

**PATH Riders' Council Meeting Minutes – March 23, 2016 – 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**  
Journal Square Transportation Center

**Meeting Agenda**

- I. Call to Order/Agenda Review
- II. Welcome
- III. Update: Early AM Train Schedule
- IV. Presentation: Scheduling Group Discussion Points
- V. Update: Signal Project
- VI. Introduction: Historic Paulus Hook Association
- VII. Discussion: PRC Working Groups/Next Steps/Adjournment

**ATTENDEES (PRC MEMBERS):**

1. Lewis Battista
2. Dave Ho
3. Ralph Jimenez
4. Anthony Lupena
5. Stewart Mader
6. Thomas Miller
7. Noreen Redden
8. Rudolph Scott
9. Sridhar Shankar

**ATTENDEES (STAFF):**

1. Cheryl Ann Albiez – Senior Public Information Officer, Media Relations, PANYNJ
2. Radomir Bulayev – Superintendent, Power, Signals & Communications, PATH
3. Clarelle DeGraffe – Deputy Director, PATH
4. Linda Doss – Special Services Asst., Operations Support, PATH
5. Kevin Lejda – Assistant Superintendent, Transportation Division, PATH
6. Jessica Mills – Coord. of Marketing and Customer Service Programs, Operations Support, PATH
7. Juan Carlos Rojas – Sr. External Relations Rep., Government and Community Relations, PANYNJ

## **I. Call to Order/Agenda Review**

- Meeting was called to order by PRC Chairman, Stewart Mader and was seconded by Ralph Jimenez at 6:02 p.m.

## **II. Welcome**

- Clarelle DeGraffe, Deputy Director, gave opening remarks on behalf of Director/General Manager, Michael P. Marino.
  - She thanked the PRC for their support, especially during winter storms.
  - She indicated that Capital Program updates would be forthcoming during the next couple of months
- PRC member mentioned the idea of PATH providing shuttle service between Harrison and Newark during a service disruption between JSQ and Harrison with that service being provided for the duration of the disruption in service.
- Kevin Lejda stated that it would be possible to provide this service and will look to do so in the future. He also clarified the fact PATH would not be able to run this service in the event of the following possible scenarios:
  1. There are no crews available West of Harrison
  2. There is a power outage between Harrison-Newark
  - Kevin noted that these exceptions are rare.

## **III. Early AM Train Schedule**

- Sridhar Shankar proposed an additional early AM train between 5:00 AM to 6:00 AM to address 30-35 minute gaps in between trains on the Newark (EWR) to World Trade Center (WTC) line. He stated that revising the schedule to accommodate for an additional early morning train would be extremely beneficial for passengers who are catching early morning flights from EWR and for those who have employment with early shift start times.
  - In response to Shridhar's proposal, Kevin Lejda stated that PATH will add one additional train in each direction, using current train crews already built into the schedule. The next schedule adjustment will be on May 1 2016.
  - New addition to schedule: NWK-WTC train leaves Newark at 5:25 AM, arrives at Journal Square (JSQ) at 5:36 AM (Offers connection to 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, leaving JSQ at 5:40 AM)
  - NWK-WTC: Trains depart at 5:00 AM, 5:25 AM, 5:40 AM, 5:56 AM
  - New WTC-NWK train leaves WTC at 6:00 AM
  - WTC-NWK: 5:00 AM, 5:45 AM, 6:00 AM, 6:12 AM

- Motion was made by Stewart Mader for resolution in support of schedule adjustment and additional early morning trains. Motion was seconded by Sridhar Shankar.
  - PRC members who voted in favor: Thomas Miller, Louis Battista, Ralph Jimenez, Rudolph Scott, Sridhar Shankar, Anthony Lupena, Stewart Mader
  - Abstained: Noreen Redden
  - Motion passed 7 – 1

#### **IV. Presentation: Scheduling Group Discussion Points**

- Ralph Jimenez gave a brief presentation on scheduling.
- The schedule on website comes directly from the source scheduling file (Table R), which is developed by Kevin Lejda’s team.
- General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) also comes from the source scheduling file; this file is provided to Google and app developers via MIS Sciences (Vendor).
- Linda Doss advised PRC members to let PATH know if at any time a discrepancy is noted between the published schedule and the online schedule on “Apps” so that PATH can investigate.
- Kevin Lejda explained that the trains from 33<sup>rd</sup> Street to JSQ and 33<sup>rd</sup> Street to Hoboken (HOB) each run every 10 mins, which explains why it may seem like there are alternating shorter and longer gaps between trains.
- Ralph asked about ways to coordinate train schedules across agencies to minimize wait times.
- Kevin also explained that, while PATH runs as a rapid transit agency, NJ Transit runs in scheduled slots allotted by Amtrak. Since Amtrak takes priority, schedule coordination can be complicated if Amtrak changes to the schedule force NJ Transit trains to not adhere to the published schedule. PATH conductors are instructed to watch for arriving NJ Transit trains and hold the PATH train if a NJ Transit train is imminently arriving.
- Jessica Mills advised PRC to let PATH know if they see an instance where a conductor does not hold the train for an imminently arriving NJ Transit train.
- Kevin noted that with the forthcoming new signal system (Manned Automatic Train Control - MATC), the conductor will get a queue from the signal system of the time to depart, which improves intermediate station arrival and departure times.
- The new system will also enable real-time information in stations.

#### **V. Update: Signal Project**

- Radomir Bulayev led a discussion regarding the Signal Project
- The new signal system requires the following: Positive Train Control (PTC) and Communications-Based Train Control (CBTC) and Automatic Train Control (ATC)
- Congress required PTC to be fully functioning by 12/31/15, but most railroads did not meet this date.

- PATH is implementing both PTC and ATC.
- PTC prevents collisions, stops trains, and provides safety for work zones.
- ATC enables trains to broadcast locations to each other which keeps trains safe while allowing them to operate at closer distances, and also reduces headways and increases frequency.
- There has been a shortage of qualified personnel and logistical limits on manufacturing capacity for new components; Congress underestimated the time it would take for completion.
- Congress has extended the deadline for PTC to 12/31/2018.
- The effects of Superstorm Sandy have added complications to the schedule because of needed repairs to the infrastructure.
- All installations are complete in Section 1 and are partially complete in Section 2 between Newark and the Hack Bridge.
- Training for staff ranges from 2-4 hours for MOW personnel and for 2-3 weeks for the PATH Transportation Division; this training is recurring every 2 years.
- Testing has begun of ATC trains on Section 1 on Saturdays and Sundays.
- An FRA inspector is in attendance during every test; initial reports from the FRA inspectors were positive.
- Side benefit: reduction in electricity usage since system ‘smooths’ acceleration vs. human variation

## **VI. Introduction: Historic Paulus Hook Association (HPHA)**

- Dave Ho invited Stewart Mader to attend the Association’s meeting on March 3, 2016.
- Issues discussed included train frequency, schedule, and Exchange Place plaza. HPHA members expressed a desire to see fewer vehicles parked there at Exchange Place and more emphasis on pedestrian space.
- The Plaza is owned by the City of Jersey City and functions as shared space for surrounding buildings, including two hotels (one currently under construction). Transit options include Citi Bike, PATH Exchange Place station and the NJT’s Hudson-Bergen Light Rail.

## **VII. Discussion: PRC Working Groups / Next Steps / Adjournment**

- For the upcoming May 18, 2016, meeting, the PRC discussed:
  - Creation of a list of associations for PATH to make regular contact with.
  - PRC's future member composition - Stewart Mader
  - Meeting format – Ralph Jimenez
  - Glenn Guzi and the WTC update
  - Noreen Redden and the Grove St update
  - Safety & Security - Port Authority/PATH Police Department
- Noreen thanked PATH for recent elevator outage alert.
- Motion to Adjourn by Stewart Mader. It was seconded by Dave Ho and Ralph Jimenez.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:02PM.