns and fluctuations in toll counts.

PM Ochroch

- Interim Biennial inspections – we complete winter assessments and compare against our summer inspections. We started these interim inspections a few cycles ago and it allows us a better understanding of how our structures react to the extreme weather and gives us more data points.
- Bridge operations handles materials (salt) and labor for adverse weather conditions such that the bridges and approaches are continuously clearer, reducing the impact of heavy snow accumulation and icy conditions. This typically requires coordination with on-going contractor work and planned overtime for DRPA personnel to ensure that staff is onsite until the storm has ended, and all areas of the bridge are clear and safe. Bridge ops also conducts bridge wash downs each Spring to remove winter salt for the structures as to prevent potential corrosion.



Ben Franklin Bridge Lighting: Response to media reports regarding outages on the new lighting system. Technical update on repair status and warranty/maintenance interventions.

PM Ochroch

- We have extended warranties on the lighting and controls.
- With respect to media reports on lighting outages, we have not heard of any.
- There are 2 DOT lights out on the southside, which will be replaced once the weather warms up. Operations did an additional lighting inventory on 2/9-there are some suspender lights out from the PA tower to mid-span. Bridge Operations is fixing the issue. We believe that a breaker is out and should be resolved soon.
- Note that we haven't had many programmed colors in the last few months so the bridge has been set to white, which may appear as though we aren't displaying color.

PATCO

Ridership Analysis: Evaluation of ridership shifts during the recent snow event (transition from car to rail).

GM Rink

- Sunday was a record low in ridership, Monday was a little better and Tuesday went back up, but not what we normally see on Tuesdays.

Winter Storm Operational Report: Update on snow removal efforts, service delays, and associated emergency labor/equipment expenses.

GM Rink

- We budget and get support from an outside contractor to assist us with snow removal when it is a large amount of snow.
- We have heaters for the switches that we can turn on and it will melt the ice & snow buildup around the switches.

Strategic Project Updates: PATCO Fare Collection Enhancement: Progress report on hardware installation, software integration, and the transition timeline.

GM Rink

- We are testing live credit card transactions in our shop. We have Visa, Mastercard and the iPhone working, but still have software issues with Google Wallet, Discover, & AMEX.
- New Vending Machines should be installed in the summer.
- We would like to have all this in place and working before FIFA 250.

GTFS Data Integration

GM Rink

- Google Maps, Apple maps all the transit maps are functioning properly with our current schedule.
- We have been uploading and entering all of our different schedules.



Questions from Social Media

Old Business

New Business

Lupe & John had interviews on January 22nd.

Next CAC Meeting: Teams March 11, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.

Next DRPA Board Meeting: March 18, 2026 @ 9:00 a.m.