

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**  
**RELATED TO DVRPC BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

**January 26, 2023**

**2k. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Action**

**PA23-15: Parking Improvements Program (MPMS #60540), SEPTA**

**From:** Alexander Davis  
**County:** Delaware  
**Zip Code:** 19085  
**Date Received:** 1/18/23

**Comment/Question:** Drivers having to pay \$2 to park is not a problem, and certainly not one worth spending this much money on. SEPTA has many real problems that degrade the rider experience. SEPTA's limited funds should be spent on improving transit, not car infrastructure. The fact that anyone has to say that is insane.

**Response:** Thank you for your comment. Your comment was forwarded to the DVRPC Board, DVRPC Office of Capital Programs, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT).

Thank you for your comment. The Holmesburg Junction Parking Expansion will increase station parking capacity by 87 spaces. The project aims to reduce congestion on I-95 by encouraging transit use.

Thank you for your continued involvement in the region's development.

**From:** Ash Kumar  
**County:** Philadelphia  
**Zip Code:** 19125  
**Date Received:** 1/14/23

**Comment/Question:** Recommend denial - \$2 a day is not the deterrent. There will be no meaningful improvement in usage of the line with significant purchase.

**Response:** Thank you for your comment. Your comment was forwarded to the DVRPC Board, DVRPC Office of Capital Programs, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT).

Thank you for your comment. The Holmesburg Junction Parking Expansion will

increase station parking capacity by 87 spaces. The project aims to reduce congestion on I-95 by encouraging transit use.

Thank you for your continued involvement in the region's development.

## **2I. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Action**

### **PA23-16: Transit & Regional Rail Station Program (MPMS #77183), SEPTA**

**From:** Ash Kumar

**County:** Philadelphia

**Zip Code:** 19125

**Date Received:** 1/14/23

**Comment/Question:** Please use this as an opportunity to build a bus-only lane on the highway to be used in either direction during rush-hour.

**Response:** Thank you for your comment. Your comment was forwarded to the DVRPC Board, DVRPC Office of Capital Programs, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT).

Thank you for your comment. The Northeast Corridor provides express rail service on a dedicated right-of-way that parallels I-95. Bus operations utilize local streets to provide local service to communities adjacent to I-95.

Thank you for your continued involvement in the region's development.

## **Comments/questions on non-agenda items**

**From:** Judith Robinson

**County:** Philadelphia

**Zip Code:** N/A

**Date Received:** 1/26/23

**Comment/Question, verbally submitted during the Board meeting:** Summary of verbal comment - Ms. Robinson requests for more promotion of SEPTA's Bus Revolution by DVRPC, more accessibility considerations by SEPTA for Bus Revolution, and remarks about the update of the Route 30 SEPTA bus route.

**Draft Response:** Thank you for your comment. Your comment was forwarded to the DVRPC Board and the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA).

Thank you for your reaching out to provide input on SEPTA's Bus Network Redesign project and your continued patronage of our bus service. SEPTA's bus network is the backbone of the region's transit system, and the project team is carefully reviewing all of the feedback it receives. While SEPTA's bus ridership has been the most resilient of all its modes since the beginning of the Covid Pandemic, bus ridership is still down 30-40% from 2019 levels. When adding in the ridership losses between 2013 and 2019, this means that many bus routes in SEPTA's network have lost over 50% of their ridership in the last decade. This situation is not sustainable, so SEPTA is looking at many ways to make its network more useful to more people. The focus of the first Bus Revolution draft system was on creating a connected network of frequent bus routes with an emphasis on service reliability. Frequency and reliability were the factors most mentioned by customers when asked about their transit priorities and were the guiding goals as the project team developed the initial draft.

Over the course of last fall and winter, SEPTA hosted over 35 virtual and in-person events and received over 5,000 comments on the first draft. While there were aspects of the draft network that customers liked, such as an increase in overall frequency and some new connections, it is apparent that some revisions to the draft network are necessary. SEPTA has begun the process of reviewing the feedback and revising the draft accordingly and will share an updated draft this spring. There will be another robust round of community engagement on the updated draft, and the project team will be in touch to ensure that residents in North Philadelphia and other neighborhoods have the opportunity to review the updated draft network and provide additional feedback to the technical team. SEPTA also has presented to the DVRPC RTC twice giving information and updates about the Bus Revolution. The first time on 2/9/21, you can find the highlights here:

[https://www.dvrpc.org/asp/PublicMeetingFiles/filedownload.aspx?fileid=1KW6aBTFpQmZ31clCyKgz0lrxNr0MZnkE&filename=RTC\\_Minutes\\_2021-02.pdf](https://www.dvrpc.org/asp/PublicMeetingFiles/filedownload.aspx?fileid=1KW6aBTFpQmZ31clCyKgz0lrxNr0MZnkE&filename=RTC_Minutes_2021-02.pdf). The second time was on 10/11/22: <https://www.dvrpc.org/Committees/RTC/11549>.

Thank you again for reaching out to the SEPTA Bus Revolution project team. Feel free to reach out again with any additional questions or concerns:

- Daniel Nemiroff [DNemiroff@septa.org](mailto:DNemiroff@septa.org)
- Wendy Green-Harvey [WGreen-Harvey@septa.org](mailto:WGreen-Harvey@septa.org)

Thank you for your continued involvement and engagement in the region's development.