



Citizens Advisory Committee Minutes

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Location: via: Zoom

Attendance:

New Jersey: Reggie Haynes, Joe Russell, Marty King, Ben Saracco, Straso Jovanovki, Pamela Mack-Brooks, Bruce Schwartz

Pennsylvania: Larry Davis, Tyrone Wesley, Dan McArdle, Dan Norfleet

Emeritus Member(s): Jeff Kessler, John Boyle

Potential Member(s): Scott Cohen,

DRPA/PATCO: John Rink, GM; Jim White, CFO; Mike Venuto, Chief Engineer; Barbara Wagner, Executive Assistant

Public Member(s):

Call to Order

A motion was made to approve the April 13, 2022 minutes. The minutes were approved.

CFO Jim White

Financial and Revenue update as compared to pre-Covid:

CFO White reported that he just completed his CFO report to be included in the May 18, 2022 Board Packet. After reviewing two types of figures (tracking figures which are unaudited and figures then audited by a group that reports to him) traffic figures through April are up around 10.2 percent which is a positive development. Over the past 6-8 months, we have been hovering near 90 percent of pre-Covid numbers. In January, the numbers dropped down to about 81.5 percent, but we are back to 90 percent of pre-Covid and relatively stable.

CFO reported that PATCO's ridership has been between 43 and 45 percent over the last couple of weeks. Two weeks ago, PATCO saw ridership exceeding 45 percent, but the numbers

dropped to 43 percent the following week. We are seeing some growth in both traffic and ridership, but it's still slight and it's hard to discern at this point with all that's going on in the world - particularly inflation, gas prices and remote working.

Regarding our operating budget, we continue to maintain cost controls, so we are ahead of budget. What we have lost in revenue vs. budget, we have regained from being under budget expense wise. We will continue that path until the CEO is convinced it's time to loosen the purse strings, particularly, in hiring.

Our capital program continues to be less aggressive than in past years because we pushed through a lot of projects in 2020 and 2021 and approved less projects in the capital program for 2022 and 2023. Monthly capital expenditures are still somewhere in the \$10-14M area (or lower) as opposed to 2021 where the volume was close to \$16.5M. We are in good shape regarding our resources in funding the capital program and the PATCO subsidy.

CEO White further reported that he is pleased to inform the committee that we did complete a bond refunding through a bank private placement financing, which is very significant to the DRPA.

Bruce Schwartz asked if there was any risk that revenue is affecting the ability to keep up with planned maintenance?

CFO White reported that is more of an operational question, but we have the capacity to fund the operational needs of PATCO and the DRPA based on our 2022 operational budgets.

GM Rink reported that nothing has changed operationally. We continue to maintain our assets and we have not had to make any cuts to any planned maintenance or any of the capital projects, so there has been no impact to planned maintenance. GM Rink echoed CFO Whites comments stating that we have slowed down the capital program and focused on the priority projects which have to do with the safety, security, and serviceability of the facilities, bridges, and PATCO. For instance, we deferred the HVAC project in an administration building because it wasn't a high priority but will continue the maintenance as opposed to making that large capital investment.

CE Venuto added that we came off two record years where we spent \$200M in 2020 and \$185M in 2021. Even if we find something in the biennial inspections of the bridges, those issues will be addressed, and we do have the money to address that, as well.

CE, Mike Venuto

Update on the Commodore Barry Bridge structural work currently underway:

CE Venuto reported that we have two projects on the Commodore Barry Bridge. The structural rehabilitation of the piers underneath the bridge is on schedule and that work should be complete around October 2022. Driscoll Construction Company is doing the work, and construction management services are by Urban. The work includes concrete repairs, crack repairs, actual pier cap replacements, protective concrete coatings, and drainage pipes. The work should be completed the last quarter of this year.

The second project at the Commodore Barry Bridge includes concrete deck repairs on the top side. We had a contractor working on this years ago who was terminated and since then we have been working with our in-house maintenance staff to complete those concrete repairs. We are also working with Mount Construction who was out there pre-winter doing some of the work and they're starting next week to work alongside our maintenance crews to repair and continue the concrete deck repairs.

Larry Davis asked if there were any community groups that the DRPA has been in touch with about the work at the Commodore Barry Bridge and how it affects any of the local communities?

CE Venuto reported that the concrete and pier work that we are presently doing is on the New Jersey side, so we really aren't around community groups on the New Jersey side and don't have that concern. However, on the Chester, PA side, is when we need to engage the community when the painting projects and the concrete deck repairs may affect the community.

Ben Franklin Bridge South walkway. Will the metal connector plates be replaced throughout the bridge walkways replacing older ones?

CE Venuto reported that in-house bridge operations replaced a metal connector plate on the southside of the tower and are anticipating doing the remaining plates.

Update on the fencing around the base of the Ben Franklin Bridge base on the Philadelphia side:

CE Venuto reported that there is fencing along Race Street with nothing behind it presently. During the painting phase of the rehab project, the painting contractor used that area to store equipment. They haven't started painting yet but will be painting the southside of the bridge, so that fencing will stay up as a storage area until the end of the project.

Bruce Schwartz asked if the timing of the projects scheduled at the Ben Franklin Bridge will be ahead of the centennial year and will everything be done or at least no construction going on.

CE Venuto reported that the intent would be to have the rehabilitation project done prior to the centennial. We are going to rehab the deck itself and the joints, but nothing will be planned to impede any event involving the centennial.

CE Venuto also reported that another project in the budget for the Ben Franklin Bridge is the masonry rehab that includes a pre-2026 clean-up outside the anchorages and repointing of all the masonry. We will see what time frame that falls within.

Update on the Franklin Square Project:

CE Venuto reported that we are mobilized and presently working out there. We blocked off a lane on 7th Street and started to install a new 36-inch diameter water line and we're about 25 percent complete with that installation. We also put up a construction fence around the headhouse construction area. There are some trees that are going to come down within that

fenced area. The contractor has started to do some work in the concourse and on the platforms. They are building some partitions and setting up their work area. The project is off to a good start.

Dan McArdle asked for an update on the Betsy Ross Bridge.

CE Venuto reported that the I-95 Interchange is a PennDOT project and we have construction monitoring firm out there for our own interest that is being reimbursed by PennDOT. They just reconfigured their detours and traffic patterns to expedite some of the ramp work, so their detour is a little different. They tested it a few weeks ago with no significant impact, so they went ahead and made that a permanent detour. CE Venuto reported that they are a little behind, but not sure where they are on their schedule overall.

Ben Sarraco stated that he noticed the sod has gone down at the City Hall elevator project site and a couple of trees have been removed. Are you going to replant the trees that were in that footprint?

Mike Venuto reported that he will look at the project to see where we are with those trees and if they plan to replant them.

*Update: On May 13, 2022, CE Venuto confirmed that the trees at the City Hall elevator project will be replanted prior to the project completion.

GM Rink reported that City Hall is still on target for September 12 and 13, 2022. 12th and 13th is still on target for June.

CE Venuto reported that Mike Williams put out advertisement/pictures on social media of the City Hall elevators and some of the work that is being done there.

PATCO General Manager, John Rink

Update on PATCO ridership:

GM Rink reported that PATCO has been at 43-45 percent of ridership for the last month. On weekends, we're getting up to 62 percent, especially on Saturdays.

Will PATCO consider allowing kids under 12 and Senior Citizens ride free like SEPTA offers?

GM Rink reported that he spoke to CEO Hanson, and we have not committed at this time; however, we are exploring the idea and other options relative to trying to attract new ridership to PATCO.

Status of updating GFTS for planned track work changes:

GM Rink reported that he wished he had better news from Mike Williams but read an e-mail from him stating the following: "We are making progress. The vendor discovered several bugs during testing and is working with Google to resolve the problem. As of Monday, the vendor was still waiting on an update from Google regarding their support ticket but hasn't heard back.

It's been a tedious process of trials and errors and hopefully we will have better news but right now the issue resides with Google.”

Opportunity to further refine countdown clock signage to enhance visibility at underground stations:

GM Rink reported that we were able to refine it and double the size of the text on the side. It went from four lines of text to two lines and is very visible now.

Jeff Kessler shared an image of 8th and Market showing structural poles blocking the signage and asked if there is anything that could be done. GM Rink reported that our staff goes out as part of our manager observation program and transit services to monitor and verify that everything is being displayed correctly but will look into it. On occasion, we'll find a particular instance where we have to work with the vendor, but we always make sure that the signs are working properly and displaying the proper information.

GM Rink further reported that once we finish with Google, we will use that information to run a ticker on the LCD at the bottom of the screen that will be able to display the next train information if you're waiting inside the head house or near the screens.

Jeff Kessler asked if that is real-time or just scheduled time?

GM Rink reported that it is scheduled time and based off the printed schedule.

Bruce Schwartz asked if there was any standard for wearing masks on PATCO?

GM Rink reported that mask wearing for passengers is optional. We continue to have our employees in the NJ stations bring out the free mask stands for those who may want a mask, but again its optional.

Bruce Schwartz asked if PATCO can put signage on the trains encouraging people to continue to wear masks for their own protection.

GM Rink reported that we have that information on our website encouraging customers to make a decision that would be in their own best interest.

Social Media, Larry Davis

Larry Davis reported that there were no comments or questions from social media.

Old Business:

Upcoming Advanced Notice on Public Events (mid-May to mid-June)

GM Rink reported there are no upcoming public events.

New Business:

Members transitioning to Emeritus Status:

Reggie Haynes reported that Mike Devlin will be going to Emeritus status the end of May 2022. He also added that Mr. Devlin hasn't been present for the past four/five meetings.

Reggie Haynes further added that Larry Davis is going Emeritus in September, Dan McArdle in October, and Martin Otremsky in December 2022.

Scott Cohen's interview for CAC Membership will move forward to the Audit Committee on June 1, 2022, and on June 15, 2022 to the Board for Resolution.

CAC Members agreed to have hybrid meetings going forward for members who are uncomfortable meeting in-person and for those who live at a distance.

Next CAC Meeting: Will be held via Hybrid on June 8, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

Next DRPA Board Meeting: Will be held via Hybrid on May 18, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.