SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

May 27, 2021

Commencing at 3:06 P.M.

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

board members present in the boardroom:
Honorable Kenneth Lawrence, Jr. Vice Chairman
Thomas Jay Ellis, Esquire

board members present in the boardroom:
Pasquale T. Deon, Chairman
Joseph E. Brion, Esquire
Michael A. Carroll, P.E.
John F. Cordisco, Esquire
Mark H. Dambly
Robert D. Fox, Esquire
Kevin L. Johnson, P.E.
Obra S. Kernodle, IV
William J. Leonard, Esquire
Deborah Mahler
Esteban Vera, Jr.
Honorable Martina White

staff present in the boardroom:
Leslie S. Richards, General Manager
Richard G. Burnfield, Deputy General Manager/Treasurer
Robert L. Lund, P.E., Deputy General Manager
Gino Benedetti, Esquire, General Counsel
Carol R. Looby, Secretary
Stephanie Deiger, AGM, Employee Development Relations
Jody Holton, AGM, Government & Public Affairs
Francis E. Kelly, AGM, Government & Public Affairs
William Webster, AGM, Communications
CHAIRMAN DEON: Hello, everybody. Carol.

MS. LOOBY: Good afternoon. You can begin.

CHAIRMAN DEON: Okay. The Regular Meeting of the Board will now come to order. The Special Meeting which has been noticed has been canceled.

Let me do attendance. Vice Chairman Lawrence?

VICE CHAIRMAN LAWRENCE: Here.

CHAIRMAN DEON: Tom Babcock?

MR. BABCOCK: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN DEON: Skip Brion?

MR. BRION: Here.

CHAIRMAN DEON: Mike Carroll?

MR. CARROLL: Here.

CHAIRMAN DEON: John Cordisco?

MR. CORDISCO: Here.

CHAIRMAN DEON: Mark Dambly?

MR. DAMBLY: Here.

CHAIRMAN DEON: Tom Ellis?

MR. ELLIS: Here.

CHAIRMAN DEON: Robb Fox?
MR. FOX: Here.

CHAIRMAN DEON: Kevin Johnson?

MR. JOHNSON: Here.

CHAIRMAN DEON: Obra Kernodle?

MR. KERNODLE, IV: Here.

CHAIRMAN DEON: Bill Leonard?

MR. LEONARD: Here.

CHAIRMAN DEON: Debbie Mahler?

MS. MAHLER: Here.

CHAIRMAN DEON: Esteban Vera?

MR. VERA, JR.: (Inaudible).

CHAIRMAN DEON: Representative White?

REPRESENTATIVE WHITE: Here.

CHAIRMAN DEON: Okay. We have a quorum.

Good afternoon. Thank you everyone for joining us at this month's Board Meeting. Please note that the Board met in Executive Sessions just prior to this meeting to discuss legal matters -- and then Ken was on my list here --

VICE CHAIRMAN LAWRENCE: Pledge
of Allegiance.

CHAIRMAN DEON: Thank you, Ken.

Let's first start with the Pledge of Allegiance.

(PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE)

CHAIRMAN DEON: Thank you. As most of you know, nine transit workers were killed yesterday in a shooting at a rail yard in San Jose, California. This tragedy hits home for all of us.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Valley Transit Authority, and with those who are mourning the loss of their loved ones.

I would ask everyone to please take a moment of silence to honor these victims.

(PAUSE FOR A MOMENT OF SILENCE)

CHAIRMAN DEON: Thank you, everybody. That really hits home for everybody here at SEPTA, so thank you. Our hearts go out to the people of San Jose.

As we look ahead to start this
summer, there are many reasons for optimism, which we haven't said that in a while.

Our region continues to reopen, we have seen growth in ridership. Throughout the pandemic, SEPTA's workforce has kept the region moving, and it is heartening to see more riders returning to our buses, trains, and trolleys. SEPTA will continue to be a major part of this region's recovery.

Next month, this Board will consider Operating and Capital Budgets for the coming year that are aimed at providing services that are needed as residents return to work, shopping, restaurants, and entertainment destinations.

I want to thank the SEPTA team for working to develop balanced budgets that will position SEPTA to meet the region's transportation needs next year and into the future.

We received a lot of great
feedback during the public hearings this week, and we look forward to reviewing those proposals.

Meanwhile, our effort to ensure this Authority can meet the needs of the region in the short term and long term are continuing. Earlier this week, General Manager and I met with lawmakers in Harrisburg about the future of transportation funding.

There is much work to be done, but I'm confident we're still moving in the right direction.

First item on the Agenda is the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 22nd. These Minutes have been circulated.

I'll entertain a motion to approve the minutes.

VICE CHAIRMAN LAWRENCE: So moved.

MR. ELLIS: Second.

CHAIRMAN DEON: Any comments or questions?
(No response.)

CHAIRMAN DEON: Hearing none, I'll call the question - all in favor say, "aye."

ALL: Aye.

CHAIRMAN DEON: The Minutes are approved.

We'll move on to the Financial Report from Mr. Burnfield, Rich?

MR. BURNFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Revenue for the month of April was $28.6 million below budget. During the month, ridership continued to grow, with transit ridership at 40 percent of pre-COVID levels. Regional Rail ridership is now at 18 percent of pre-COVID levels. After the first 10 months of Fiscal Year 2021, revenue is $297.7 million below budget.

Operating expenses for the year to date are $114 million below budget.

With the federal CARES relief fund to offset revenue shortfalls, SEPTA
has been able to operate with a balanced budget during the fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.

CHAIRMAN DEON: Great. Thank you, Rich.

I'll entertain a motion that the Financial Report be received and filed.

VICE CHAIRMAN LAWRENCE: So moved.

CHAIRMAN DEON: Second?

MR. ELLIS: Second.

CHAIRMAN DEON: Any question?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN DEON: Hearing none, all in favor say, "aye."

ALL: Aye.

CHAIRMAN DEON: The Financial Report is received and filed.

Please note that all written conversations, voicemail messages that have been received will be included in the official Board Meeting transcript, which will be then posted on the SEPTA
We have no speakers today.

Move on to the Consent Calendar.

The next item which consists of:

"Authorization for the Purchase of Dental Insurance with United Concordia Dental for TWU Local 234 Employees;"

"Award of Contracts Pursuant to a Request for Proposal;"

"Authorization to Award Contracts for Various Procurements;"

"Award of Contracts for Sole Source Procurements;"

"Authorization to Execute Change Order & Amendments."

All items on the Consent Calendar have been reviewed by the appropriate Board Committees in public session.

I'll entertain a motion that we adopt these Resolutions.

VICE CHAIRMAN LAWRENCE: So moved.

MR. ELLIS: Second.
CHAIRMAN DEON: Any abstentions?
(No response.)

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

ALL: Aye.

CHAIRMAN DEON: The Resolutions are adopted.

Move on to the report of the general manager, Leslie.

MS. RICHARDS: Thank you, Chairman.

After nearly 15 months of all of us working together to slow the spread of COVID, the region is finally opening up. More and more people are getting vaccinated, and cases of COVID are dropping.

As all of this happens, SEPTA will play a major role in the recovery from the pandemic, and we are prepared to welcome our riders back.

Starting on Tuesday, we will lift the pandemic-related limits on the
number of customers allowed on all of our vehicles. This decision is part of our efforts to support businesses and government agencies as they announce return-to-office plans for employees; as students resume in-person classes; and as capacity limits are eased for stores and restaurants.

To ensure riders feel comfortable, SEPTA recently launched a new tool that offers customers seat availability information for buses. It provides a snapshot of the number of seats and riders on a given vehicle. This feature will eventually be expanded to cover all of our modes of service.

Even as restrictions ease in many areas, SEPTA will follow TSA and CDC mandates and guidelines that require all customers to wear a mask or face covering when traveling on public transportation. We will continue to educate riders about proper mask wearing through events, posters, and signage.
As things open up we continue to remain vigilant about keeping our employees and riders safe and healthy. All of our vehicles are well ventilated – air changes occur on every vehicle every two to three minutes, adhering to CDC recommendations. And this far exceeds recommendations for indoor places like restaurants, where health officials say outside air should circulate once an hour. We are upgrading to high-efficiency cabin air filters on vehicles. Filters are changed on a regular basis in accordance with vehicle system testing and reliability recommendations. We clean all of our vehicles daily, and they receive an intense detailed heavy cleaning every 10 days.

And, of course, the most important thing each of us can do, in addition to wearing a mask, is to practice safe hygiene to stop the spread of germs.
SEPTA also recognizes that our customers need to feel safe coming back onto our system. We have been working to renew our stations and enhance security, particularly at stations where the pandemic has exacerbated challenges related to vulnerable population.

SEPTA Transit Police are assigned to stations and vehicles throughout the service day, and are working closely with outreach specialists to connect those in need to substance use treatment, behavioral health services, and other assistance.

Security guards have been added to augment the enhanced policing.

And other efforts have been focused on reinforcing key structures, along with installing enhanced lighting, additional cameras, new signage, painting, and deep cleaning.

When people come back on our system, they will feel welcome.

And I want to remind everyone
that this Board approved a Fare Restructuring Program that included free rides for children under 12 on all of our modes; one free transfer for transit trips, and the introduction of a new three-day pass.

I want to thank our SEPTA employees for their dedication over the past 15 months in doing all they can to keep each other and our riders safe.

I also want to recognize our riders who never stopped riding our system. We recognize that for many of you, SEPTA is the way you get to work, to medical appointments, and do your grocery shopping. You couldn't stop for the pandemic, and we needed to be there for you.

Thank you for riding, for sharing your experiences, both positive and negative, and helping us get it right during this very challenging time.

Over these past few weeks, we have experienced the highest ridership
since the pandemic began, and I'm very proud to report that, and I hope that continues, and we're more than ready to welcome back riders who are ready to return. So as our loyal riders will tell you, and you will hear in our new marketing campaign: SEPTA is the way to go. We are ready to welcome you back, and, again, we are ready to see our continued riders.

And with that, that's the end of my report, Chairman Deon.

CHAIRMAN DEON: Thank you, Leslie. I will say, again, staff and the whole team has done a great job, and it's nice we do not have a depressing report from you, like the last couple months.

Thank you.

Move on, we have a couple speakers:

Mr. Hector Huezo?

MS. LOOBY: Neither of the registered speakers are on, Pat.

CHAIRMAN DEON: Okay. So get
their comments and put them on the site, if we need to.

MS. LOOBY: Yes, I will.

CHAIRMAN DEON: And before we adjourn, I would like to publicly wish Ken Lawrence a happy 50th birthday... even though he does look good for that age, okay? So happy birthday, Ken.

VICE CHAIRMAN LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN DEON: And I will ask for a motion to adjourn.

VICE CHAIRMAN LAWRENCE: I'll make the motion.

MR. ELLIS: Second.

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

ALL: Aye.

CHAIRMAN DEON: Have a nice Memorial Day weekend everybody.

Thank you.

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(Meeting concluded at 3:17 p.m.)
CERTIFICATE

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 proceedings was correctly recorded in machine shorthand by me and thereafter transcribed under my supervision with computer-aided transcription.

WITNESS my hand this 7th day of June, 2021.

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Paulette Cox, Court Reporter
Notary Public