



Deposition of:
**SEPTA'S Regular Monthly Board
Meeting**

June 25, 2020

In the Matter of:
SEPTA- Board Meeting

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1 SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA TRANSPORTATION
2 AUTHORITY
3 REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
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9 June 25, 2020
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1 ATTENDANCE OF BOARD MEMBERS IN THE BOARD ROOM:
2 Pasquale T. Deon, Sr. Chairman
Deborah Mahler

3
4 ATTENDANCE OF BOARD MEMBERS ON WEBEX:
5 Honorable Kenneth Lawrence, Vice Chairman
Thomas E. Babcock
6 Joseph E. Brion, Esquire
Michael A. Carroll, P.E.
7 Robert D. Fox, Esquire
Honorable Stewart J. Greenleaf
8 Kevin L. Johnson, P.E.
John I Kane
9 Obra S. Kernodle, IV
William J. Leonard, Esquire
10 Honorable Charles H. Martin
Honorable Marcy Toepel

11 ATTENDANCE OF STAFF MEMBERS IN BOARD ROOM:
12
13 Leslie S. Richards, General Manager
Richard G. Burnfield, Deputy General
Manager/Treasurer
14 Robert L. Lund, Deputy General Manager
Gino Benedetti, Esquire, General Counsel
15 Carol R. Looby, Board Secretary
Stephanie Deiger, AGM, Employee
16 Development/Relations
Scott A. Sauer, AGM, Operations
17 James Fox, AGM, Safety
Thomas McFadden, Chief Financial Officer

18 ATTENDANCE OF STAFF MEMBERS ON WEBEX:
19
20 Stephen A. Jobs, Controller
Andy Abdallah, AGM, Procurement
Jacob Aufschauer, AGM, Human Resources
21 Kim Scott Heinle, AGM, Customer Experience &
Advocacy
22 Jody Holton, AGM, Planning
Francis E. Kelly, AGM, Government & Public
23 Affairs
Robert Marron, AGM, Internal Audit & Investment
24 Services

1 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Good

2 afternoon everybody.

3 (GAVEL)

4 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: The Regular

5 Board Meeting will now come to order.

6 The Special Meeting which was noticed has

7 been canceled.

8 I'm going to do the roll call

9 for those on the Board.

10 Vice Chairman, Lawrence.

11 NO RESPONSE

12 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Ken?

13 NO RESPONSE

14 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Ken?

15 NO RESPONSE

16 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: All right.

17 Skip Brion?

18 NO RESPONSE

19 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Skip?

20 NO RESPONSE

21 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: I can't get

22 any response from him.

23 Mike Carroll?

24 NO RESPONSE

1 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Robb Fox?
2 MR. FOX: I'm here.
3 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: There we
4 go.
5 Senator Greenleaf?
6 NO RESPONSE
7 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Kevin
8 Johnson?
9 NO RESPONSE
10 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Kevin?
11 MR. JOHNSON, P.E.: Here.
12 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: John Kane?
13 NO RESPONSE
14 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: John?
15 NO RESPONSE.
16 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Obra
17 Kernodle?
18 NO RESPONSE
19 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Obra?
20 NO RESPONSE
21 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Bill
22 Leonard?
23 NO RESPONSE
24 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Bill?

1 NO RESPONSE

2 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Charlie

3 Martin?

4 NO RESPONSE

5 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Debbie

6 Mahler is in the audience with us here.

7 Representative Toepel?

8 NO RESPONSE

9 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Why don't
10 we confirm if they are on or not?

11 GENERAL MANAGER RICHARDS: Why
12 don't we wait a second?

13 MR. CARROLL, P.E.: We take roll
14 yet?

15 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: We did, but
16 we will try it again because we missed a
17 few, Michael.

18 MR. CARROLL, P.E.: Okay. Well,
19 I'm here.

20 REPRESENTATIVE TOEPEL: Marcy
21 Toepel here. Sorry.

22 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: I have
23 Carroll, we have Robb Fox -- Stewart,
24 Senator Greenleaf?

1 NO RESPONSE

2 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Skip Brion?

3 NO RESPONSE

4 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Ken

5 Lawrence?

6 NO RESPONSE

7 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Vice

8 Chairman, Lawrence?

9 NO RESPONSE

10 GENERAL MANAGER RICHARDS: We're
11 missing a few.

12 Is Kevin on?

13 NO RESPONSE

14 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: John Kane?

15 GENERAL MANAGER RICHARDS: He's
16 on.

17 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Bill

18 Leonard?

19 NO RESPONSE

20 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Bill,
21 you're back?

22 NO RESPONSE

23 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: I don't

24 want to start until we confirm these guys

1 are on here.

2 GENERAL MANAGER RICHARDS: Why
3 don't we give them a few minutes?

4 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Let's give
5 them a minute then, yes.

6 MS. BOMBECK: I have the Senator
7 on the line.

8 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Welcome,
9 Stewart. Thank you.

10 SENATOR GREENLEAF: Who is this?

11 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Pat Deon.
12 We're in the meeting now, Stewart. Just
13 put yourself on mute. We'll call on you
14 when we're ready.

15 SENATOR GREENLEAF: I'm sorry?

16 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: You're in
17 the Board, Senator. I don't know if you
18 can hear me or not because I see a red
19 dot up on the screen, but you're in the
20 Board meeting. Put yourself on mute.
21 When we get ready to start we'll call on
22 you. Put yourself on mute until we're
23 ready.

24 MR. MARTIN: Zoom works much

1 better.

2 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Charlie,
3 I'm more impressed that you got on.

4 MR. MARTIN: I can dial a phone.
5 That works easy.

6 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: I have
7 Stewart on there. Any luck with Ken yet?
8 We have Charlie. I think we're missing
9 Obra.

10 MR. KERNODLE, IV: I'm here.

11 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: All right.
12 Thanks, bud.

13 Bill Leonard?

14 NO RESPONSE

15 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Bill,
16 you're back?

17 NO RESPONSE

18 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Charlie,
19 put yourself on mute.

20 John Kane?

21 NO RESPONSE

22 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: John?

23 NO RESPONSE

24 GENERAL MANAGER RICHARDS: Did

1 you send him the link? Skip's having
2 trouble connecting.

3 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: I'm just
4 impressed that Charlie Martin is the more
5 technically advanced in our crew here.

6 Is there a different link?

7 GENERAL MANAGER RICHARDS: It's
8 a separate link.

9 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Okay. We
10 don't have Ken.

11 GENERAL MANAGER RICHARDS: We
12 don't have Ken, Skip or Bill.

13 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Robb Fox,
14 there's Stewart, Kevin Johnson keeps
15 laughing. I know he is on there.
16 Charlie is on. And Marcy, is Marcy on?

17 MS. LOOBY: Yes.

18 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: We have a
19 quorum on there?

20 Let's start off with the Pledge
21 of Allegiance while we have the last
22 couple Board Members come on.

23 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

24 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: All right.

1 Thank you, guys.

2 The Board met in executive
3 session just prior to this meeting to
4 discuss legal matters.

5 SEPTA continues -- anybody else
6 come on?

7 NO RESPONSE

8 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: As you
9 know, SEPTA continues to work through the
10 unprecedented challenges from the
11 COVID-19 pandemic, and we are very
12 pleased to see a number of positive signs
13 pointing to recovery.

14 As we move through the reopening
15 phases, service levels are increasing,
16 and we are welcoming more customers back
17 to the system.

18 On behalf of the Board, I'd like
19 to thank SEPTA's workforce for their
20 tireless efforts. During the worst of
21 the crisis, SEPTA employees made sure the
22 residents could get to essential jobs and
23 services. And, thanks to the hard work
24 and dedication, we are ready with safe

1 and clean service for returning
2 customers.

3 I'd also like to thank their
4 families for putting up with us during
5 that process 'cause we're all family, we
6 suffered with all the employees that were
7 working so hard for us, and so thank you
8 all.

9 As many of you know, the Board
10 was able to consider a Fare Restructuring
11 Plan, that includes a free transfer
12 policy, free rides for children under 12,
13 and a number of other proposals designed
14 to help riders as we work through this
15 recovery.

16 We appreciate all the feedback
17 that has been received on the fare
18 proposal. The staff here deserves a lot
19 of credit for the response throughout the
20 process. I would also like to thank the
21 Board Members for the hard work on the
22 fare process, and their pushing to make
23 some of these needed changes in the fare
24 process, so thank you all.

1 First on the Agenda is the
2 approval of the minutes of the 28th (sic)
3 Regular Board Meeting that has been
4 circulated.

5 MR. FOX: Robb Fox, so moved.

6 MR. BRION: Second.

7 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Moved and
8 seconded. Any questions or comments?

9 NO RESPONSE

10 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Hearing
11 none, I'll call the question. All in
12 favor say, "aye."

13 ALL: Aye.

14 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: The minutes
15 are approved.

16 We move on to the Financial
17 Report. Mr. Burnfield.

18 MR. BURNFIELD: Thank you, Mr.
19 Chairman.

20 The May Financial Results
21 reflect the continued impact of the
22 COVID-19 pandemic. For the month,
23 farebox and other revenue was \$44 million
24 below budget, with ridership falling 92

1 percent on transit and 98 percent on the
2 railroad for the majority of the month.

3 Expenses were \$10.3 million
4 under budget as both Transit and Regional
5 Rail service levels were reduced to serve
6 essential trips only.

7 Subsidies were also below budget
8 by \$11.8 million.

9 For the month there was a
10 deficit of \$21.9 million. Year-to-date
11 the financial results record a deficit of
12 \$55 million. Federal CARES funding will
13 be allocated to offset the deficit.

14 This concludes my report.

15 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Thank you,
16 Rich.

17 Okay. These are horrible
18 numbers. I'll entertain a motion that
19 the Financial Report be received and
20 filed.

21 MR. CARROLL, P.E.: So moved.

22 REPRESENTATIVE TOEPEL: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Any
24 questions or comments?

1 NO RESPONSE

2 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Hearing
3 none, I'll call the question. All in
4 favor say, "aye."

5 ALL: Aye.

6 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: The
7 Financial Report is received and filed.

8 Please note that all written
9 comments and voicemail messages have been
10 received, have been shared with the Board
11 and the staff, which will be included in
12 the official Board Meeting transcript,
13 which will be posted to the SEPTA
14 website.

15 (Whereupon, the following
16 comment was received prior to the start
17 of the meeting.)

18 (Message received from
19 215-444-7508. Message is one second.)

20 (Whereupon, the caller did not
21 leave a message.)

22 - - -

23 "Concerns About Proposed
24 Child-free Amendment to the Fare

1 Restructuring Plan."

2 "As reported in the June 19,
3 2020 edition of the Philadelphia
4 Inquirer, SEPTA plans to introduce
5 amendments to the current Fare
6 Restructuring Plan for adoption in the
7 June 25, 2020 Board Meeting. These
8 amendments would extend the transfer time
9 window for key card holders from one to
10 two hours and allow children under 12 to
11 ride free, provided that they are
12 accompanied with a fare-paying adult.
13 These changes would take effect July 1,
14 2020."

15 "DVARP supports the two-hour
16 transfer time window, but has concerns
17 about how the children-ride-free program
18 will be implemented."

19 "Specifically, the under-12
20 criterion may cause altercations during
21 fare collection because most children do
22 not carry documentation of their age.
23 These altercations may result in assaults
24 on drivers and other SEPTA employees. In

1 past, children-ride-free tariffs, height
2 was used as the criterion. This may not
3 work as well now because the proposed
4 upper limit on age results in larger
5 variations in eligible children's
6 heights."

7 "Also, the 12-year-old upper age
8 limit may potentially overlap with the
9 Philadelphia School District's SEPTA pass
10 program. These two programs should be
11 coordinated by SEPTA during program
12 implementation."

13 (End of written message)

14 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: We have a
15 couple speakers we would like to call on
16 now.

17 Councilwoman Helen Gym.
18 Councilwoman?

19 NO RESPONSE

20 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: All right.
21 We'll come back to that one.

22 Benjamin She, S-H-E.

23 NO RESPONSE

24 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Let's hold

1 on for a second until we check our
2 technical difficulties here.

3 MR. SHE: Hello, can you hear
4 me?

5 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Yes. Who
6 is it?

7 MR. SHE: My name is Benjamin
8 She.

9 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: All right.
10 Go ahead, Ben. You're on.

11 MR. SHE: All right. I'm
12 speaking today on behalf of 5th Square.

13 We are absolutely thrilled to
14 see SEPTA's Board make changes to the
15 Fare Restructuring Plan that moves
16 substantially in the direction of our
17 Fair Fares advocacy platform.

18 The elimination of fares for
19 children under 12, and expanding the free
20 transfers for two hours are major
21 advancement that shows SEPTA is listening
22 and taking seriously the need to win back
23 transit riders after the pandemic.

24 This will ease the burden for

1 families in our region and for riders who
2 rely on transfers. Many of whom are
3 shown to come from areas of deep poverty.

4 As an example, a single mother
5 with two children making a trip with a
6 transfer costs \$9 before the fare
7 restructuring. Once the new fares take
8 effect, this trip is only two-fifty,
9 nearly a quarter of the original cost.

10 This is a very tangible benefit
11 for so many riders struggling with
12 financial difficulties during the
13 pandemic.

14 Secondly, I applaud SEPTA's
15 efforts to keep people safe in this
16 pandemic, including their deep cleaning
17 of stations while also increasing service
18 for riders as we emerge from lockdown.

19 We also encourage SEPTA as part
20 of its municipalities, especially
21 Philadelphia, to advance dedicate bus
22 lanes on arterial streets, before SEPTA
23 comes back in full force. Dedicated bus
24 lanes in places like Market and JFK

1 Boulevard, Chestnut, Walnut, Roosevelt
2 Boulevard, West Chester Pike and Old York
3 Road, would require minimal capital from
4 PennDOT, and streets departments. It
5 would speed the bus rides and will help
6 boost ridership post-lockdown.

7 Cities like L.A., Vancouver,
8 Oakland, Boston, and recently New York
9 have all rolled out dedicated bus lanes.

10 (Whereupon, there was a brief
11 interruption.)

12 MR. SHE: It's frankly so
13 embarrassing that our region lags so far
14 behind.

15 5th Square will work tirelessly
16 with local legislators and their
17 constituents to help make this possible,
18 if SEPTA and its partners commit to
19 making it a reality.

20 Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Thank you,
22 Mr. She.

23 Let's move on to Monica
24 Robinson. Ms. Robinson?

1 MS. BOMBECK: It looks like
2 Helen Gym has connected.

3 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Okay.
4 Councilwoman, you're on. Thank you.

5 MS. GYM: Thank you. Can
6 everybody hear me okay?

7 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Yes.

8 MS. GYM: Okay. Great. First
9 of all, it's a pleasure to be here and to
10 be before the Board and as the Chair of
11 Philadelphia City Committee on Children
12 and Youth. I come before you to
13 celebrate SEPTA's bold new leadership
14 under Chairperson (sic), Leslie Richards,
15 and to support the proposal from the
16 Budget Planning and Information
17 Technology Committee to allow young
18 people under 12 to ride for free on all
19 modes of transit.

20 For transit to work for all of
21 us, it has to work for the riders who
22 rely on it the most. This is not a
23 matter of charity; it is the lifeblood
24 and the future of public transit. Young

1 people who use transit blossom into
2 adults who use and pay for transit.
3 Making transit accessible and therefore
4 habitual, for youth, encourages future
5 investment. I can say that as a mom of a
6 20-year-old son who has yet to get his
7 driver's license, parents who know that
8 taking their young children to school or
9 work or activities is no longer a burden
10 of cost, but can actually be a point of
11 joy and family time, drives home the fact
12 that public transit can be so much more
13 than a matter of fares and schedules.

14 So I want to thank the Board
15 because the passage of this proposal
16 finally addresses a longstanding
17 discrepancy between fare reductions
18 offered to families with young children
19 traveling on Regional Rail and lack
20 thereof for families traveling on City
21 Transit. The presence of a discount for
22 Regional Rail youth riders, but not city
23 transit youth riders, represented a fare
24 policy that not only compromised

1 affordability; it was fundamentally
2 inequitable. Last year, I and a majority
3 of our Council wrote to this Board asking
4 for the change in those child fares, and
5 I'm glad that this Board will finally
6 take action.

7 This proposal to permit young
8 people to ride for free on all modes of
9 transit is an important step for equity
10 and for access in the City of
11 Philadelphia, the nation's poorest large
12 city. This approval will cement SEPTA as
13 a key partner in the citywide effort to
14 end structural poverty. Your action
15 today will bring affordability and
16 comfort to so many families across the
17 city, and I believe will ultimately serve
18 as a long-term financial investment in
19 SEPTA's future and the future of public
20 transit.

21 Finally, I want to acknowledge
22 the bold and courageous leadership of
23 your new chair (sic), Leslie Richards. I
24 have long admired your work, and when we

1 sat down together in January, we spoke
2 about bold plans and what leadership can
3 do to transform institutions facing
4 enormous challenges. And at this moment
5 in time, I could not be more grateful for
6 the integrity, the compassion, the
7 morality and vision that you and your
8 team are bringing to SEPTA right now.
9 You are bringing it to SEPTA, to our city
10 and to the people that we serve.
11 Leadership is forged in times like this,
12 though none of us wishes to be making the
13 decisions that some of us have to make.
14 This is a time when so many people feel
15 desperate and they feel beaten down by
16 laws and policies that seem to reinforce
17 injustice and perpetuate inequality.
18 This changes today. And more will come
19 tomorrow, and I know more will come
20 thereafter, and we will all have been a
21 part of that change that has been a long
22 time coming. I look forward to building
23 hope out of moments like today.

24 I thank the Board for your time

1 and your commitment to justice, and
2 especially to the youth in the City of
3 Philadelphia.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Thank you,
6 Councilwoman.

7 We go to Monica Robinson. Ms.
8 Robinson?

9 NO RESPONSE.

10 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Not on?

11 NO RESPONSE.

12 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Daniel
13 Trubman?

14 NO RESPONSE.

15 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Mr.
16 Trubman?

17 MR. TRUBMAN: Hi, can you hear
18 me?

19 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: We can hear
20 you now.

21 MR. TRUBMAN: Great. Hello, my
22 name is Daniel Trubman, T-R-U-B-M-A-N,
23 and I'm speaking today on behalf of 5th
24 Square.

1 We applaud the SEPTA Board for
2 the progress made on the fare revision.
3 I reiterate our thanks to the entire
4 SEPTA team for implementing a plan that
5 will support the transit users and
6 families of our region.

7 We at 5th Square look forward to
8 working with SEPTA and continuing our
9 advocacy for more equitable fare system
10 that supports the growing ridership. We
11 want SEPTA, as it moves on its path of
12 recovery from this pandemic, to consider
13 future changes to make it easier and more
14 affordable for low-income riders to take
15 the system.

16 We want to see the Agency
17 provide more free transfers within the
18 two-hour window for those riders who need
19 to switch two or even three times to get
20 to their destination, and we are hopeful
21 that the one-transfer cap will be
22 revisited during the Comprehensive Bus
23 Network Redesign process.

24 We also want to see SEPTA

1 consider Fare Capping as a way to ensure
2 riders don't get penalized when they
3 cannot afford upfront cost of the monthly
4 or weekly pass. Fare Capping allow
5 riders to pay for the pass over time.
6 When riders have paid enough in single
7 fares equal to a pass, the rest of the
8 rides for that period are free.

9 I don't want these requests to
10 muddle the overall message of gratitude
11 we have for the fare plan revision.

12 This is a paradigm shift for
13 SEPTA, and a huge win for our entire
14 region as we move forward to a more
15 equitable and sustainable future.

16 We thank SEPTA's Board and its
17 management team, and GM, Leslie Richards,
18 for listening to us and adopting the fare
19 restructuring to suit the needs of
20 working families in these trying times.

21 Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Okay.

23 Thank you.

24 Susannah Burger. Ms. Burger?

1 MS. BURGER: Hello, can you hear
2 me?

3 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Yes, we
4 can.

5 MS. BURGER: Okay. Hello, my
6 name is Susannah Burger, B-U-R-G-E-R, and
7 I'm speaking today on behalf of 5th
8 Square.

9 I would also like to say thank
10 you to the Board for the fare plan
11 changes. Your actions demonstrate that
12 you listen to your riders, and show your
13 commitment to equity for this service.

14 5th Square plans on continuing
15 this fight for equity by advocating for
16 economically-disadvantaged riders in our
17 region. We will be asking state and city
18 elected officials to fund a reduced fare
19 program for low-income riders. We
20 believe SEPTA is not able to afford nor
21 should shoulder the cost of this program
22 alone.

23 Transit agencies across the
24 country already offer discount programs

1 for low-income riders, funded with the
2 financial support from their local
3 government.

4 A program to provide reduced
5 fares for low-income riders would
6 eliminate a barrier blocking mobility for
7 many in the region. At the same time, we
8 also don't want to stress SEPTA's
9 finances to the point that affects
10 service.

11 We believe that the City needs
12 to contribute more towards transit for
13 our region, given the large economic
14 benefits our city sees from investing in
15 transit. We also very strongly believe
16 the State needs to take immediate steps
17 to secure its funding for SEPTA and
18 explore alternative means of raising
19 revenue.

20 Congestion pricing, with revenue
21 earmarked for transit, would be a game
22 changer. Not only will this decrease
23 road congestion by discouraging driving,
24 but it would be an excellent opportunity

1 to fund a low-income fares program for
2 SEPTA. As advocates, we look forward to
3 working with you to advocate PennDOT and
4 our state and local governments to make
5 this happen.

6 We want SEPTA to show support
7 for the reduced-fare program for
8 low-income riders and agency commitment
9 to implement it given the adequate
10 funding.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Okay.

13 Thank you.

14 Will Tung. Mr. Tung.

15 MR. TUNG: Hi, my name is Will
16 Tung, and I'm an organizer with 5th
17 Square. I'm speaking on the fare tariff
18 agenda item today.

19 I thank SEPTA and the Board for
20 its very positive revisions to the Fare
21 Plan. These fare adjustments are needed
22 now more than ever, and the agency has
23 made the right decision by enabling the
24 public to choose how to comment, by

1 holding virtual public hearings, and by
2 getting these important fare changes
3 passed.

4 Part of 5th Square's Fare
5 Advocate platform asked SEPTA to accept
6 TransPass for use on Zone 1 Regional
7 Rail, with the intention of eventually
8 matching the cost for single rides.

9 SEPTA can make better use of its
10 Regional Rail network, to expand its
11 intra-city transit service. Looking
12 long-term, we want high-frequency rapid
13 rail service, similar to the Berlin
14 S-Bahn, which complements our bus, subway
15 and trolley network.

16 The easiest part of making this
17 a reality is for SEPTA to simply adjust
18 its fares.

19 I live in Southwest Philly, and
20 I commute to Chinatown for work. I think
21 about this whenever I'm waiting for the
22 trolley at 49th and Chester and see the
23 Media-Elwyn train roll by the 49th Street
24 Station.

1 The train will be quicker, and
2 also Jefferson Station is closer to my
3 destination with a one-seat ride, but
4 it's honestly not worth the price at
5 nearly triples the fare. Seeing the
6 station is always empty, even before the
7 pandemic, my neighbors find this out of
8 their reach also.

9 We at 5th Square realize
10 converting Regional Rail to run like
11 transit is not an easy lift, requiring
12 the raising of platforms, redeploying
13 equipment, and breaking down long-held
14 silos within SEPTA. These efforts would
15 be well worth it though, to quickly
16 increase system capacity and improve
17 service.

18 We call on SEPTA to prioritize
19 this end goal, and start taking steps now
20 to integrate these two desperate systems
21 and making the Operating and Capital
22 Budget decisions to enable this.

23 Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Thank you.

1 Move on to our last speaker,
2 Will Herzog. Mr. Herzog?

3 MR. HERZOG: Thanks, Mr.
4 Chairman. My name is Will Herzog and I
5 am the Chair of the SEPTA Youth Advisory
6 Council, a partnership between SEPTA and
7 young people in Greater Philadelphia.

8 I'd just like to express my
9 gratitude to the Board and our General
10 Manager, Leslie Richards, for their
11 leadership in forming and modifying the
12 Fare Restructuring Proposal. The Fare
13 Restructuring Proposal is a significant
14 step forward for the Authority. It
15 encourages the use of SEPTA as an
16 integrated network and makes critical
17 revisions to advance equity. During the
18 COVID-19 event, SEPTA has courageously
19 upheld our region, delivering our most
20 critical workers to their places of
21 employment.

22 Despite a future with little
23 revenue stability, SEPTA demonstrated
24 moral leadership in suspending fare

1 increases associated with the proposal
2 until January at the earliest.

3 Then, you went even further in
4 making two smart, low-cost revisions to
5 increase equity. Put simply, SEPTA
6 recognized that children do not make
7 income and eliminated charging for this
8 small portion of our ridership. The
9 transfer window is also broadened by two
10 hours. For our suburban bus and rail
11 passengers, sometimes a trip may exceed
12 90 minutes, and the percentage of
13 passengers making less than 35,000 per
14 year is the highest of all at 67 percent.
15 Now, this is no longer an issue. We
16 thank all of you for a job well done, and
17 we are appreciative of your leadership
18 and partnership.

19 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Great.
20 Thank you, Mr. Herzog.

21 Before I move on to the Consent
22 Calendar, I just want to review the Board
23 Members that weren't on and now join us.
24 I'm just going to read off the list, if,

1 to make sure any -- we have Vice Chairman
2 Lawrence on.

3 VICE CHAIRMAN LAWRENCE: I'm
4 here.

5 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Skip Brion.

6 MR. BRION: I'm here.

7 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Mike
8 Carroll --

9 MR. BRION: Brion's on.

10 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Senator
11 Greenleaf, Kevin Johnson, John Kane, Obra
12 Kernodle --

13 MR. KANE: John Kane is here.

14 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Perfect.
15 Charlie Martin, Representative Toepel,
16 and our newest board member is in the
17 audience with us today. Thank you,
18 Debbie.

19 SENATOR GREENLEAF: Stewart
20 Greenleaf.

21 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: I got you,
22 Stewart. Thank you. I'm sorry.

23 GENERAL MANAGER RICHARDS: He
24 didn't hear you.

1 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Yeah, we
2 recognize you're on the phone, Stewart.
3 Thank you.

4 SENATOR GREENLEAF: Yes.

5 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: We're going
6 to move on to the Consent Calendar, which
7 consists of:

8 "The Capital Budget for Fiscal
9 Year 2021; the 12-year Capital Program
10 Comprehensive Plan and the Commitment of
11 Local Funds for the Fiscal Year 2021;"
12 consolidated Capital Assistance Grant
13 Application;"

14 "Adoption of Operating Budget
15 for Fiscal Year 2021 and Fiscal Years
16 2022-26 Financial Projection;"

17 "Tariff Changes For Fare
18 Restructuring Associated with the
19 Adoption of Proposed Fiscal Year 2021
20 Operating Budget;"

21 "Termination of J. P. Morgan
22 Real Estate Fund and Gresham Commodities
23 Fund as Investment Managers for the SEPTA
24 Pension Plan;"

1 "Authorization for Entering into
2 Contracts for Purchase of Life Insurance
3 with MetLife and Long Term Disability
4 Insurance With Mutual of Omaha;"

5 "Authorization for the Purchase
6 of Dental Insurance from United
7 Concordia;"

8 "Renewal of Blanket Railroad
9 Protective Liability Insurance with Aspen
10 Insurance Company;"

11 "Reimbursement Agreement Between
12 SEPTA and the Pennsylvania Department of
13 Transportation Relating to the
14 Reconstruction of the Girard Avenue
15 Bridge in Philadelphia County;"

16 "Authorization to Award Contract
17 of a Procurement;"

18 "Award of Contracts for Sole
19 Source Procurements;" and

20 "Authorization to Execute Change
21 Order."

22 Please note that Item I.C.,
23 "Tariff Changes for Fare Restructuring
24 Associated with the Adoption of the

1 Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Operating
2 Budget" has been revised. Copies of the
3 Revised Resolution has been provided to
4 the Board.

5 The remaining items on the
6 Consent Calendar have been reviewed by
7 the appropriate Board Committees in
8 public session.

9 I'll entertain a motion to adopt
10 these Resolutions.

11 MR. BABCOCK: So moved.

12 VICE CHAIRMAN LAWRENCE: Ken
13 Lawrence, I'll move it.

14 MR. FOX: Robb Fox, second.

15 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: All right.
16 Let's see, any comments or questions on
17 those?

18 NO RESPONSE

19 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Any
20 discussion?

21 NO RESPONSE.

22 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Any
23 abstentions?

24 NO RESPONSE

1 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Hearing
2 none, I'll call the question. All in
3 favor say, "aye."

4 ALL: Aye.

5 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Any
6 opposed?

7 NO RESPONSE

8 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Hearing
9 none, the Resolutions are adopted.

10 Thank you, guys.

11 We're going to move on.

12 We have a couple more speakers
13 here. Miriam Seidel?

14 MS. SEIDEL: Yes, I'm here. Can
15 you hear me?

16 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: I can.

17 MS. SEIDEL: Okay. I'm Miriam
18 Seidel, that's S-E-I-D-E-L, speaking for
19 350 Philadelphia. Thanks for the
20 opportunity to comment. I'm here today
21 to talk about conditions facing workers
22 at New Flyer, the company that builds
23 most of SEPTA's buses.

24 As an organization dedicated to

1 climate justice, 350 Philly believes
2 affordable, accessible, public
3 transportation, powered by renewable
4 energy, is crucial for a just and healthy
5 region. We also believe that workers'
6 rights are critically important.

7 SEPTA's riders and workers are
8 facing a massive crisis as a result of
9 COVID-19. We appreciate the steps SEPTA
10 has taken to protect the health of those
11 riders and its workers, though more is
12 needed. Now we're asking you to address
13 similar conditions facing employees at
14 your main bus supplier.

15 We recently wrote you about New
16 Flyer's actions, putting workers at risk
17 by forcing them to return to work without
18 proper PPE, and not informing them of
19 other workers who had COVID-19. They
20 also did not provide paid leave for their
21 workers, forcing many to go on public
22 assistance.

23 Two individuals, one current and
24 one former employee of New Flyer will

1 speak today about their concerns.

2 We hope SEPTA will urge New
3 Flyer to negotiate a Community Benefits
4 Agreement that ensures healthy
5 conditions, fair treatment for their
6 workers. The hundreds of millions of
7 dollars that SEPTA spends purchasing
8 buses should go to a company that treats
9 its workers fairly.

10 We would like to ask General
11 Manager, Leslie Richards, if she would
12 talk with Erica Itheme of Jobs to Move
13 America. JMA is a nationwide
14 organization advocating for public
15 procurement processes that advance
16 economic and racial justice. They're
17 working with New Flyer employees across
18 North America to convince New Flyer to
19 sign a Community Benefits Agreement.

20 Will you do that, Ms. Richards?

21 Thank you.

22 GENERAL MANAGER RICHARDS: (Ms.
23 Richards indicated).

24 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Thank you.

1 I think we have two other speakers, Matt
2 Lelou.

3 MR. LELOU: That is me, correct.
4 Lelou.

5 Hello, thanks for taking the
6 time to hear my story. My name is Matt
7 Lelou. I'm a city welder at New Flyer of
8 America, which makes buses for SEPTA, and
9 I well... backs for various propulsion
10 systems for the metro coaches New Flyer
11 builds in Saint Cloud, Minnesota.

12 When I'm not welding, I serve
13 our membership as the President of the
14 Communications Workers of America, CWA,
15 Local 7304. I represent over 900 members
16 at two plants in Saint Cloud, and
17 Crookston, Minnesota.

18 As president I'm given the
19 privilege of working through difficult or
20 controversial topics on behalf of the
21 membership. COVID-19 has been one of
22 those topics. Because we have a union,
23 we have been able to work with the
24 company on many issues. A privilege our

1 co-workers at New Flyer's other American
2 plants do not have. We have our problems
3 too though.

4 Early on in the outbreak New
5 Flyer decided to close both of our
6 locations for a temporary two-week
7 shutdown. They offered to accept
8 volunteers to work on a few projects.
9 CWA and New Flyer agreed that any
10 employee could self-quarantine due to the
11 pandemic. Not many employees
12 volunteered, and New Flyer withdrew from
13 our agreement. Employees were given
14 recall notices with the line, "If we do
15 not hear from you by the date indicated
16 above, we will consider you to have
17 voluntarily resigned your position with
18 New Flyer of America. Many employees
19 felt threatened with job loss if they
20 chose to use the protections that were
21 bargained for on their behalf.
22 Unfortunately, our union filed an unfair
23 labor practice against New Flyer for the
24 violation. It's currently pending.

1 I'm troubled by what I have
2 heard from other New Flyer plants. SEPTA
3 should take these concerns seriously and
4 encourage New Flyer to negotiate a
5 National Community Benefits Agreement.
6 In many ways I work for SEPTA too. SEPTA
7 should encourage good behavior and strong
8 labor standards from its contractors.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Thank you,
11 Mr. Lelou.

12 Frankie Lally.

13 MS. LALLY: Hello, can you hear
14 me? Hello.

15 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Yes, we can
16 hear you.

17 MS. LALLY: All right. Thank
18 you for taking the time. My name is
19 Frankie Lally. I live in South
20 Philadelphia. I'm a SEPTA rider.

21 I find it really appalling that
22 SEPTA has been canceling service for
23 essential workers in order to transport
24 police to protests, when we see them

1 using excessive and dangerous force,
2 beating people, trapping protestors and
3 tear gassing them. SEPTA's shuttling of
4 police has happened several times in the
5 last month, and it must end now.

6 SEPTA runs irregularly or not at
7 all when its resources have been hijacked
8 by the PPD. To collaborate with police,
9 SEPTA has shut down suddenly, stranding
10 essential workers and leaving them
11 vulnerable. We've seen SEPTA buses
12 idling, full of cops on their phones,
13 doubly wasting the resources that we pay
14 for, in a way that is totally financially
15 and ecologically irresponsible.

16 The latest proposed city budget
17 cuts funding for services like SEPTA,
18 which is a public necessity with a
19 predominantly black workforce, and gives
20 a major increase to the police, a
21 predominantly white workforce. SEPTA
22 workers are already risking their lives
23 to keep our city going. Forcing exposure
24 to police who have higher rates of

1 COVID-19 and outright refuse to wear
2 masks, which are required for anyone else
3 taking public transportation, is putting
4 SEPTA workers at an extreme and
5 unnecessary risk.

6 If SEPTA workers refuse to work
7 with the cops, there should be no
8 retaliation from you all, on the Board,
9 who work safely from home.

10 I quote SEPTA's statement from
11 June 4th, 2020, "We cannot be neutral.
12 We cannot look away and move on without
13 change. SEPTA has an opportunity to be a
14 catalyst for change and a part of the
15 solution. Our words and our actions must
16 show the community who we are and what we
17 stand for." Chairman Deon, and Manager,
18 Richards, your signature may be on this
19 letter, but your actions speak very
20 loudly. Bussing cops to protests shows
21 which side of the struggle for a more
22 just world you stand on. I urge you to
23 live up to your public statement and stop
24 working for the police since you work for

1 the people.

2 I urge the SEPTA Board to refuse
3 to transport PPD immediately and
4 permanently. It is cowardly to allow PPD
5 to put SEPTA workers at risk and strand
6 essential workers with almost no notice.
7 Stop busing cops to protests.

8 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Thank you,
9 Ms. Lally.

10 We have one more speaker,
11 Charles Crooms, right? It's a
12 prerecorded one, so we're going to play
13 that.

14 MR. CROOMS: My name is Charles
15 Crooms. Currently an organizer with Jobs
16 to Move America, here in Alabama. I'm
17 also an ex-employee of New Flyer as well.

18 New Flyer makes diesel and
19 electric buses for transit agencies
20 around the country, and is responsible
21 for a large percentage of bus routes.

22 I have been talking to my former
23 co-workers of the factory here in
24 Alabama, and they are worried about the

1 current response to the coronavirus.
2 Workers were made to use vacation time or
3 go on unemployment when the plant shut
4 down. At first they lost their health
5 insurance too, till the union in
6 Minnesota negotiated health insurance for
7 their workers, and the Alabama plant
8 agreed to pay health insurance.

9 New Flyer reopened their
10 Anniston plant on May 11th, and my former
11 coworkers are still worried about their
12 safety. Coronavirus cases are rising
13 here in the State, and mask wearing at
14 the plant has been spotty, especially in
15 break areas. Workers were supposed to
16 have their temperatures checked
17 regularly, but thermometers didn't appear
18 till a month after the plant had
19 reopened, and most people still are not
20 getting their temperatures read.

21 We heard that at the other union
22 plants the temperatures were taken at the
23 door, and why it's not the case here in
24 Alabama?

1 New Flyer does not have a good
2 history of treating my community here in
3 Anniston well. Results from an Alabama A
4 & M University survey of workers in the
5 branch show that many surveyed workers
6 state that they have experienced sexual
7 harassment, retaliation, and safety
8 hazards. The survey also calls
9 significant concerns about the racial
10 discrimination. I know SEPTA wants to
11 keep the health and safety of its workers
12 in mind, as riders start taking, actually
13 riding the buses again. The New Flyer
14 workers are in fact SEPTA workers too, we
15 build their equipment, so SEPTA should be
16 accountable for us as well.

17 We ask SEPTA to negotiate a
18 National Community Benefits Agreement to
19 get workers in the community a voice.
20 They should also adopt the Manufacturing
21 Careers Policy to ensure that labor
22 policies are included in their upcoming
23 procurement.

24 Thank you very much.

1 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Ready to
2 move on to the report of the General
3 Manager.

4 GENERAL MANAGER RICHARDS: Thank
5 you.

6 Since we met last month,
7 restrictions have began to ease in the
8 region, and we look forward to welcoming
9 back more riders and employees to the
10 system.

11 The COVID-19 crisis has taught
12 us how to operate safely and responsibly,
13 with a focus on supporting the region and
14 its recovery while safeguarding the
15 health of the SEPTA team and our riders.

16 SEPTA is operating on a regular
17 schedule, and our life-line service is
18 planned to transition to more frequent
19 hourly service to Regional Rail on June
20 28.

21 Riders can expect clean vehicles
22 and stations, as well as healthy
23 operators. For everyone's safety, face
24 coverings are required, and we have

1 placed stickers on vehicle to encourage
2 social distancing.

3 We've also teamed up with the
4 Black Doctors' COVID-19 Consortium to
5 bring free convenient COVID-19 testing
6 for our employees at various SEPTA
7 locations. I want to -- special thank
8 you to our Vice Chairman, Ken Lawrence,
9 for his help in connecting us with this
10 partnership.

11 As area businesses began to
12 reopen to employees and the public, we
13 have developed an online tool kit that
14 includes a 10-point to ensure a safe
15 return to SEPTA travel, rider etiquette
16 guide, and a rundown of ongoing cleaning
17 procedures.

18 As the engine of the southeast
19 region that drives Pennsylvania's
20 economy, we are committed to getting this
21 right.

22 I am proud to join the
23 Philadelphia Regional Recharge and
24 Recovery Task Force to discuss solutions,

1 that will not only bring the region back
2 from COVID-19, but also create a stronger
3 more equitable local economy.

4 To help our riders as they
5 recover financially from the pandemic,
6 today the SEPTA Board approved a revised
7 Fare Restructuring Plan. This updated
8 plan will help to meet the needs of our
9 low-income communities and traveling
10 families, as well as our riders who have
11 new work schedules.

12 With the revised plan, beginning
13 on July 1st, children under the age of
14 12, traveling with a fare-paying adult
15 will be able ride for free on all SEPTA
16 modes, and customers use the travel
17 wallet on SEPTA Key will have up to two
18 hours to use their first free transfer.

19 Equity is a top priority of the
20 Fare Restructuring Plan, and is also a
21 priority for the future of SEPTA. While
22 we have struggled with the effects of the
23 pandemic, we have also reached the
24 tipping point in our hearts and on our

1 streets, exposing painful realities about
2 race and inequality.

3 The wounds are not easily
4 healed, but I assure you, SEPTA is
5 continuing to educate, elevate and
6 inspire our employees and customers to
7 ensure a more equitable future for all.

8 Over these past several months,
9 our SEPTA team has risen to the occasion
10 at every turn, and I could not be more
11 proud of the work they have done and what
12 we have accomplished together.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Great.

15 Thank you.

16 Again, I would just like to echo
17 what you said about the employees, and
18 especially, you know, the front line
19 employees that we have here, and
20 everybody in this room has done a
21 spectacular job in keeping us moving in
22 this process. And thank our riders that
23 are coming back because we can't do
24 without them.

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So hearing all that, can I get a
move to adjourn from any of the Board
Members?

MR. KERNODLE, IV: So moved.

MR. CARROLL, P.E.: Second.

CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Moved and
second. All in favor say, "aye."

ALL: Aye.

CHAIRMAN DEON, SR.: Thank you,
guys.

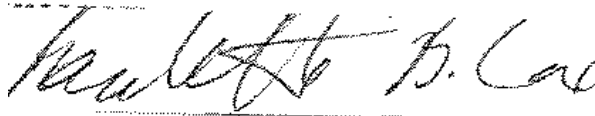
(Meeting concluded at 3:40 p.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA:
COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA:

I do hereby certify that I am a Notary Public in good standing, that the aforesaid meeting was taken before me, pursuant to notice, at the time and via WebEx; that the proceeding was correctly recorded in machine shorthand by me and thereafter transcribed under my supervision with computer-aided transcription; that the transcript is a true record of the proceeding.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this 8th day of July, 2020.



Paulette Cox, Court Reporter
Notary Public

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