

1 SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA TRANSPORTATION
2 AUTHORITY
3 REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

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11 October 22, 2020

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17 3:13 P.M.

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23 VERITEXT LEGAL SOLUTIONS, LLC
MID-ATLANTIC REGION
1801 Market Street - Suite 1800
24 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

1 A P P E A R A N C E S :

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3 PRESENT IN THE BOARD ROOM:

4 Pasquale T. Deon, Sr., Chairman
Honorable Kenneth Lawrence, Vice Chairman

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6 BOARD PRESENT ON THE WEBEX:

7 Thomas E. Babcock
Joseph E. Brion, Esquire
8 Michael A. Carroll, P.E.
John F. Cordisco, Esquire
9 Mark H. Dambly
Robert D. Fox, Esquire
10 Honorable Steward J. Greenleaf
Kevin L. Johnson, P.E.
11 William J. Leonard, Esquire
Deborah Mahler

12

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14 STAFF PRESENT IN THE BOARD ROOM:

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Leslie S. Richards, General Manager
15 Richard G. Burnfield, Deputy General
Manager/Treasurer
16 Robert L. Lund, P.E., Deputy General Manager
Gino Benedetti, Esquire, General Counsel
17 Carol R. Looby, Secretary
Stephanie Deiger, AGM, Employee Development
18 Relations
Jody Holton, AGM, Planning
19 Scott A. SAUER, AGM, Operations
William Webster, AGM, Communications

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21 STAFF PRESENT ON THE WEBEX:

22 Francis E. Kelly, Government & Public Affairs

23

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1 CHAIRMAN DEON: All right. The
2 Regular Meeting of the Board will now
3 come to order. The Special Meeting,
4 which was noticed, it has been canceled.

5 All right. Pay attention guys,
6 I'm going to call for attendance.

7 Vice Chairman Lawrence?

8 VICE CHAIRMAN LAWRENCE:

9 Present.

10 CHAIRMAN DEON: Tom Babcock?

11 (Inaudible)

12 CHAIRMAN DEON: Tom Babcock?

13 (Inaudible)

14 CHAIRMAN DEON: All right. Skip

15 Brion?

16 (Inaudible)

17 CHAIRMAN DEON: Skip?

18 (Inaudible)

19 CHAIRMAN DEON: Mike Carroll?

20 MR. CARROLL: Here.

21 CHAIRMAN DEON: John Cordisco?

22 MR. CORDISCO: Here.

23 CHAIRMAN DEON: Mark Dambly?

24 MR. DAMBLY: Here.

1 CHAIRMAN DEON: Robb Fox?

2 (Inaudible)

3 CHAIRMAN DEON: Senator

4 Greenleaf?

5 MR. BABCOCK: I'm here. Tom is
6 muted. I'm here.

7 CHAIRMAN DEON: All right.

8 Senator Greenleaf?

9 (Inaudible)

10 CHAIRMAN DEON: Stewart? We
11 heard you on before.

12 Kevin Johnson?

13 MR. JOHNSON: Here.

14 CHAIRMAN DEON: Kevin, take it
15 off mute.

16 MR. JOHNSON: I'm off mute.
17 Here.

18 CHAIRMAN DEON: John Kane?

19 NO RESPONSE

20 CHAIRMAN DEON: John?

21 NO RESPONSE

22 CHAIRMAN DEON: All right. Obra
23 Kernoble?

24 (Inaudible)

1 CHAIRMAN DEON: Obra?

2 (Inaudible)

3 CHAIRMAN DEON: Bill Leonard?

4 (Inaudible)

5 CHAIRMAN DEON: Debby Mahler?

6 MS. MAHLER: Here.

7 CHAIRMAN DEON: Representative
8 Toepel?

9 NO RESPONSE

10 CHAIRMAN DEON: Okay. Good
11 afternoon. Thank everybody for joining.
12 We will start off with the Pledge of
13 Allegiance.

14 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

15 CHAIRMAN DEON: All right.
16 Before we forget, I know you guys were
17 going to keep your phones on mute. I
18 will only ask for a dissenting vote on
19 the motions, so we don't have to go
20 through the roll call.

21 The Board met in executive
22 sessions to discuss legal matters. First
23 off, I'd like to thank everybody who is
24 joining us for this virtual board

1 meeting, despite the unprecedented
2 challenges we're all facing. It is
3 critical for SEPTA to have a robust
4 public dialogue. We greatly appreciate
5 the time people are taking to participate
6 in these meetings, and for your
7 thoughtful comments and questions.

8 On behalf of the Board, I want
9 to thank our workforce for their tireless
10 efforts. They continue to work, day and
11 night to keep the system safe, clean, and
12 ready as more customers return.

13 We know there are many
14 challenges still to come, but it is
15 reassuring that we have such dedicated
16 employees at SEPTA.

17 It is a great comfort to know we
18 have the right leadership to guide the
19 Authority through these difficult times.
20 Again, General Manager, Leslie Richards,
21 and the team, all the way down to the
22 last person on the payroll do great work
23 here, and we appreciate your efforts.

24 First item on the Agenda is the

1 Minutes of the September 24th Board
2 Meeting. These Minutes have been
3 circulated. I'll entertain a motion to
4 approve the minutes.

5 VICE CHAIRMAN LAWRENCE: I'll
6 move, Ken Lawrence.

7 CHAIRMAN DEON: Anybody?

8 MR. FOX: I'll second.

9 CHAIRMAN DEON: There we go.
10 Moved and second. Any dissensions?

11 NO RESPONSE

12 CHAIRMAN DEON: Hearing none,
13 the minutes are adopted.

14 Rich Burnfield, we will move on
15 for the Financial Report.

16 MR. BURNFIELD: Thank you, Mr.
17 Chairman.

18 For the month of September
19 operating revenue was \$33 million below
20 budget with transit ridership at
21 approximately 30 percent of pre-COVID
22 levels, and Regional Rail ridership at
23 approximately 15 percent of pre-COVID
24 levels. Operating expenses which were

1 based on the pre-COVID budget are \$14.3
2 million below budget due to labor, fringe
3 benefits, propulsion power and fuel
4 running below budget. With the
5 allocation of Federal CARES funding there
6 was a budget surplus of \$300,000 for the
7 month.

8 This concludes my report.

9 CHAIRMAN DEON: It's even more
10 depressing the way you say it, you know,
11 can't see I'm smiling through the mask
12 there, Rich.

13 I move that the Financial Report
14 be received and filed.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN LAWRENCE: Second.

16 CHAIRMAN DEON: Call the
17 question?

18 NO RESPONSE

19 CHAIRMAN DEON: Any noes?

20 NO RESPONSE

21 CHAIRMAN DEON: The Financial
22 Report is received and filed.

23 Please note that all written
24 comments and voicemail messages that have

1 been received will be included in the
2 official Board Meeting transcript, which
3 will then be posted to the SEPTA website.

4 (Whereupon there were no
5 voicemail messages.)

6 CHAIRMAN DEON: I think we have
7 one speaker to address an item on today's
8 agenda. Arne Euler. Mr. Euler?

9 NO RESPONSE

10 CHAIRMAN DEON: Not connected?
11 I guess we don't have Mr. Euler. Okay.
12 We'll move on to the Consent Calendar
13 which consists of:

14 "Authorization to Engage
15 Consultants to Provide Advisory Services
16 for SEPTA's Defined Benefits and 457-B
17 Deferred Compensation Plans;"

18 Acquisition from Property
19 Exchange Agent, LLC of a Parcel of
20 Property Located a 6901 Elmwood Avenue in
21 the City of Philadelphia to be Used in
22 SEPTA's Trolley Modernization Program;"

23 "Authorization to Award Contract
24 for a Procurement;"

1 "Award of Contracts for Sole
2 Source Procurements;" and

3 "Authorization to Execute Change
4 Orders and Amendment."

5 All of the items on the Consent
6 Calendar have been reviewed by the
7 appropriate Board Committee in public
8 session.

9 I'll entertain a motion to adopt
10 these Resolutions. Before I move, I'm
11 asking, are there any abstentions from
12 the Board?

13 NO RESPONSE

14 CHAIRMAN DEON: Any abstentions?

15 NO RESPONSE

16 CHAIRMAN DEON: Hearing no
17 discussions or abstentions I will move
18 the Resolution.

19 VICE CHAIRMAN LAWRENCE: Second.

20 CHAIRMAN DEON: Any opposing
21 or... votes?

22 NO RESPONSE

23 CHAIRMAN DEON: Hearing none,
24 the Resolutions are adopted.

1 Moving on now to the report of
2 the general manager.

3 GENERAL MANAGER RICHARDS: Thank
4 you, Mr. Chairman. I'm happy to report
5 this week it felt a little bit more like
6 normal that we don't know what normal
7 means anymore, but we were very excited
8 to bring back the Sports Express to the
9 Broad Street Line for the Eagles home
10 games. We added three Sports Express
11 trips before the game, and it was great
12 to see the Eagles fans back on our
13 system. Well, because it's a tough
14 season so far for the Birds, we're trying
15 to bring the fans back and we are able to
16 watch people enjoy our Eagles live in the
17 stands.

18 Starting this week, we started
19 offering the new three-day pass for
20 transit and Regional Rail on their SEPTA
21 cards. This is part of us making our
22 system easier to use for everybody. And
23 you remember the Board voted on July 1st
24 to move forward with the three-day pass,

1 which were able to implement this week as
2 well as all children under 12 riding for
3 free, and free transfer, and we're very
4 happy to see that being well received and
5 being used on our system. We do
6 recognize that people are changing how
7 they travel and ride at SEPTA, and so we
8 want to be flexible, and we definitely
9 want to provide options to fit their
10 needs.

11 With that, it's, I have to pass
12 on some sad news, and that is that two
13 more members of our SEPTA family who
14 passed away over the last few weeks due
15 to COVID-related illness. Officer Dwayne
16 Morrison served the SEPTA Police
17 Department for 26 years with distinction,
18 and Mbassa Bessike, faithfully served our
19 customers as a bus driver for six years.
20 Our thoughts are with their families and
21 co-workers who will all miss them. We
22 have seen that cases are rising quickly
23 in our region and we just want to remind
24 everybody of our shared responsibility to

1 keep everybody safe, and I also want to
2 remind everybody that we continue to do
3 deep robust cleaning. We're focusing on
4 our vehicles and our surfaces. We're
5 using EPA-approved disinfectants, at
6 least twice daily, and that the air in
7 our vehicles refreshes every two to three
8 minutes, and we're making sure that we
9 upgrade all of our filters on our
10 vehicles as well.

11 I also want to remind everyone
12 that all SEPTA riders and employees are
13 required to wear a mask while waiting
14 for, riding or driving and operating
15 public transportation or para transit.

16 Encouraged by recent audit of
17 our mask compliance, well over 90
18 percent, and that's very good to see and
19 that is terrific, but none of us can be
20 complacent. We're all seeing what's in
21 the news, and again, we are all working
22 together to keep everybody as safe and
23 healthy as possible. Just like those
24 Eagles fans who used our system, just

1 this past weekend, they are seeing that
2 our system is clean and safe, and we are
3 ready for you when you are ready for us.

4 With that I would like to end my
5 comments by mentioning an event that
6 happened two weeks ago. I was honored to
7 participate, along with the Chairman and
8 others, in the dedication of our first
9 SEPTA Frontline Heroes Tribute Wall at
10 Suburban Station. We have recognized 28
11 of our frontline heroes for their
12 dedication and commitment in serving our
13 customers who rely on SEPTA. While 28
14 employees were highlighted on this wall,
15 and showing how they helped with our
16 system, especially right now, they
17 represent thousands of our SEPTA heroes
18 who work tirelessly every single day, and
19 they make sure our system again is clean,
20 safe and ready for those who need to
21 travel.

22 This Suburban Station Tribute
23 Wall is just a first of several that are
24 planned. The next tribute wall is slated

1 to be installed in the main terminal at
2 Frankford Transportation Center, and we
3 are about to show you a video, and as the
4 video is cuing, I just want to thank all
5 of our employees for the incredible work
6 each of you is doing. These are
7 difficult times and I know I speak for
8 the Board and our general manager team
9 when I say how proud we are of all of you
10 every single day. And now I would like
11 to share the video...

12 CHAIRMAN DEON: That's it?

13 GENERAL MANAGER RICHARDS:
14 That's it.

15 CHAIRMAN DEON: Very good.
16 Again, I think we're very lucky with the
17 employees, and we're very lucky with the
18 leadership Leslie has shown over the
19 tough times, so thank you again, Leslie.

20 I'm trying to go through, we're
21 working on the speakers now. Okay. Mr.
22 Benjamin She.

23 MR. SHE: Hello, can you hear
24 me?

1 CHAIRMAN DEON: We can hear you.

2 MR. SHE: All right. Yes, my
3 name is Benjamin She. I'm a volunteer
4 with 5th Square.

5 The COVID-19 pandemic has seen a
6 number of drastic, destabilizing changes
7 to the transit system, but perhaps none
8 is more devastating than the ridership
9 drop on Regional Rail. From the latest
10 weekly figures, ridership is still down
11 85 percent, compared to normal periods,
12 and trains are running near-empty most of
13 the day.

14 However, this is also contrasted
15 with surface transit that has already
16 regained a substantial portion of riders
17 back. This is especially noticeable in
18 mid-day service, where essential workers
19 and other riders who have faced shifting
20 work schedules and lifeline trips find
21 themselves on the same infrequent buses
22 and trolleys, dangerously packed to the
23 brim. Every day on routes like the 23,
24 riders must forego any expectation of

1 safe social distancing just to get to
2 where they need, increasing the risk of
3 coronavirus exposure.

4 For a system which requires
5 hundreds of millions in capital and
6 operating funding each year, it is
7 incongruous that SEPTA would be asking
8 for a bailout to transit, including
9 Regional Rail, while those trains carry
10 almost no one to justify the service.
11 And while SEPTA may be hoping for the
12 traditional suburban commuter market to
13 miraculously come back, we already have
14 thousands of riders within Philadelphia
15 who would be better served if Regional
16 Rail lines, especially lines like
17 Chestnut Hill and Fox Chase, operated at
18 the frequencies and fares they need.
19 It's not just a question of finances, but
20 a question of transit equity, and asking
21 if Regional Rail can continue to forego
22 potential ridership, just so Harrisburg
23 and Washington can subsidize empty
24 trains.

1 5th Square has created a
2 petition with over 800 signatures that
3 calls to not only restore service on
4 Chestnut Hill West and Cynwyd, but to
5 also lower Regional Rail base fares, and
6 pass prices so that transit riders in
7 Philadelphia's outer neighborhoods can
8 seamlessly take a Regional Rail train
9 instead of squeezing into a packed bus.
10 The expected amount of fare revenue from
11 Regional Rail is already going to be a
12 wash this year, so why shouldn't SEPTA
13 take a chance and find new ridership
14 markets, ones that could stick around
15 even after the pandemic?

16 Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN DEON: All right.

18 Thank you, Mr. She.

19 Cameron Adamez?

20 MR. ADAMEZ: Hi, can you hear
21 me?

22 CHAIRMAN DEON: Hardly hear you.

23 MR. ADAMEZ: Okay. All right.

24 CHAIRMAN DEON: There you go.

1 MR. ADAMEZ: All right. My name
2 is Cameron Adamez, I'm with 5th Square,
3 and I'm a coalition member of Transit
4 Forward Philadelphia.

5 As you know, SEPTA is facing an
6 operating budget deficit at approximately
7 \$1 million a day. With CARES Act funding
8 running out quickly, SEPTA would have
9 exhausted their funding relief by the
10 summer. The Agency must find solutions,
11 otherwise service cuts are inevitable.

12 SEPTA service is crucial for
13 essential workers. Any service cuts
14 cannot be categorical or unconditional
15 like cuts to weekend or overnight
16 service. If service cuts were to happen,
17 the decision must be data-driven, and in
18 line with the network design strategies
19 of CBNR.

20 To make these tough decisions,
21 SEPTA must have the data. This begins
22 with restoring Wi-Fi immediately at the
23 bus depots, which has been down since
24 August's malware attack. This will allow

1 buses to download their passenger count
2 data.

3 This data should be available to
4 the public, and posted on the SEPTA web
5 site as in years past. Transparency is
6 important during these crucial times.
7 Public participation to comment on any
8 proposed service cuts should be made
9 possible by the Agency.

10 We are grateful for the service
11 of the Board Members and the leadership
12 of the Authority. We will be counting on
13 you to provide this information to ensure
14 the trust of riders in light of difficult
15 issues ahead.

16 CHAIRMAN DEON: Great. Thank
17 you.

18 John Flaherty?

19 MR. ARNOLD: This is Joel
20 Arnold. Can you hear me?

21 MR. FLAHERTY: Thank you, Mr.
22 Chairman. My name is John Flaherty from
23 Wilmington, Delaware. I want to commend
24 SEPTA for the logistical nightmare

1 transferring over to the Key System, that
2 I have used a number of times, and it
3 works very, very well.

4 I just wanted to alert the Board
5 on a situation here in the State of
6 Delaware. We have SEPTA bus service 113,
7 and also the community rail at the City
8 of Wilmington, your partner down here in
9 Delaware just shut the SEPTA ticket
10 office at the Amtrak station. Now, I'm
11 sure there is probably valuable reasons
12 for this, but one of which is presumably
13 fiscal shortfalls, but when you have a
14 very busy commuter rail station, the
15 SEPTA Wilmington services, number seven
16 out of 13, there is lot of people that go
17 through that train station every day, and
18 they are not going to have the benefit of
19 having anybody to give them guidance or
20 purchase tickets or Keycards or whatever,
21 so I'm thinking that maybe in your next
22 contract negotiations with SPIG
23 (phonetic), this might be an item that
24 you can request to the State of Delaware

1 to at least have your presence here in
2 Wilmington.

3 Thank you.

4 GENERAL MANAGER RICHARDS: I
5 would just like to comment on that. We
6 will have a ticket office open in two
7 weeks. And I just also want to let you
8 know that we meet with our counterparts
9 in Delaware on a regular basis to discuss
10 these issues, and I do appreciate you
11 taking your time to bring it up at the
12 meeting.

13 CHAIRMAN DEON: Thank you, Mr.
14 Flaherty.

15 Joel Arnold? Mr. Arnold?

16 MR. ARNOLD: Yes, can you hear
17 me?

18 CHAIRMAN DEON: Yes.

19 MR. ARNOLD: Hi, my name is Joel
20 Arnold, and I'm with SEAMAAC, the
21 Southeast Asian Mutual Systems Assistance
22 Association Coalition, and I'm a
23 coalition member of Transit Forward
24 Philadelphia.

1 I'm speaking today in support of
2 Transit Forward Philadelphia's Better
3 Access, Better Service, Better Buses
4 campaign, which asks SEPTA to transform
5 the current bus service to be faster,
6 more frequent, and more reliable. One of
7 the best ways SEPTA can achieve this is
8 through a bus network redesign.

9 Unfortunately, it's been two
10 years since the Choice's Report
11 recommending a bus redesign has been
12 released, and over eight months have
13 passed since SEPTA began the hiring
14 process for a consultant. We at TFP
15 believe this process has been drawn out
16 long enough. Before COVID, SEPTA's bus
17 ridership hit its lowest level in nearly
18 20 years. Now, CBNR is critical for
19 SEPTA's financial and mission recovery,
20 and we think it's time for SEPTA to hire
21 a consultant so the Board can vote and
22 approve that consultant by the December
23 2020 Board Meeting.

24 We appreciate SEPTA providing a

1 general timeline for the redesign, with
2 plans to have a consultant under contact
3 by 2021, but we are here today to hold
4 SEPTA accountable for hiring a consultant
5 by December 2020. SEPTA has had plenty
6 of time to advance this project, and the
7 time is now.

8 Thank you for listening and your
9 consideration. We appreciate the
10 opportunity to speak about this important
11 issue.

12 CHAIRMAN DEON: Jody, make it
13 quick.

14 MS. HOLTON: I'll try to make it
15 quick. This is Jody Holton, assistant
16 general manager of planning. We are
17 working through the evaluation process of
18 those consultants, and we expect to have
19 an award of either at the end of this
20 year or the first month of next year, and
21 then we will get underway. It's expected
22 to take two years for the CBNR process to
23 be completed.

24 CHAIRMAN DEON: And we did have

1 a pandemic during this period of time,
2 right?

3 MS. HOLTON: There was a
4 pandemic -- there still is.

5 CHAIRMAN DEON: And you guys are
6 working hard --

7 MS. HOLTON: And the timing is
8 good to start again.

9 CHAIRMAN DEON: And I will make
10 one comment, Leslie's focus on planning
11 here, there is a lot of different levels
12 and we will see a difference in the
13 operation, so -- again, we will move on
14 to Katie Bohri. Katie?

15 NO RESPONSE

16 CHAIRMAN DEON: You want me to
17 move to another one and come back there?

18 (Inaudible)

19 CHAIRMAN DEON: Stewart, we know
20 you're on there. We're just waiting for
21 a snafu in the computer there. We will
22 have a call on in a moment.

23 MS. BOHRI: Can you hear me?

24 CHAIRMAN DEON: I can hear you

1 now, Katie. Thank you for waiting.

2 MS. BOHRI: Thank you. Hi, my
3 name is Katie Bohri. I appreciate this
4 opportunity for speaking today. I want
5 to thank SEPTA's Board and employees for
6 their work during this time.

7 I am speaking today as a transit
8 rider, South Philadelphian, and member of
9 Philly DSA. I do appreciate the clarity
10 in the timeline provided by the Board, I
11 hope for the selection of the proposal
12 for the Bus Network Redesign by the end
13 of the year.

14 As you already know, Philly DSA
15 is the local chapter of the Democrat
16 Socialists of America, we are a
17 volunteer-run and member-funded
18 organization with 1,300 dues-paying
19 members in the city. In our June general
20 meeting we voted to support the CBNR and
21 encourage its progress.

22 We are excited about the
23 possibilities in reimagining SEPTA's bus
24 network, and anxious for it to begin. I

1 and my cohort in Philly DSA, as well as
2 many other groups in this city, are ready
3 to help creat a transit network that is
4 efficient, effective, and designed in
5 service of working Philadelphians and
6 SEPTA workers.

7 Therefore, I would just like to
8 reiterate the encouragement to prioritize
9 the selection of a consultant for the
10 CBNR project.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN DEON: We have, wait,
13 Michael Bente.

14 All right. Michael, you're on.
15 Michael? Mr. Bente?

16 MR. BENTE: Thank you. Good
17 afternoon.

18 CHAIRMAN DEON: There you go.

19 MR. BENTE: Can you hear me?

20 CHAIRMAN DEON: Yeah, we can
21 hear you. Go ahead.

22 MR. BENTE: Okay. My name is
23 Michael Bente, cashier, Broad Street Line
24 Transport Workers' Union, Local 234

1 member. If you don't mind, could we give
2 a moment of silence to the fallen
3 soldiers? This is something new that's
4 been brought to my attention, two
5 employees died in addition to the others
6 that passed away. Could we just get a
7 couple seconds of a moment of silence for
8 the fallen soldiers?

9 (Moment of silence observed)

10 MR. BENTE: Thank you. All
11 right. Before the pandemic, many of our
12 co-workers were experiencing symptoms at
13 the time, many were unaware of what was
14 floating around. Some thought it was a
15 cold or flu. We now know that there is a
16 good chance that many of them contracted
17 the coronavirus before the shutdown, the
18 latest COVID-19 positive cases is over
19 400 employees. However, it is my
20 strongest feeling, if we were to count
21 these who were sick at some point and
22 didn't commit to a test or those who are
23 asymptomatic, COVID number would be in
24 the thousands. It's no secret the virus

1 was here before the country shut down.

2 One of the reasons why I believe
3 the virus is... the subway system, the
4 workers are breathing steel dust, other
5 harmful, other harmful pollution. Since
6 COVID attacks the respiratory system, our
7 resistance to such illnesses are lower
8 due to our environment. This is why I
9 requested air quality testing back in
10 2018. It's my belief that had we been
11 proactive, many of my co-workers would
12 not have contracted the virus. To this
13 day, we have many work locations without
14 adequate air ventilation, and we know
15 that infection will spread through air
16 transmission.

17 The virus can also spread if you
18 touch a surface contaminated with the
19 virus, and then touch your eyes, ears,
20 nose and mouth, which is why routine
21 cleaning, disinfection and proper air
22 ventilation is key to the reducing
23 transmission of the virus.

24 There are certain products and

1 techniques that are more superior than
2 others. Furthermore, should ramp up our
3 effort to explore any, every idea that
4 might keep our system safe... One idea
5 to consider is ultraviolet technology
6 that the airlines, transit agencies
7 across the country. Using technology,
8 one of the many outside the box idea of
9 disinfecting system effective technology
10 for eliminating virus, which is why I'm
11 asking SEPTA executive team and SEPTA
12 Board to consider a few options in
13 addition to regular cleaning and
14 disinfectant program, maybe we can start
15 a pilot program beginning in the cashier
16 booth and restrooms, speaking of which,
17 we have seen no serious rigorous cleaning
18 taking place at our work location since
19 this pandemic. Moreover, here is a few
20 questions that I would like the response
21 to.

22 Number (1) what are the chances
23 of SEPTA looking into other cleaning and
24 disinfective measures, such as

1 ultraviolet light? Could we have a
2 representative reach out to companies
3 that are offering the product? Maybe
4 call and see if we can get a demo?

5 Number (2) do every booth in the
6 cashier department have proper air
7 ventilation as recommended by the CDC?

8 And,

9 Number (3) have the air quality
10 testing been conducted in the subway for
11 cashiers and cleaners are regularly
12 imposed since this pandemic began? If
13 yes, where can I get this information
14 from?

15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN DEON: All right.

17 Thank you.

18 Mr. Nate Downes -- Lownes.

19 NO RESPONSE

20 CHAIRMAN DEON: All right. How
21 about Will Herzog? Okay.

22 MR. HERZOG: Thank you, Chairman
23 Deon.

24 Hello, my name is Will Herzog.

1 Chair of the SEPTA Youth Advisory
2 Counsel. The YAC is a coalition member
3 of Transit Forward Philadelphia.

4 I would just like to first say
5 thank you to the Chairman and to the
6 SEPTA Board for their leadership in
7 acquiring 6901 Elmwood Avenue for the
8 upcoming Trolley Modernization project.
9 The property is key to the project,
10 providing the space needed for
11 accessible, low-floor trolleys.

12 The trolley network alone
13 directly services 12 municipalities in
14 Philadelphia and Delaware Counties,
15 providing a lifeline to the Philadelphia
16 region's most populated communities, and
17 the region's largest job centers. The
18 trolleys carry Approximately 80,000
19 people per weekday, almost as much as the
20 entire SEPTA Regional Rail network, with
21 zero ADA accessibility.

22 Not only are these communities
23 the most populated in the region, but the
24 communities served by trolley

1 modernization face some of the deepest
2 challenges. The neighborhood has a
3 disproportionate number of riders who are
4 low income, disabled, and
5 transit-dependent. Additionally, the
6 service area is 59 percent non-white,
7 compared to the region's 36 percent
8 non-white population.

9 West Philadelphia and Delaware
10 County deserve ADA-accessible transit
11 service powered by exhaust-free electric
12 power and the high capacity that only
13 trolleys can provide, so we appreciate
14 SEPTA's move to advance a project that is
15 so deeply important for the environmental
16 justice and health of these communities.

17 Thank you, Chairman Deon.

18 CHAIRMAN DEON: Thank you, Mr.
19 Herzog.

20 Yasha Zarrinkelk?

21 MR. ZARRINKELK: I appreciate
22 that attempt, Chairman Deon.

23 CHAIRMAN DEON: Was I close?
24 Give me your name.

1 MR. ZARRINKELK: It's
2 Zarrinkelk, I usually put Z at the end,
3 just so it's easier for everyone, but I
4 appreciate that attempt.

5 CHAIRMAN DEON: Zarrinkelk.

6 MR. ZARRINKELK: I appreciate
7 that a lot.

8 Thank you, Chairman, and thank
9 you, SEPTA Board, for taking the time to
10 listen to the public during this
11 important and critical time.

12 I just want to reiterate what
13 our coalition members have said about the
14 Comprehensive Bus Network Redesign, and
15 you know, make sure that the Board
16 understanding that this is a priority for
17 Philadelphia and Southeastern
18 Pennsylvania as a whole. This is a once
19 in a generation program to redesign the
20 bus network to meet today's needs,
21 providing faster, and more frequent, and
22 more reliable service.

23 I just want to thank SEPTA Board
24 and General Manager, Leslie Richards for

1 understanding this need, and just want to
2 put pressure on you guys to understand
3 this is a priority for our riders,
4 especially when it comes to climate
5 change, boosting economic recovery of our
6 region, and increasing opportunities for
7 everyone here in Philadelphia.

8 Thank you so much.

9 CHAIRMAN DEON: Thank you, Mr.
10 Zarrinkelk.

11 Move on to Yocasta Lora.

12 MS. LORA: Yes, I'm here, and I
13 believe we gave you two difficult Latin
14 names for the last.

15 Hello, my name is Yocasta Lora.
16 I am with AARP in Pennsylvania, and I'm
17 also a member of the Transit Forward
18 Philadelphia.

19 With the upcoming of the
20 Comprehensive Bus Network Redesign
21 initiative, Transit Forward Philadelphia,
22 which is a coalition of over two dozen
23 organizations that believe in transit, is
24 please to launch our Better Access,

1 Better Service, and Better Bus campaign.
2 This platform is a result of extensive
3 input from these organizations, and the
4 riders that they serve.

5 The coalition is calling upon
6 SEPTA to transform current bus service to
7 be faster, more frequent, more reliable,
8 while connecting communities in a safe
9 and dignified manner.

10 We seek a better bus network
11 that can boost the economic recovery of
12 the region, supporting the City's and
13 Agency's recovery from COVID and the
14 historic recession. The redesign can
15 make buses a first choice, boosting the
16 transition, I'm sorry, boosting transit's
17 contribution to our quality of life. It
18 has the potential to reduce the effects
19 of climate change, ensure that
20 Philadelphians can experience a more
21 sustainable future powered by better bus
22 service. And the redesign can increase
23 access to opportunities for all
24 Philadelphians, connecting communities

1 together, which allows people, business
2 and communities to thrive.

3 We encourage you to learn more
4 about the priorities and our goals for
5 the CBNR at transitforwardphila.org. We
6 look forward to working with the Board,
7 and the Authority to fulfill these
8 objectives.

9 Thank you so much for the
10 opportunity.

11 CHAIRMAN DEON: Thank you, Ms.
12 Lora. And I'm going to move to an easier
13 name. Nate Lownes is back on the line.
14 Nate?

15 NO RESPONSE

16 CHAIRMAN DEON: Okay. Nate, you
17 can try again for you next month, so
18 hearing that, I will hear a motion to
19 adjourn. I'll move to adjourn. I need a
20 second from somebody on the line.

21 MR. JOHNSON: Second, it's Kevin
22 Johnson.

23 CHAIRMAN DEON: All in favor
24 say, "aye."

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ALL: Aye.

CHAIRMAN DEON: Board adjourned.

Thank you, guys.

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(Meeting concluded at 3:48 p.m.)

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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 place indicated; that the meeting 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 meeting.

WITNESS my hand this 3rd day of November, 2020



Paulette Cox, Court Reporter
Notary Public