

PATH Riders' Council Meeting Minutes – November 18, 2015 – 6:00 PM
Journal Square Transportation Center

Meeting Agenda

- I. PATH - Welcome
- II. Update: October Special Meeting on Access
- III. Presentation: PATH Overview on Grove Street Station Access Project
- IV. Discussion: Communication Brainstorming PATH Photography Policy (Vote)
- V. PRC Group Discussion
- VI. Next Steps

ATTENDEES (PRC MEMBERS):

1. Lewis Battista
2. Ralph Jimenez
3. Terry Karney
4. Jeff Lichtstein
5. Anthony Lupena
6. Stewart Mader
7. Thomas Miller
8. Noreen Redden
9. Asif Sandhu
10. Sridhar Shankar

ATTENDEES (STAFF):

1. Cheryl Ann Albiez – Senior Public Information Officer – Media Relations, PANYNJ
2. John Burkhard – Superintendent, Way & Structures Division, PATH
3. Clarelle DeGraffe – Deputy Director, PATH
4. Linda Doss – Special Services Asst., Operations Support, PATH
5. Kevin Lejda – Asst. Superintendent, Transportation Division, PATH
6. Jessica Mills – Coord. of Marketing and Customer Service Programs, Operations Support, PATH
7. Bo Nasce – Supervisor, Transportation Services, PATH
8. Atul Ragoowansi – Senior Project Manager, Capital Programs, PATH
9. Juan Carlos Rojas – Sr. External Relations Rep., Government and Community Relations, PANYNJ
10. Thomas Rowbottom – Superintendent, Car Equipment Division, PATH

I. PATH - Welcome

- Clarelle DeGraffe welcomed the PRC members on behalf of the Director, Michael P. Marino. She thanked the group for all of their continued efforts and dedication to the enhancement of PATH service to its riders.

II. Update: October Special Meeting on Access

- Stewart Mader provided an update on the October special meeting on Access in PATH stations.
 - A recommendation was made to convert the stationary gates located adjacent to the turnstiles on the track platform level at the 14th and 23rd Street stations to wider openings that would better accommodate riders with baby strollers, bicycles and luggage when exiting or entering trains.
 - John Burkhard responded that he would explore the feasibility of this recommendation.
 - A recommendation was also made to add additional grab bars in the PATH cars.
 - Tom Rowbottom noted that it would be difficult to retrofit additional grab bars without significant structural modifications to cars and that it could possibly be considered in the design considerations of the future PA-6 cars.
 - Asif Sandhu circulated an article about MTA access issues.
 - There was a recommendation for additional signage to make riders aware of the MTA elevator that is available as an alternate means to access the station in cases when the PATH elevator is temporarily out of service.
 - A recommendation was made to install additional handrails in elevators located at PATH stations that do not currently have them.
- Scheduling Team ideas – Sridhar Shankar
 - A request was made to provide access to PATH key metrics/data
 - PATH website <http://www.panynj.gov/path/statistics.html>
 - PATH Data Jam <http://codeforjtc.org/PATHDataJam/>
 - Request was made for additional AM service wherever possible
 - Kevin Lejda responded that would have to review the maintenance schedule and also identify a crew in order to consider the request of additional AM service

III. Presentation: PATH Overview on Grove Street Access Project

- Atul Ragoowansi gave a brief presentation to the group and stated the following points:
 - In regards to the southwest entrance, a new elevator is being constructed
 - A 3D model has been created, in addition to construction drawings, which provides greater clarity for the contractor on scope and details of project

- Atul explained that there cannot be a single elevator from the street to the platform because the tracks are directly under Christopher Columbus Drive, whereas entrances are on the north and south sides of the street.
- When construction began, the existing shaft was discovered in the location where the new shaft is to be constructed. The existing shaft was built 25 years prior.
- A vertical platform lift is being installed from the mezzanine to the track level. A lift will be used instead of an elevator because the ceiling height and roadway above limits space for a traditional elevator with mechanical infrastructure above the car. Hydraulics for the lift are contained below the car.
- Entry onto the lift will be on one side at the mezzanine and the exit will be on the opposite side at the track level; this eliminates the need for extra movement for disabled riders.
- The estimated contractual completion date is scheduled for December 23, 2016.

IV. Discussion: Communication Brainstorming/PATH Photography Policy (Vote)

- The group engaged in a communication brainstorm that included the following points:
 - Noreen Redden suggested that PATH embark on a campaign to inform riders of where to obtain additional PATH information.
 - Jeff Lichtstein suggested working to identify communication deficiencies.
 - Asif Sandhu discussed the perceived shortcomings of conveying information as a scrolling crawl on PATHVision.
 - Thomas Miller suggested there be an arrow indicating which side of the platform the next train will be arriving at the World Trade Center.
 - PATH staff mentioned that this feature will return to the World Trade Center platform after all station signage is completed and finalized.
 - A recommendation was made to redesign the PATH website to make it more user-friendly.
 - PRC members went on to discuss varying opinions on the current PATH Photography policy and whether any modifications could be made to allow for personal picture-taking.
 - PRC members discussed 10-car platforms and trains.

V. PRC Group Discussion

- PRC members suggested scheduling a meeting with PATH Planning staff to raise the issue of Value Capture.
- Asif Sandhu raised the question of how or what the group would recommend or communicate to the PATH Planning staff, e.g., what would the PRC members convey to PATH planning staff at these meetings.

VI. Next Steps

- The members voted to discuss Value Capture during the January 2016 meeting by unanimous vote.
- The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.