## Regional Rail Stations Closures Study



Regional Rail Stations Closures Study


Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
The Bourse Building
111 South Independence Mall East
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2582
215.592.1800
www.dvrpc.org

Created in 1965, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) is an interstate, intercounty and intercity agency that provides continuing, comprehensive and coordinated planning to shape a vision for the future growth of the Delaware Valley region. The region includes Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery counties, as well as the City of Philadelphia, in Pennsylvania; and Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Mercer counties in New Jersey. DVRPC provides technical assistance and services; conducts high priority studies that respond to the requests and demands of member state and local governments; fosters cooperation among various constituents to forge a consensus on diverse regional issues; determines and meets the needs of the private sector; and practices public outreach efforts to promote two-way communication and public awareness of regional issues and the Commission.


Our logo is adapted from the official DVRPC seal, and is designed as a stylized image of the Delaware Valley. The outer ring symbolizes the region as a whole, while the diagonal bar signifies the Delaware River. The two adjoining crescents represent the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the State of New Jersey.

DVRPC is funded by a variety of funding sources including federal grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Pennsylvania and New Jersey departments of transportation, as well as by DVRPC's state and local member governments. The authors, however, are solely responsible for its findings and conclusions, which may not represent the official views or policies of the funding agencies.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ..... 1
INTRODUCTION ..... 5
BACKGROUND ..... 6
Passenger Surveys ..... 10
Estimated Station Level Impacts ..... 14
Changes in Travel Patterns ..... 14
Changes in Travel Times ..... 16
Changes in Parking Conditions ..... 19
Travel Demand Forecasting ..... 19
Financial Analysis ..... 25
Power Costs Savings ..... 25
Station Maintenance Costs Savings ..... 25
Expanded TMA Job Access / Reverse Commute (JARC) Services ..... 25
Capital Costs ..... 28
Revenues ..... 29
Financial Analysis Summary ..... 30
Summary and Conclusions ..... 32
Recommendations ..... 37
APPENDIX ..... following page 39Passenger Survey Results (exhibits summarizing the performance andresults of the surveys at: Lamokin Street - series "A" figures and tables,Angora - series "B" exhibits, Delaware Valley College - series "C", NewBritain - series "D", Link Belt - series "E", Fortuna - series "F", andWissinoming - series "G")
Revenue Calculations (worksheets containing ridership forecasts and resultant computations of additional annual revenue along: the R2 Line Table H1, the R3 Line - Table H2, the R5 Line - Table H3, and the R7 Line - Table H4)

## LIST OF FIGURES

1 Passenger Survey ..... 13
2 DVRPC Regional Travel Simulation Process ..... 22
LIST OF TABLES
1 Weekday Ridership ..... 8
2 Ridership Breakdown by Time Period and Direction ..... 9
3 Station Area Snap Shots ..... $11 \& 12$
4 Estimated Effects of Closures on Station Patrons ..... 15
5 Estimated Effects of Closures on Onboard Passenger Travel Time ..... 18
6 Passenger Travel Time Changes ..... 17
$7 \quad$ Estimated Effects of Closures on Parking Demand ..... 20 \& 21
8 Travel Demand Forecasting Model Inputs ..... 23
9 Travel Demand Forecasts ..... 24
10 Operating Costs - Power Savings ..... 26
11 Estimated Additional Annual Revenue ..... 29
12 Financial Analyses of 7 Station Closures ..... 31

## Executive Summary

In the Spring of 2003, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) announced that it would institute fare increases and initiate major service cutbacks in its FY '04 service plan to stave off a $\$ 55$ million operating deficit. The proposed service cutbacks included reductions in scheduled transit services, closure of individual low volume regional rail stations and service discontinuance along selected rail lines within its system. Ultimately, a short-term solution was implemented, through its budgetary process, which had less severe impacts on its system.

Coincidentally, over the past three years, DVRPC staff has been engaged in the Regional Rail Improvement Study-a separate investigation of ways to make the regional rail component of the SEPTA system more efficient. Through the work, various improvement strategies were cataloged to reduce travel time and increase the reliability of regional rail service. The study was guided by a multijurisdictional Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and supported by the technical expertise of Systra Consulting, Inc..

To date, strategies along the R5-Lansdale / Doylestown and R3-Media / Elwyn lines have been identified. The findings of both of the studies cited the closure of specific low activity stations as one means to improve onboard travel time. Systra's published recommendations acknowledged that more details needed to be examined before deciding to close a station and displace riders.

The Regional Rail Stations Closures Study was conducted to determine those details and provide the information which SEPTA needs to make those decisions, in regard to the following stations:

- Lamokin Street Station on the R2 - Wilmington and Newark Line
- Angora Station on the R3-Media / Elwyn Line
- Delaware Valley College Station on the R5-Lansdale / Doylestown Line
- New Britain Station on the R5 - Lansdale / Doylestown Line
- Link Belt Station on the R5-Lansdale / Doylestown Line
- Fortuna Station on the R5 - Lansdale / Doylestown Line
- Wissinoming Station on the R7 - Trenton Line

Each of the seven stations served fewer than 100 boarding passengers per weekday, according to statistics contained in SEPTA's 2001 Rail Ridership Census. Some stations were below the threshold SEPTA actively considers for abandonment (fewer than 50 boardings per weekday).

To complete this detailed study, technical activities were undertaken by DVRPC staff to address 10 key issues identified by Systra in its evaluation of the R5 Line. The followup issues were:

1. The total additional travel time for those forced to access another station.
2. The number of people who presently walk, or use interconnecting transit services, between their homes and each of the lightly used stations.
3. The number of reverse commuters who presently walk, or use interconnecting transit services, between the lightly used station and their place of employment.
4. The proximity of that employment to an adjacent station or other transit service.
5. The ability of adjacent stations' parking supply (existing and proposed), and the availability of interconnecting transit services (existing and proposed) to absorb displaced riders.
6. The impact on land use, environmental justice, air quality, property values and automobile vehicle miles traveled, surrounding closed stations.
7. The expected number of additional riders (peak, reverse-peak and off-peak) attracted due to the resultant faster train travel time.
8. The expected number of riders lost due to the station closing.
9. The impact of the changes on operating, maintenance and capital costs, and on revenues.
10. The legal / institutional ramifications of closing a station.

To properly address the outlined issues, DVRPC staff performed three levels of data collection and analyses. Field views and passenger surveys were conducted at each low volume station. These served in assessing the consequences of closing stations at the station level. Second, DVRPC's travel demand forecasting model was employed to determine whether increased speed of train operations, resulting from the station closures, would induce increased ridership on each of the four affected rail lines (R2, R3, R5 and R7). Lastly, using supplemental data and its own resources, DVRPC staff prepared a financial analysis of the seven stations closures program.

Total daily boardings at all seven stations in 2001 was 341 patrons-ranging between 22 patrons at Wissinoming Station to 92 customers at the Fortuna Station. From the passenger survey results an understanding of existing and contingency travel patterns were ascertained. If the stations were to close:

- Almost one-half of all boarding patrons (166) would change to an alternate station (parking diversions can be absorbed into the present supply of SEPTA parking at the adjacent stations).
- Thirteen percent of the boarding customers (45) would use an available public transportation alternative to complete their trip (most at Angora and Wissinoming stations).
- Thirty-eight percent of the boarding patrons (130) would leave SEPTA to drive to their destination or abandon the trip altogether (119 of these patrons used one of the four R5 - Doylestown branch stations-the majority were reverse commuters without public transportation alternatives).

Further analyses of the survey results, and supporting technical and financial data from in-house sources, SEPTA and Systra Consulting, Inc., allowed DVRPC staff to prepare performance measures to assess the station closures program. These are summarized below (complete narrative and tabulated details are contained in the full report).

## Summary of Closure Program's Performance Statistics

1. Additional travel time per day encountered by displaced station users
109.20 hrs.
2. Travel time saved per day by onboard regional rail passengers skipping the closed stations 337.60 hrs .
3. Overall travel time savings per day (\#2-\#1) 228.40 hrs.
4. Range of changes in daily line ridership, resulting from faster train operations (based on DVRPC travel forecasts)
$-1 \%$ to $+3 \%$

## Summary of Closure Program's Financial Analyses

1. Net annual operating and maintenance costs savings to SEPTA (includes power, snow removal, etc.)
\$159,100
2. Net capital costs savings to SEPTA (one-time expenditures avoided / repaid in the matters of providing ADA accessibility at the stations)
3. Additional annual costs to PennDOT and FTA to fund proposed
job access / reverse commute bus service for displaced R5-

Doylestown branch customers (jointly operated between
Lansdale and Doylestown by the Bucks County and Partnership
TMAs)

\$204,000
$\begin{array}{lll}\text { 4. Additional annual fare revenue to SEPTA resulting from } & \$ 380,000 \\ \text { forecasted ridership changes . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . } & \text { to } \$ 390,000\end{array}$

Based upon the evaluation of human, economic and institutional factors, the study recommended a stepped station closures program to reduce travel times, increase the reliability and efficiency of the four affected regional rail lines, and accommodate the travel needs of displaced patrons that do not have transportation alternatives.

## Recommended Implementation Steps

## 1. Plan for Closure:

- Lamokin Street Station on the R2 - Wilmington and Newark Line
- Angora Station on the R3 - Media / Elwyn Line
- Wissinoming Station on the R7-Trenton Line


## 2. Plan for Closure - Contingent upon Proven Alternate Service:

- New Britain Station on the R5 - Lansdale / Doylestown Line
- Link Belt Station on the R5 - Lansdale / Doylestown Line


## 3. Maintain Service, but Monitor:

- Fortuna Station on the R5 - Lansdale / Doylestown Line


## 4. Maintain Rail Service at the Station:

- Delaware Valley College Station on the R5 - Lansdale / Doylestown Line

It is acknowledged that SEPTA has its own service standards in place with which it evaluates its efficiency. The evaluation methodology used in this effort provides a replicable procedure that comprehensively assessed station closures, quantified value and impact, and recommended alternatives so that transportation services are continued for a majority of the affected customers. In light of its present financial state, SEPTA may consider enlisting DVRPC's assistance to extend the analyses to other low volume regional rail stations to systematize or bolster its program of station closures, and/or to reevaluate its service standards threshold.

## Introduction

For the past three years, DVRPC has been engaged in the Regional Rail Improvement Study. Through the work, various improvement strategies were cataloged to reduce travel time and increase the reliability of regional rail service. The study was guided by a multijurisdictional Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and supported by the technical expertise of Systra Consulting, Inc..

To date, strategies along the R5 - Lansdale / Doylestown and R3-Media / Elwyn lines have been identified. Both studies cited the closure of specific low activity stations as one means to improve onboard travel time. Systra's published recommendations acknowledged that more details needed to be examined before deciding to close a station and displace riders.

As a result of and as a complement to Systra's initial study findings, DVRPC prepared an initial region-wide inventory of 35 low volume SEPTA rail stations for possible inclusion into a detailed evaluation of station closures. As a consequence of the TAC's review, seven stations remained for detailed study. These were:

1. Lamokin Street Station on the R2-Wilmington and Newark Line
2. Angora Station on the R3 - Media / Elwyn Line
3. Delaware Valley College Station on the R5-Lansdale / Doylestown Line
4. New Britain Station on the R5-Lansdale / Doylestown Line
5. Link Belt Station on the R5-Lansdale / Doylestown Line
6. Fortuna Station on the R5 - Lansdale / Doylestown Line
7. Wissinoming Station on the R7 - Trenton Line

Each of the seven stations served fewer than 100 boarding passengers per weekday according to statistics contained in SEPTA's 2001 Rail Ridership Census. Some stations were below the threshold SEPTA actively considers for abandonment (fewer than 50 boardings per weekday). Other low volume stations in the region may have been omitted from this study's efforts because of the role they play in supporting municipal plans. Higher activity stations are represented in the list due, in part, to findings of the previous Systra studies.

To complete this detailed study, technical activities were undertaken by DVRPC staff to address ten key issues originally identified by Systra in its evaluation of the R5 Line. The follow-up issues were:

1. The total additional travel time for those forced to access another station.
2. The number of people who presently walk, or use interconnecting transit services, between their homes and each of the lightly used stations.
3. The number of reverse commuters who presently walk, or use interconnecting transit services, between the lightly used station and their places of employment.
4. The proximity of that employment to an adjacent station or other transit service.
5. The ability of adjacent stations' parking supply (existing and proposed), and the availability of interconnecting transit services (existing and proposed) to absorb displaced riders.
6. The impact on land use, environmental justice, air quality, property values and automobile vehicle miles traveled, surrounding closed stations.
7. The expected number of additional riders (peak, reverse-peak and off-peak) attracted due to the resultant faster train travel time.
8. The expected number of riders lost due to the station closing.
9. The impact of the changes on operating, maintenance and capital costs, and on revenues.
10. The legal / institutional ramifications of closing a station.

To properly address the outlined issues, DVRPC performed three levels of data collection and analyses. Field views and passenger surveys were conducted at each low volume station. These served in assessing the consequences of closing stations at the station level. Second, DVRPC's travel demand forecasting model was employed to determine whether increased speed of train operations, resulting from the station closures, would induce increased ridership on each of the four affected rail lines (R2, R3, R5 and R7). Lastly, using supplemental data and its own resources, DVRPC staff prepared a financial analysis of the seven stations closures program.

## BACKGROUND

To initiate the work, DVRPC staff collected and analyzed a series of published data sets. A primary source was the 2001 SEPTA Rail Ridership Census, and each line's timetable.

Service along the regional rail system in the Delaware Valley generally spans the hours between 5:30 AM and 1:00 AM. R5 service north of Lansdale ends at 11:00 PM. Levels of service to stations in the region varies. In this study's set of stations:

- Lamokin Street and Angora stations receive 30-minute headways in the peaks, in both the inbound and outbound directions. During the remaining times of the day, hourly headways prevail.
- The R5 Line's set of stations receive 30-minute service intervals in the peaks for the predominant direction of travel. All other service is rendered at 60-minute headways.
- Hourly train service is provided to Wissinoming all day long in both directions.

Table 1 provides a general description of the study station locations (fare zone and municipality) and tabulates weekday boarding activity at the stations. Each of the stations are low volume stations serving fewer than 100 boarding passengers per weekday. With the exception of the Lamokin Street Station, weekend ridership at each station was less than half the weekday levels. Lamokin Street's Saturday activity was approximately equal to weekday ons and offs.

Table 2 provides a breakdown of the weekday boarding activity by time period and direction. Shading is provided to help identify boarding and alighting patterns at the station. The patterns describe the function that the station serves and the degree to which the station is integrated within its neighborhood. In turn, that guided DVRPC staff in identifying the hours to conduct its station passenger surveys. For example:

- Lamokin Street - "Typical" commuter usage during weekday peak - AM inbound ons and PM outbound offs (yellow cells). The station is generally located at the residential end of the trip. Some midday use on weekdays (orange cells).
- Angora - "Typical" commuter usage during weekday peak - AM inbound ons and PM outbound offs (yellow cells). The station is focused at the residential end of the trip.
- Delaware Valley College - Serves residential end (yellow cells) and school / employment end (pink cells) trip-making during the peaks, i.e., two-directional travel. Employment end trips are characterized by alightings during the morning peak, and boarding during the evening peak. The station also experiences midday activity (orange cells) and evening activity (green cells), consistent with the comings and goings of student residents and evening classes at the college.
- New Britain - Serves residential end (yellow cells) and employment end (pink cells) during the peaks, i.e., two-directional travel.
- Link Belt - Overwhelmingly reflects reversed ridership - outbound offs in AM peak and inbound ons in PM (pink cells). The station is located at the employment end.
- Fortuna - Serves residential end (yellow cells) and employment end (pink cells) trip-making during the peaks. Evening activity at the station (green cells) is also documented.
Regional Rail Stations Closures Study

| Station Name | Rail Line | $\begin{gathered} \text { fare } \\ \text { zone } \end{gathered}$ | Municipality | County | Weekday Activity in 2001 (SEPTA Rail Census) |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | Inbound |  | Outbound |  | Total |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | board | leave | board | leave | board | leave |
| 1 Lamokin Street | R2 Wilmington and Newark | 3 | Chester City | Delaware | 38 | 7 | 9 | 34 | 47 | 41 |
| 2 Angora | R3 Media / Elwy | 1 | Southwest Phila. | Philadelphia | 21 | 14 | 11 | 24 | 32 | 38 |
| 3 Delaware Valley College | R5 Lansdale / Doylestown | 5 | DOYLESTOWN | Bucks | 62 | 1 | 0 | 53 | 62 | 54 |
| 4 New Britain | R5 Lansdale / Doylestown | 5 | DOYLESTOWN | Bucks | 46 | 0 | 2 | 66 | 48 | 66 |
| 5 Link Belt | R5 Lansdale / Doylestown | 5 | hatField | Montgomery | 40 | 0 | 0 | 65 | 40 | 65 |
| 6 Fortuna | R5 Lansdale / Doylestown | 5 | HATFIELD | Montgomery | 90 | 2 | 1 | 91 | 91 | 93 |
|  |  |  |  | R5 subtotal | 238 | 3 | 3 | 275 | 241 | 278 |
| 7 Wissinoming | R7 Trenton | 2 | Bridesburg, <br> Kensington, <br> Richmond | Philadelphia | 18 | 5 | 3 | 18 | 21 | 23 |
| Total |  |  |  |  | 315 | 29 | 26 | 351 | 341 | 380 |

Regional Rail Stations Closures Study
TABLE 2: Ridership Breakdown by Time Period and Direction

| Station Name | Rail <br> Line | 2001 Weekday Ridership (SEPTA Rail Census) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | INBOUND |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | OUTBOUND |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | AM |  | MD |  | PM |  | EVE |  | AM |  | MD |  | PM |  | EVE |  |
|  |  | brd | Ive | brd | Ive | brd | Ive | brd | Ive | brd | Ive | brd | Ive | brd | Ive | brd | Ive |
| 1 Lamokin Street | R2 | 18 | 0 | 13 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 1 | 10 | 3 | 10 |
| 2 Angora | R3 | 15 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 8 |
| 3 Delaware Valley College | R5 | 22 | 0 | 11 | 1 | 20 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 8 |
| 4 New Britain | R5 | 21 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 19 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 0 | 9 | 2 | 26 | 0 | 7 |
| 5 Link Belt | R5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 35 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 44 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 3 |
| 6 Fortuna | R5 | 52 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 17 | 0 | 14 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 1 | 29 | 0 | 43 | 0 | 9 |
| 7 Wissinoming | R7 | 14 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 12 | 1 | 1 |

[^0]- Wissinoming - "Typical" commuter usage during weekday peak periods, i.e., AM inbound ons and PM outbound offs (yellow cells). The station is situated at the residential end of the trip.

Table 3 contains some attributes at and surrounding the low volume stations and their neighboring stations. New items introduced in the Table include a summary of ridership and train service operating patterns, parking conditions and plans for expansion, interconnecting / alternate public transportation services, an inventory of ongoing plans and programs that may impact the station area, and environmental justice (EJ) considerations. EJ's mission-that no racial, ethnic or socioeconomic group bears a disproportionate share of any negative environmental consequences.

The scores shown in the last column of Table 3 summarize potential EJ concerns represented by "degrees of disadvantage." ${ }^{1}$ Accordingly, a total of eight components ${ }^{2}$ are used as indicators of the surrounding resident population's ability to be fairly represented and treated, and meaningfully involved in the transportation improvement development process.

All station areas, except New Britain, had some EJ issues present in surrounding populations. Considering that New Britain served an almost equal number of reverse commuters, it was suspected that members of these special population groups were also using the station for their journey-to-work. To better understand these and other ridership issues, DVRPC staff conducted passenger surveys at the seven study rail stations.

## Passenger Surveys

DVRPC prepared and administered (in March and April 2003) a questionnaire to station patrons to: gain an understanding of existing and contingency travel patterns, to estimate local impacts of closing stations, and to assist in the travel demand modeling work.

Figure 1 illustrates the final survey "instrument." The questionnaire was administered:

- In person (quick and highest return rate expected)
- To boarding passengers (most time to interview)
- On both platforms (to get both directions of travel - for multiple trip purposes)
- During key weekday time periods (covering at least half of the expected weekday users)

[^1]FIGURE 1: Passenger Survey

## Station:

$\qquad$ Platform: $\qquad$

## Date:

$\qquad$ Time:
Hello, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) is assisting SEPTA evaluate ways to improve the performance of its regional rail operations. Would you take a few moments to answer some questions which will allow us to properly conduct our evaluation? Thank you.

BOARDING CUSTOMERS


Thank You
No. $\qquad$

Comments / Suggestions (if time permits / if offered)

Various exhibits which summarize the performance and results of the survey effort are provided in the Appendix (in station order, as follows: Lamokin Street - Appendix A, Angora - Appendix B, Delaware Valley College - Appendix C, New Britain - Appendix D, Link Belt - Appendix E, Fortuna - Appendix F, Wissinoming - Appendix G). Provided for each station is a survey fact sheet (Figures A-G 1), a station passenger shed map (Figures A-G 2), and a database table of the tabulated responses (Tables A-G 1).

## Estimated Station Level Impacts

Station closures will certainly affect trip making by those who use the station. At the very least, adding travel time where alternatives can be found. Conversely, the closures will benefit onboard passenger travel times to the degree that delays would not be encountered at the skipped stations. Lastly, the closures will affect parking demand conditions at adjacent stations as alternate approaches to the rail lines are sought by displaced station users. The survey data was normalized with SEPTA's 2001 ridership census data and analyzed to estimate these impacts. The discussions that follow assume normalized data sets, not the survey returns.

## Changes in Travel Patterns

Table 4 provides a magnitude of the local effects on trip-making patterns. Of the 341 boarding patrons at the stations 166 (49\%) would change to an alternate station, 130 ( $38 \%$ ) would leave SEPTA-either to drive or abandon the trip altogether, and 45 (13\%) would use an available public transportation alternative. Descriptions at the station level follow:

- Lamokin Street Station conditions indicated that the vast majority of boarding patrons (40 of 47) would return to the R2 Line at the Chester Transportation Center (most by available bus routes or walking).
- Angora Station conditions indicated in the majority (30 of 32 ) that alternate public transportation modes would be used to complete their trip (West Philadelphia's trolleys, the G bus and the Market-Frankford Elevated Line or "EL").
- With the exception of Delaware Valley College, the R5 Line's stations (New Britain, Link Belt and Fortuna) are not presently served by alternate transit routes. As such, only a small amount of the R5 riders cited that alternate modes would be used to perform their trip (5 of 241). Interestingly, there was not much knowledge or reference by the Delaware Valley College Station users as to the availability of the Doylestown DART bus service operating between the college and the Doylestown Station.
Regional Rail Stations Closures Study

* values represent passenger survey response data factored to 2001 SEPTA ridership levels

Rather, individually and in total, conditions at the R5 Line stations indicated that roughly half (117 of 241) of the patrons would choose alternate regional rail stations (Delaware Valley College - 4, Doylestown-29, New Britain - 9, Chalfont - 13, Colmar - 15, Lansdale - 44, Pennbrook - 2, Warminster - 1). The remaining half of users (119 of 241) indicated that they would abandon the SEPTA system to drive or not make the trip. The majority of patrons that indicated they would abandon the trip entirely were reverse commuters.

Major destinations of the R5 stations' reverse commuters were: Delaware Valley College, McKnight's Smoked Foods (served by the New Britain Station), R\&B Industries (Link Belt Station), Brightfield's Nursing and Convalescent Center and M. H. Zeigler and Son's Juices \& Apple Cider (at Fortuna Station). All these employers are within one-half mile of the respective stations.

- Wissinoming Station conditions indicated that only a minority of users (4 of 21) would be without an option if the station were to close. The remaining patrons would split equally between an alternate station or available public transportation options (the "EL" and the 56 bus).


## Changes in Travel Times

Estimates of travel time changes were manually prepared.
At the station level, travel time differences were computed assuming identified travel alternatives according to the survey responses (using published transit schedules, and typical walking speeds or appropriate area-wide driving speeds versus travel distances). The data was then normalized to SEPTA 2001 ridership levels. Average system-wide travel time increases for those identifying alternatives (19 minutes per passenger per day) were applied to the "lost patrons"3 (rationally assuming that this group would do something with their time, which would be in line with the majority of the population) and summed with the estimated increases for "kept riders"-to complete the data set.

Table 4 details the estimated travel time increases which would be incurred by the present station users if the stations were closed. The grand total for added travel time due to the station closures is estimated at 109 hours, 12 minutes. The greatest individual surcharge is estimated at Delaware Valley College Station (31 hours, 25 minutes).

[^2]Table 5 summarizes the travel time savings experienced by onboard train riders assuming skipped service at the seven closed stations. The underlying calculations for passenger trips "saved" used 2001 SEPTA ridership data for those onboard the trains currently stopping at the station ${ }^{4}$, adjusted with normalized survey data to account for the cited changes in travel patterns (i.e., those who would divert to an alternate / adjacent station ${ }^{5}$ or those who would leave the system). Trip-time-savings-perpassenger values were supplied by Systra Consulting, Inc. (and include time savings associated with the elimination of train slowing / stopping and accelerating back to maximum authorized speed, as well as the station dwell time itself) ${ }^{6}$. Total onboard passenger travel time savings, associated with closing the seven stations, are estimated at 337 hours, 35 minutes, and 46 seconds. The greatest time saving occurred at the closest-in stations where onboard ridership is highest (i.e., Lamokin Street, Angora and Wissinoming).

Differences between station level travel time changes and onboard travel time changes indicate a potential benefit of the closures program, and are tabulated below.

TABLE 6: Passenger Travel Time Changes
Travel Time Increments

StATION

1. Lamokin Street
2. Angora
3. Delaware Valley College
4. New Britain
5. Link Belt
6. Fortuna
subtotal - R5
7. Wissinoming

Total

| Station Level (hh:mm:ss) | Onboard (hh:mm:ss) | Difference (hh:mm:ss) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| +19:37:00 | -79:49:55 | -60:12:55 |
| +16:46:00 | -112:31:20 | -95:45:20 |
| +31:25:00 | -12:56:53 | +18:28:07 |
| +09:33:00 | -12:56:53 | -03:23:53 |
| +13:28:00 | -11:36:16 | +01:51:44 |
| +15:52:00 | -25:35:52 | -09:43:52 |
| +70:18:00 | -63:05:53 | +07:12:07 |
| +02:30:00 | -82:08:38 | -79:38:38 |
| +109:12:00 | -337:35:46 | -228:23:46 |

[^3]Regional Rail Stations Closures Study
TABLE 5: Estimated Effects of Closures on Onboard Passenger Travel Time

| Station Name | Rail line | fare zone | time (and direction if pertinent) | onboard passenger trips "saved" by skipping the station | trip time savings per onboard passenger (in seconds) | hh:mm:ss saved |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |


| 1 Lamokin Street | R2 | 3 | day | 3,522 | 81.6 | 79:49:55 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 Angora | R3 | 1 | day | 6,232 | 65.0 | 112:31:20 |
| 3 Delaware Valley College | R5 | 5 | day | 825 | 56.5 | 12:56:53 |
| 4 New Britain | R5 | 5 | day | 825 | 56.5 | 12:56:53 |
| 5 Link Belt | R5 | 5 | am (inbound) | 312 | 0.0 | 00:00:00 |
| 5 Link Belt | R5 | 5 | rest of day | 746 | 56.0 | 11:36:16 |
| 5 Link Belt | R5 | 5 | day |  |  | 11:36:16 |
| 6 Fortuna | R5 | 5 | day | 1,631 | 56.5 | 25:35:52 |
| R5 subtotal | R5 |  |  | 4,339 |  | 63:05:53 |
| 7 Wissinoming | R7 | 2 | day | 3,801 | 77.8 | 82:08:38 |
| TOTAL |  |  |  | 17,894 |  | 337:35:46 |

Over the system, a little more than 228 hours of passenger travel time would be saved. The station closures with the greatest impact upon travel time savings are Lamokin Street, Angora and Wissinoming. In comparison, three of the five R5 Line stations reflect nominal passenger travel time differences (up and down) as a consequence of closure. The analysis reflects a moderate increase in overall travel time if the Delaware Valley College Station were to close.

## Changes in Parking Conditions

Table 7 displays the likely effects station closures will have upon adjacent stations' parking conditions. This isn't a significant matter at or adjacent to Lamokin Street, Angora or Wissinoming stations, because few do or would drive to the stations and SEPTA doesn't provide parking, except for the Highland Avenue station on the R2 Line.

Along the R5 Line, at the eight stations between and including Lansdale and Doylestown, there is a total of 1,099 SEPTA parking spaces. Parking demand in the station parking lots totaled 817 vehicles (including nine parked cars at Delaware Valley College). Closing the four R5 stations and removing the related SEPTA parking supply (70 spaces) will still yield an overall surplus of available parking spaces (212 SEPTA spaces will remain available). Conclusion: parking diversions can be absorbed within the current supply of SEPTA parking spaces along the Doylestown branch.

## Travel Demand Forecasting

DVRPC maintains a personal computer-based highway and public transportation travel simulation model that estimates travel behavior for a typical weekday and provides related travel data for different transportation network and demographic conditions ${ }^{7}$. A schematic portrayal of the four-step modeling process is shown in Figure 2.

Use of the travel demand forecasting model furnished the opportunity to obtain estimates of induced rail ridership along each of the four study rail lines (R2, R3, R5 and R7) as a consequence of faster train service. The study's modeling approach assumed the seven station closures and correspondingly altered travel times to reflect increased operating speeds along the lines. Comparisons were then drawn between modeled ridership forecasts associated with the station closures scenario and those associated with the existing station and operating configuration.

[^4]Regional Rail Stations Closures Study
TABLE 7: Estimated Effects of Closures on Parking Demand

| Rail Line \& Station | fare zone | SEPTA Parking Report (November 2002) |  |  | SEPTA expansion plans? Other comments. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | SEPTA <br> supply | SEPTA <br> demand | SEPTA spaces available |  |
| R2 Wilmington and Newark Line |  |  |  |  |  |
| Highland Av. | 4 | 30 | 2 | 28 | No expansion plan. |
| Lamokin Street* | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | No expansion plan. |
| Ch. Trans. Ctr. | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | No expansion plan. |
| total |  | 30 | 2 | 28 |  |
| total w/o * supply |  | 30 | 2 | 28 |  |
| R3 Media / Elwyn Line |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fernwood | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | No expansion plan. |
| Angora* | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | No expansion plan. |
| $49^{\text {th }}$ Street | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | No expansion plan. |
| total |  | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| total w/o * supply |  | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| R7 Trenton Line |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tacony | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | No expansion plan. |
| Wissinoming* | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | No expansion plan. |
| Bridesburg | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | No expansion plan. |
| total |  | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| total w/o * supply |  | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |


|  |  |
| :--- | :---: |
| No expansion plan. |  |
| No expansion plan. |  |

No expansion plan.

TABLE 7: Estimated Etects of Closures on Parking Demand

* Estimates assume all current parkers divert to alternate stations.
Regional Rail Stations Closures Study
TABLE 7: Estimated Effects of Closures on Parking Demand

| Rail Line \& Station | fare zone | SEPTA Parking Report (November 2002) |  |  | SEPTA expansion plans? Other comments. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | SEPTA supply | SEPTA demand | SEPTA spaces available |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| R5 Lansdale / Doylestown Line |  |  |  |  |  |
| Doylestown | 5 | 185 | 165 | 20 | Candidate for expansion. |
| Delaware Valley College* | 5 | 0** | 9** | 0** | Candidate for expansion. **Commuter parking permits are available from DVC. DVRPC's 4/1/03 survey at the station indicates that about 9 spaces are used in this way. Additionally, about 50 spaces (plus 4 H.C. spaces) remain available near the station, at the rear of DVC's main lot. |
| New Britain* | 5 | 37 | 25 | 12 | Candidate for expansion. |
| Chalfont | 5 | 56 | 56 | 0 | No expansion plan. |
| Link Belt* | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | No expansion plan. |
| Colmar | 5 | 291 | 176 | 115 | No expansion plan. |
| Fortuna* | 5 | 33 | 24 | 9 | No expansion plan. |
| Lansdale | 5 | 497 | 362 | 135 | No expansion plan. Large adjacent municipal lot's remote spaces are closest to the station. Plenty available at \$1/day closer to the station than SEPTA's available supply. |
| total |  | 1,099 | 817 | 291 |  |
| total w/o * supply |  | 1,029 | 817 | 212 |  |

* Estimates assume all current parkers divert to alternate stations.


## FIGURE 2

DVRPC REGIONAL TRAVEL SIMULATION PROCESS


Table 8 presents the time and distance inputs, which were varied in the modeling exercise. Time and distance variables, between adjacent served stations, were changed by DVRPC staff ${ }^{8}$ to reflect faster regional rail operations resulting from skipping stops. Additionally, the model's station "loader links" were disconnected from the closed stations and reconnected to adjacent or alternate stations, in the station closures scenario, guided by the results of the passenger survey work.

Table 9 displays average daily two-way total onboard ridership estimates summarized on a fare zone basis. The changes are nominal, ranging from a small decline $(-1 \%$ in fare zone 1 at Angora on the R3 Line) to small increases ( $+3 \%$ in fare zone 3 at Lamokin Street on the R2, and in fare zone 5 along the Doylestown branch of the R5). The ramifications of the forecasted ridership changes may be more precisely evaluated in the context of their effect upon revenue.

[^5]Regional Rail Stations Closures Study

| Station Name / adjacent stations | RailLine | fare <br> zone | Existing Conditions |  |  |  | Station Closure Scenario |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | dist. betw. adj. stations (mi. along tracks) | existing scheduled travel time (minutes) |  |  | travel time after closures (minutes) |  |  | dist. betw. adj. stations (mi. along trax) |  |
|  |  |  |  | peak | midday | evening | peak | midday | evening |  |  |


| Highland Avenue | R2 | 4 | 1.1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.1 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 Lamokin Street | R2 | 3 | - |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Chester Trans Ctr. | R2 | 3 | 1.0 | 2 | 2 | 2 |  |  |  |  |
| Fernwood | R3 | 2 | 1.0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3.3 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.2 |
| 2 Angora | R3 | 2 | - |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 49th Street | R3 | 1 | 1.2 | 3 | 3 | 3 |  |  |  |  |
| Doylestown | R5 | 5 | 1.9 | 2.5 | 4 | 4 | 9.1 | 11.8 | 11.8 | 4.7 |
| 3 Delaware Valley College | R5 | 5 | - |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| New Britain | R5 | 5 | 1.0 | 3 | 2 | 2 |  |  |  |  |
| Delaware Valley College | R5 | 5 | 1.0 | 3 | 2 | 2 |  |  |  |  |
| 4 New Britain | R5 | 5 | - |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Chalfont | R5 | 5 | 1.8 | 5 | 7 | 7 |  |  |  |  |
| Chalfont | R5 | 5 | 2.3 | 3.5 | 4 | 4 | 5.7 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 2.9 |
| 5 Link Belt | R5 | 5 | - |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Colmar | R5 | 5 | 0.6 | 3 | 2 | 2 |  |  |  |  |
| Colmar | R5 | 5 | 0.9 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 2.3 |
| 6 Fortuna | R5 | 5 | - |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lansdale | R5 | 5 | 1.4 | 5 | 3 | 3 |  |  |  |  |
| Tacony | R7 | 2 | 1.1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 1.9 |
| 7 Wissinoming | R7 | 2 | - |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bridesburg | R7 | 2 | 0.8 | 2 | 2 | 2 |  |  |  |  |

Regional Rail Stations Closures Study
TABLE 9: Travel Demand Forecasts

| fare zone | SEPTA 2001 Census Counts <br> avg. fare zone, two-way total on-board volume* | Station Closures Scenario Forecasts avg. fare zone, two-way total on-board volume | Differences |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | absolute change | percent change |


| R2 Wilmington and Newark Line |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Newark to Churchman's Crossing | 5 | 694 | 698 | 53 | 1\% |
|  | Wilmington to Highland Avenue | 4 | 2,902 | 2,955 | 53 | 2\% |
|  | Lamokin Street to Ridley Park | 3 | 4,195 | 4,326 | 131 | 3\% |
|  | Prospect Park to Darby | 2 | 5,861 | 5,959 | 98 | 2\% |
| R3 Media / Elwyn Line |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Elwy to Swarthmore | 3 | 2,274 | 2,284 | 10 | 0\% |
|  | Morton to Fernwood-Yeadon | 2 | 6,592 | 6,641 | 49 | 1\% |
| 2 | Angora to 49th Street | 1 | 8,114 | 8,003 | -111 | -1\% |
| R5 Lansdale / Doylestown Line |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3,4,5,6 | Doylestown to Pennbrook | 5 | 2,358 | 2,428 | 70 | 3\% |
|  | North Wales to Penllyn | 4 | 6,230 | 6,406 | 176 | 3\% |
|  | Ambler to North Hills** | 3 | 9,512 | 9,674 | 162 | 2\% |
| R7 Trenton Line |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Trenton | 6 | 2,727 | 2,734 | 7 | 0\% |
|  | Levittown | 5 | 3,471 | 3,512 | 41 | 1\% |
|  | Bristol to Eddington | 4 | 4,316 | 4,336 | 20 | 0\% |
|  | Cornwells Heights to Torresdale |  | 7,517 | 7,531 | 14 | 0\% |
| 7 | Holmesburg Junction to Bridesburg | 2 | 9,391 | 9,509 | 118 | 1\% |

* Average fare zone calculations exclude onboard volumes at closed station(s)
${ }^{\star *}$ Onboard volumes at Glenside and Jenkintown are omitted from R5 fare zone 3 calculations
Note: highlighted rows are the fare zones which contain the $\mathbf{7}$ station closures


## Financial Analysis

The financial assessment of the stations closures builds off the previous work and integrates new information obtained from SEPTA, Systra Consulting, Inc. and the Bucks County Transportation Management Association (TMA). Brief discussions follow which are directed to:

- Operating costs (power) savings
- Maintenance costs savings
- Costs associated with supplementary services (potentially provided by TMAs)
- Capital and institutional costs
- Revenue estimates

Detailed and summary spreadsheets are provided to show assumptions and calculations. A final table summarizes the financial evaluation.

## Power Costs Savings

Power cost savings are anticipated from abandoning stations and skipping stops. Annual savings are itemized in Table 10 with sources and assumptions noted.

Power savings related to closing the Link Belt Station were computed assuming no delays experienced by four A.M. peak inbound trains-consistent with the calculations for onboard passenger travel time savings (refer to Table 5).

## Station Maintenance Costs Savings

Avoiding maintenance at stations that would be closed and abandoned would yield savings to SEPTA. Preliminary information suggested that a system-wide average of $\$ 10,000$ per year is spent by SEPTA maintaining station properties (including snow removal). Information varying the annual maintenance costs-for individual stations, and/or for stations with or stations without parking was not available ${ }^{9}$. Therefore, the system average was used in the financial calculations.

## Expanded TMA Job Access / Reverse Commute (JARC) Services

Preliminary improvement strategies were identified to mitigate the public transportation service gaps that would result with the station closures along the R5-Doylestown branch (especially for its reverse commuters). Suggestions for improving existing services and/or providing additional services and amenities, at the station level, were preliminarily identified through the technical and committee work. These were:

[^6]Regional Rail Stations Closures Study
TABLE 10: Operating Costs - Power Savings

notes:

* SEPTA's Consist Tables \& Route Timetables
*** assumes: SEPTA's annualization methodology, and current system-wide regional rail power costs @ $\$ 0.07$ per kWh (SEPTA)
- Delaware Valley College Station - Promote the availability of the Doylestown DART service between the college and the Doylestown Station. Few of the surveyed riders made reference to the service as an alternate to the train station, and SEPTA trailpasses are honored on the DART.
- New Britain Station-McKnight's Smoked Foods - Extend Bucks County TMA's Doylestown DART service southward from Delaware Valley College (+2.0 miles one-way).
- Link Belt Station - Provide continuous sidewalk along Walnut Street between Colmar Station and R\&B Industries, Inc.. Alternately, SEPTA could continue to provide limited peak period reverse commute rail service to the station (i.e., two outbound stopping trains during the AM peak, and two inbound stopping trains in the PM) to fill the service void.
- Fortuna Station-Brightfield's Nursing Facility, and Zeigler's Ciders - The Bucks County TMA operates its Pennridge and Quakertown RUSH routes out from the Lansdale train station in the morning, and back in the afternoon. Routing in the station's vicinity is flexible, and left to the driver's discretion between the station and PA 309. More often than not, the van is operating along Broad Street, already passing these employers en route. An institutional challenge is presented by the fact that the employers are both located within the Partnership TMA's service area in Montgomery County.

The Bucks County TMA was contacted while researching the practicality and costs of these strategies. As part of those conversations, it was learned that the Bucks County and Partnership ${ }^{10}$ TMAs have been examining potential joint transit service initiatives in the US 202 corridor between Lansdale and Doylestown. As part of that work, the agencies have developed a comprehensive strategy to address the reverse commuting patterns along the R5 - Doylestown branch. The TMAs have identified several dozen businesses with 100 or more employees within the corridor, and have developed a preliminary operating plan. The four Doylestown branch stations being examined for closure and the employers cited herein are targeted within that potential joint service.

The Bucks County TMA provided a cost estimate for the potential service expansion of $\$ 204,000$ per year (grant applications for funding the service are to be submitted through FTA and PennDOT).

[^7]
## Capital Costs

Station abandonment would yield capital costs savings for SEPTA by obviating the installation of accessibility improvements at stations that are not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The applicable stations were: Lamokin Street, Angora, New Britain, Fortuna and Wissinoming stations.

Cost estimates to deliver ADA accessibility at the stations were obtained from SEPTA. Typical improvement elements include high level platforms, wheelchair ramps, and crossovers. The improvements necessary to accommodate multitrack cross sections and dual platforms yield substantially greater cost estimates at Lamokin Street and Angora stations (each estimated to be between $\$ 3.0$ and $\$ 4.5$ million) than the accessibility measures needed at New Britain and Fortuna. Each of the latter are single-track stations with one platform (estimated at \$300,000 each).

Cost estimates for making the Wissinoming Station accessible, which shares characteristics of the Lamokin Street and Angora stops, are compounded by the presence of a dedicated rail freight track adjacent to the outbound platform. The track's very poor condition, its lack of overhead catenary and its dual-need to serve mixedpassenger and freight traffic-precluded formulating a reliable cost estimate within the context of this study. It is fair to conclude, however, that while the station's costs are inestimable for this exercise, Wissinoming's costs would well exceed those cited for the Lamokin Street and Angora stations.

Institutional matters (included in Issue \#10) were judged best addressed within the category of capital costs. The key point identified by the TAC would be the need for SEPTA to reimburse PennDOT for the present value ${ }^{11}$ of state-funded ADA improvements installed at the stations that would close. The applicable stations in this category were the Delaware Valley College and Link Belt stations.

Conversely, SEPTA could relocate and reuse the ADA accessibility features found at Delaware Valley College and Link Belt elsewhere in its system. Were this to occur, SEPTA would be required to bear those additional costs. This latter option was judged to be less economical than reimbursing PennDOT and was dropped from further consideration in this study.

[^8]
## Revenues

Changes in revenues anticipated from the potential station closures program were calculated using outputs from the travel demand modeling exercises conducted to address Issue \#7.

Annual revenue estimates are summarized in Table 11. The methodology and assumptions supporting the table are detailed in worksheets in Appendix H (Table H1 for the R2 Line, Table H2 for the R3 Line, Table H3 for the R5 Line, and Table H4 for the R7 Line).

TABLE 11: Estimated Additional Annual Revenue

| Rail Line | Estimated <br> Using Direct Model <br> Outputs | Estimated <br> Using Adjusted Model <br> Outputs |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |


| R2 -Wilmington and Newark <br> Line | $\$ 102,969$ | $\$ 128,627$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| R3 - Media / Elwyn Line | $(\$ 45,637)$ | $\$ 5,232$ |
| R5 -Lansdale / Doylestown <br> Line | $\$ 192,863$ | $\$ 89,933$ |
| R7 - Trenton Line | $\$ 129,288$ | $\$ 164,570$ |
| Total: |  | $\$ 379,483$ |

Two levels of estimated revenues were provided for sensitivity purposes. One set assumed the direct model outputs as the basis for the estimates. The second set tempered the direct outputs based upon a closer examination of actual station boarding data and ridership patterns-in or between the fare zones. A brief account of the observations and changes made between the data sets follows.

- R2 Line - overstated relationship between fare zones 2 and 3 in the modeled output
- R3 Line - the model results overstated the relationship between Angora Station and $49^{\text {th }}$ Street Station, both in fare zone 1
- R5 Line - overstated modeled relationships between fare zones 3 and 4 with fare zone 5
- R7 Line - modeled ridership in fare zone 2 shifted unreasonably to fare zones 3 and 4 (i.e., further out and more expensive) to take advantage of available express service on the line

Fares applied to the ridership changes within a fare zone were obtained from SEPTA. They are system-wide averages of fares collected in the specified fare zone on the Regional Railroad Division (during February 2003 and April 2003), and do not differentiate between time, day, direction, or length of trip. The relationships between Saturday, Sunday and weekday ridership levels were formulated by DVRPC staff-by fare zone along each studied rail line-according to onboard ridership trends documented in the 2001 SEPTA Rail Ridership Census.

Except for the R3 Line, revenue changes are forecasted to be positive assuming the direct or the adjusted model output. The modeled ridership associated with closing the R3 Line's Angora Station indicates a $\$ 45,600$ revenue loss. Applying the adjusted model outputs, in the methodology, indicates a small gain in revenue of $\$ 5,200$. The survey findings used in the station level analysis (presented in Table 4) indicated that displaced riders at Angora would in the vast majority use an alternate SEPTA mode to complete their trips. As a consequence, projected revenue declines on the Regional Railroad Division would be captured to some degree by SEPTA's City Transit Division.

In total, between $\$ 380,000$ and $\$ 390,000$ of additional annual fare revenue is estimated from forecasted ridership changes-attributed to increased train operating speeds attained through the stations closures program. The exercise adds dimension and clarity to the forecasted ridership changes developed in response to Issue \#7.

## Financial Analysis Summary

Table 12 reflects a balance sheet of expenditures, savings and revenues surrounding the seven station closures. Totals are provided by responsible agency and whether the costs are one-time expenditures or annually incurred.

While the revenue figures are a valuable index emanating from the work, it is judged that the cost calculations (i.e., savings versus expenditures) provide a more secure financial indicator for decision making. As such, SEPTA stands to save approximately $\$ 159,100$ annually in operating and maintenance costs, and in excess of $\$ 7.74$ million ${ }^{12}$ in capital outlays if service to the seven stations were discontinued.

Individual station costs may be isolated in Table 12 to evaluate a lesser set of station closures.

[^9]
## TABLE 12 : Financial Analyses of 7 Station Closures



## Summary and Conclusions

The completed technical work provided the basis for addressing the study's key issues. That discussion follows on a point-for-point basis.

1. The total additional travel time for those forced to access another station Addressed in detail in Table 4. A total of 109 additional hours per day will be encountered by the 341 daily boarding patrons forced to find alternatives to their present travel patterns. The estimate of added travel time includes driving to alternate stations or using alternate modes of travel to complete their present trips. The single greatest travel time surcharge is estimated for the 62 patrons using the Delaware Valley College Station (31 additional hours of travel time per day).
2. The number of people who presently walk, or use interconnecting transit services, between their homes and each of the lightly used stations Incorporated into Table 4, and identified below.

| station | 2001 | From home, the number: |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Boardings | walking | taking transit |
| Lamokin St. | 47 | 39 | 0 |
| Angora | 32 | 30 | 0 |
| Del. Val. Col. | 62 | 0 | 0 |
| New Britain | 48 | 2 | 0 |
| Link Belt | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| Fortuna | 91 | 22 | 0 |
| Wissinoming | 21 | 12 | 0 |

The greatest impact to pedestrians accessing the stations from their homes will be at the Lamokin Street, Angora, Fortuna and Wissinoming stations. Alternate scheduled SEPTA transit service, to deliver patrons to adjacent stations or major destinations, is available in the vicinity of all but the Fortuna Station. Most of the riders are using a trailpass or transpass so that additional fares won't be necessary for those customers who do have a SEPTA alternative. On the other hand, it should be noted that according to the survey returns, few of the regional rail system's customers are presently accessing the trains via other public transportation services.
3. The number of reverse commuters who presently walk, or use interconnecting transit services, between the lightly used station and their place of employment - Incorporated into Table 4, and identified below.

| station | 2001 | From work or school, the number: |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Boardings | walking | dropped-off | taking transit |
| Lamokin St. | 47 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Angora | 32 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Del. Val. Col. | 62 | 32 | 0 | 0 |
| New Britain | 48 | 10 | 13 | 0 |
| Link Belt | 40 | 34 | 6 | 0 |
| Fortuna | 91 | 24 | 0 | 0 |
| Wissinoming | 21 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

Reverse commuters will be most disadvantaged at the R5 Line's four stations, particularly at New Britain, Link Belt and Fortuna-where no interconnecting transit exists.
4. The proximity of that employment to an adjacent station or other transit service - Incorporated into Table 4. Sites attracting reverse commuters are presently within one-half mile of the R5 stations. Assuming station closures the distances will be increased, as follows:

| station | attraction | existing distance | alternate station | new distance |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Del. Val. Col. | Del. Val. Col. |  | Doylestown | 2.30 mi |
| New Britain | McKnight's | 0.50 mi | Doylestown | 3.20 mi |
|  |  |  | Chalfont | 1.50 mi |
| Link Belt | R\&B Inc. | - | Colmar | 0.70 mi |
| Fortuna | Brightfield's | 0.25 mi | Lansdale | 2.25 mi |
|  |  |  | Colmar | 1.50 mi |
|  | Zeigler's | 0.50 mi | Lansdale | 1.70 mi |
|  |  |  | Colmar | 1.40 mi |

5. The ability of adjacent stations' parking supply (existing and proposed), and the availability of interconnecting transit services (existing and proposed) to absorb displaced riders - Addressed in Tables 3 and 7.

First, parking (Table 7). There is sufficient parking supply along the R5Doylestown branch, provided by SEPTA, to absorb the diverted parking demands of the four closed stations. Only a handful of the patrons at Lamokin Street, Angora and Wissinoming stations indicated that they would drive to an alternate rail station. SEPTA does not provide parking facilities at any of the cited alternates.

There are no firm plans for parking expansions at any of the stations identified in this study. However, some reasonable opportunities were identified through the work and are worthy of disclosure:

- Delaware Valley College - about 50 unoccupied parking spaces exist near the station in the school's general parking lot. A Delaware Valley College parking permit is required ( $\$ 10 / \mathrm{mo}$. or $\$ 100 / \mathrm{yr}$.). Future expansions or additions to the college's facilities present opportunities to provide additional parking spaces for campus needs and potentially for commuter use.
- Fortuna - a large vacant field exists across the tracks from the station.
- Lansdale - a large underutilized municipal parking lot is adjacent to the station. The lot's remotest spaces are closest to the station-closer than SEPTA's available supply in the Lansdale Station lot-and cost one dollar for 12 hours.

The passenger survey results indicated that few patrons interconnect to the regional rail system from other transit modes. Still, alternate transit services do exist that directly serve Lamokin Street, Wissinoming and Delaware Valley College stations (Table 3) and could be used to access adjacent stations. At Angora Station alternate routes are provided that serve major destinations (Table 3). New Britain, Link Belt and Fortuna are not presently served by public modes. At New Britain an informal shuttle service is provided by McKnight's Smoked Foods coworkers / management. Whether the arrangement is employersupported is not known. Not all commuters partake; many walk straight up or down the tracks between the company and the station.

Opportunities for improving existing services and/or providing additional services and amenities at the individual station level were preliminarily identified through the technical and committee work. Ultimately, a more comprehensive strategy to address the reverse commuting patterns along the R5-Doylestown branch was identified, the plans for which are already in progress.

The Bucks County TMA and Partnership TMA are cooperating in planning and operating a joint JARC transportation initiative in the US 202 corridor between Lansdale and Doylestown. The four Doylestown branch stations being examined for closure and the employers cited herein are targets for that potential service. The TMAs have developed a preliminary operating description for the service (estimated to cost $\$ 204,000$ per year to be funded through FTA and PennDOT grants).

The TMAs' corridor-wide JARC transportation service would replace the station level mitigation suggestions / strategies preliminarily identified for New Britain, Link Belt and Fortuna stations.
6. The impact on land use, environmental justice (EJ), air quality, property values and automobile vehicle miles traveled, surrounding closed stations Addressed in Tables 3, 4 and 7. Each station is integrated into its environs. Pedestrian connections between the stations, and home and workplaces are evident at each station. Plans to promote the areas surrounding the stations have been identified for Lamokin Street, Delaware Valley College and Wissinoming, and are in varying states of readiness.

Each station contains some element of EJ concerns, whether in the surrounding neighborhoods or as involves its reverse commute patrons. Alternate public transportation services are available to accommodate displaced riders at all stations but New Britain, Link Belt and Fortuna stations. A service improvement plan is being pursued by the responsible TMAs to close those gaps.

Changes in regional vehicular travel will be imperceptible due to the station closures. Locally, there will be a displacement of small volumes of traffic from the closed train stations to the adjacent stations where parking spaces are available. At most, Lansdale can expect an additional 44 cars, Doylestown an additional 33 cars, Chalfont an additional 22 cars and Colmar an additional 15 cars. In whatever way the displaced demand distributes itself-there is sufficient overall supply to accommodate the demand along the Doylestown branch. The areas surrounding the destination stations are already subject to high local traffic activity due to larger station parking lots, nearby traffic arteries (e.g., US 202 and PA 309) and activity centers (the Doylestown and Lansdale commercial districts). The identified traffic volume increments are negligible in comparison.
7. The expected number of additional riders (peak, reverse-peak and off-peak) attracted due to the resultant faster train travel time - Addressed in Table 9. Onboard daily ridership is estimated to change minimally ( $-1 \%$ to $+3 \%$ ) along segments of the four regional rail lines as a consequence of the increased operating speeds attained with the station closures. The ramifications of the forecasted ridership changes are more clearly appreciated in the context of their effect upon revenue (see item \#9, below).
8. The expected number of riders lost due to the station closing - Addressed in Table 4. Of the 341 daily boarding passengers at the seven stations studied for closure:

- $130(38 \%)$ would leave SEPTA-35 would drive to their destination, while 95 would abandon the trip altogether (the vast majority in the latter category were reverse commuters)
- 45 (13\%) indicated they would use an alternate mode-most operated by SEPTA)
- 166 (49\%) indicated that they would access the regional rail system at an adjacent or alternate station

9. The impact of the changes on operating, maintenance and capital costs, and on revenues - Summarized in Table 12.

Closing the seven regional rail stations would yield an annual savings of $\$ 159,100$ in operating and maintenance costs for SEPTA (e.g., $\$ 89,100$ for power, and $\$ 70,000$ for station maintenance). Future capital outlays required of SEPTA would be reduced by at least $\$ 7.74$ million (e.g., $\$ 8.1$ million - by avoiding the costs of installing accessibility improvements at Lamokin Street, Angora, New Britain, Fortuna, and Wissinoming stations less $\$ 357,000$ - paybacks for PennDOT grants, which provided the accessibility elements in place at the Delaware Valley College and Link Belt stations).

SEPTA's annual revenues are estimated to increase between $\$ 380,000$ and $\$ 390,000$ as a result of forecasted ridership changes-induced by increased train operating speeds accompanying the station closures. It is concluded, however, that the cost calculations (i.e., savings versus expenditures) provide a more definitive indicator for decision making.

Annual operating costs to the two TMAs serving the Doylestown branch corridor are estimated to increase by a total of $\$ 204,000$-to fill the service gaps for reverse commuters within the broader US 202 corridor between Lansdale and Doylestown. Benefits from the potential service along the R5 Line will be shared by reverse commuters and the firms served by New Britain, Link Belt and Fortuna stations.
10. The legal / institutional ramifications of closing a station - Institutional matters were identified through the committee work. Assuming closure of the Delaware Valley College and Link Belt stations-the TAC recognized that SEPTA would be required to reimburse PennDOT for the present value of previously funded and installed ADA accessibility improvements at the stations. Ultimately, the topic was judged better addressed as a capital cost, and as such is covered in Issue \#9 (above).

## Recommendations

Based upon the preceding comprehensive evaluation of human, economic and institutional factors surrounding seven low volume SEPTA regional rail stations-the study's recommendations provide a stepped station closures program which will reduce travel times and increase the reliability and efficiency of the four affected regional rail lines, and accommodate the travel needs of displaced patrons that do not have transportation alternatives.

## 1. Plan for Closure:

- Lamokin Street Station on the R2 - Wilmington and Newark Line
- Angora Station on the R3 - Media / Elwyn Line
- Wissinoming Station on the R7 - Trenton Line

Each station has fewer than 50 boarding or alighting passengers per weekday. Alternate SEPTA transit services are provided at or near the stations.

Station service discontinuance proceedings are contained in SEPTA's FY '04 Annual Service Plan and Operating Budget. Lamokin Street service was permanently discontinued July 6, 2003, and service was permanently discontinued at Wissinoming on November 9, 2003. Angora Station's closure is subject to the results of a marketing campaign aimed at boosting ridership to a minimum of 50 boardings per weekday.

## 2. Plan for Closure - Contingent upon Proven Alternate Service:

- New Britain Station on the R5 - Lansdale / Doylestown Line
- Link Belt Station on the R5 - Lansdale / Doylestown Line

Both stations are below the minimum 50 weekday boarding passenger service standard, while departing patron volumes (i.e., leaves) exceed the threshold. As such, the average weekday activity at each station marginally exceeds 50 people. Forty percent of the New Britain patrons and 70 percent of the Link Belt patrons do not have alternatives for completing their trips. The majority of these customers are reverse commuters.

Ceasing service at the stations should be undertaken judiciously, and in tandem with potential TMA sponsored JARC transportation services (or limited reverse-oriented rail service provided) within the Doylestown branch corridor.

## 3. Maintain Service, but Monitor:

- Fortuna Station on the R5-Lansdale / Doylestown Line

The station serves approximately 92 people in the course of a weekday, and is the highest activity station of the seven included in this evaluation. SEPTA has noted that Fortuna Station's boarding activity continues to rise-despite recently implemented renovations and parking expansions at adjacent stations. Almost one-half of the station's current users cited that no transportation alternatives exist to complete their trip. In contrast to New Britain and Link Belt, many of the Fortuna Station patrons were typical-predominant time and direction-commuters who walk to the station from their residences.

For these reasons, it is suggested that service to the Fortuna Station be maintained for the near term, but monitored as JARC transit service comes on-line to the corridor. Assuming success of the JARC, the shuttle's service and schedule could be expanded to accommodate two-directional travel throughout the day (akin to the Doylestown DART) to accompany the closure of Fortuna.

## 4. Maintain Rail Service at the Station:

- Delaware Valley College Station on the R5 - Lansdale / Doylestown Line

The station serves about 58 people per weekday, supports the college's marketing efforts and is supported by the campus' master plan. An $\$ 8$ million Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture grant is in hand to construct a biotech research center and related incubator space for biotech start-up companies on the campus. The development will strengthen the school's existing relationship with Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Center City Philadelphia. All of which should generate additional rail ridership to and from the Delaware Valley College Station.

From a more remote perspective-the station is situated in close proximity to the regional highway network, and even though it is private property, public parking privileges are granted by DVC permit and spaces remain available near the station. The biotech center and/or other campus development proposals may provide the opportunity for more commuter parking at the college.

It is acknowledged that SEPTA has its own service standards in place with which it evaluates its efficiency. Still, the evaluation methodology used in this effort provides a replicable procedure that comprehensively assessed station closures, quantified value and impact, and recommended alternatives so that transportation services are continued for a majority of the affected customers. SEPTA may consider enlisting DVRPC's assistance to extend the analyses to other low volume regional rail stations to systematize or bolster its program of station closures, and/or to reevaluate its service standards threshold.

## APPENDIX

## Regional Rail Stations Closures Study

|  | Inbound <br> Survey conducted Tuesday, March 18, | Outbound <br> (5:54 am - 2:04 pm) | Total |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Surveys conducted | 21 | 3 | 24 |
| Passengers missed | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Total Boards | 24 | 3 | 27 |
| Summary of SEPTA 2001 Census Data |  | 47 |  |
| Weekday Boards | 38 | 9 | 36 |
| 5:54am - 2:04 pm Boards | 31 | 5 | 34 |
| Saturday Boards | 29 | 5 | 16 |

How many days of the week do you use this station? Average 4.63


View of station from outbound stairway How did you arrive at the station? Walked: 20, Dropped-off: 3, Bus \#113: 1 What is the purpose of this trip?

| Work: | 15 | Recreation: | 1 |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :--- |
| School: | 5 | Medical: | 1 |
| Home: | 1 | N/A: | 1 |

Where did you begin this trip? Home: 23, Work: 1 Business name \& address / Nearby Intersection?

See shed map, 22 of 24 are shown on map
Municipality? All were Chester City
Zip Code? All were 19013
To which station are you destined now?

| Suburban: | 10 | $30^{\text {th }}$ Street: | 1 |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :--- |
| Market East: | 5 | Temple: | 1 |
| Wilmington: | 3 | Curtis Park: | 1 |
| University City: | 2 | Prospect Park | 1 |
| yment method are you using? |  |  |  |
| Trailpass: | 11 | Senior Fare: | 1 |
| Cash: | 10 | N/A: | 1 |
| Single Ticket: | 1 |  |  |

Do you know what alternatives exist if this station were to become unavailable? 20 answered YES, or showed that they knew of one or more alternatives 4 answered NO
How would you complete your trip? (some gave more than one answer)
Chester Transportation Center (walk, bus, or drop off): 20
Bus (to other than Chester Trans. Center): 2
Swarthmore: 1
Drive: 1
No Idea: 1


Comments / Suggestions:
very inconvenient if station closed snow and ice not shoveled more money if she had to use bus to train walkway and sidewalk on Outbound side is unsafe walkway unsafe and not shoveled (Outbound side)
serves center of Chester, weekends are busy too senior - rarely use system, 1st time in months station is very convenient increase amenities \& security, work with Chester city no service on sat. and sun., station is convenient and needed for work



Survey conducted Wednesday, March 19, 2003 (6:04 am - 12:19 pm)

| Surveys conducted | 11 | 3 | 14 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Passengers missed | 2 | 1 | 3 |
|  | 13 | 4 | 17 |
| Summary of SEPTA | 2001 | Census Data |  |
| Weekday Boards | 21 | 11 | 32 |
| 6:04am - 12:19 pm Boards | 19 | 9 | 28 |
| Saturday Boards | 9 | 6 | 15 |
| Sunday Boards | 4 | 5 | 9 |



How many days of the week do you use this station? Average 5.5
How did you arrive at the station? Walked: 13, Drove and Parked: 1
What is the purpose of this trip?

Work: 13
School:
Where did you begin this trip? Home: 14
Business name \& address / Nearby Intersection?
See shed map, all 14 are shown on map
Municipality? All were Philadelphia City
Zip Code? All were 19143
To which station are you destined now?

| $30^{\text {th }}$ Street: | 4 | Bethayres: | 1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| University City: | 2 | Moylan Rose: | 1 |
| Market East: | 1 | Primos: | 1 |
| Suburban: | 1 | Swarthmore: | 1 |
| Fern Rock | 1 | Woodbourne: | 1 |



Inbound stairway and walkway

What payment method are you using?
Transpass: 10
Trailpass: 2
Cash: 2

Do you know what alternatives exist if this station were to become unavailable? 13 answered YES, or showed that they knew of one or more alternatives 1 answered NO
How would you complete your trip? (some gave more than one answer)

| Trolley: | 9 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Bus: | 8 |
| Taxi Cab: | 1 |



## Comments / Suggestions:

Inbound platform (left) and outbound platform (right) more convenient than trolley, train passing anyway - why not stop? station is most convenient too long other way train is consistently off schedule trolley breaks down a lot


| ID | Station | Platform | Date | Time | Days/Wk | Mode | Purpose | Begin | Address/Int | MCD | Zip | Destination | Payment | Alt. | Trip Complete | Comments |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 25 | Angora | Inbound | 3/19/03 | 6:38 | 5 | walked | work | home | 58th \& baltimore | phila. | 19143 | 30th street | weekly transpass | yes | taxi cab | none |
| 26 | Angora | Inbound | 3/19/03 | 6:39 | 5 | walked | work | home | 58th \& baltimore | phila. | 19143 | 30th street | monthly trailpass | no | bus or trolley | none |
| 27 | Angora | Inbound | 3/19/03 | 7:40 | 5 | walked | work | home | 58th \& thomas | phila. | 19143 | university city | transpass | yes | trolley or bus to El | none |
| 28 | Angora | Inbound | 3/19/03 | 7:41 | 5 | walked | work | home | 58th \& hoffman | phila. | 19143 | market east | monthly transpass | yes | 34 trolley to CC, or 46 and G bus to El | none |
| 29 | Angora | Inbound | 3/19/03 | 7:58 | 5 | drove \& parked | work | home | 56th \& whitby | phila. | 19143 | bethayres | weekly transpass | yes | 2 buses to El | none |
| 30 | Angora | Inbound | 3/19/03 | 7:59 | 5 | walked | work | home | baltimore \& washington | phila. | 19143 | woodbourne | weekly transpass | yes | 34 trolley, el to 13 | none |
| 31 | Angora | Inbound | 3/19/03 | 8:29 | 5 | walked | work | home | 58th \& baltimore | phila. | 19143 | university city | weekly transpass | yes | 46 or 42 bus | station is most convenient |
| 32 | Angora | Inbound | 3/19/03 | 8:29 | 7 | walked | work | home | 58th \& hoffman | phila. | 19143 | fern rock | monthly transpass | yes | trolley to cc and out | none |
| 33 | Angora | Inbound | 3/19/03 | 8:56 | 6 | walked | work | home | 58th \& thomas | phila. | 19143 | 30th street | monthly transpass | yes | trolley | trolley breaks down a lot |
| 34 | Angora | Inbound | 3/19/03 | 8:57 | 6 | walked | work | home | 58th \& hoffman | phila. | 19143 | 30th street | weekly transpass | yes | 34 trolley | more convenient than trolley, train passing anyway - why not stop? |
| 35 | Angora | Inbound | 3/19/03 | 9:20 | 5 | walked | work | home | 58th \& cobbs creek | phila. | 19143 | suburban | weekly transpass | yes | 34 trolley, or 46 bus to el to bsl | none |
| 36 | Angora | Outbound | 3/19/03 | 7:30 | 5 | walked | work | home | 56th \& kitrin | phila. | 19143 | swarthmore | monthly trailpass | yes | 97 bus to 69th street to 109 bus | too long other way |
| 37 | Angora | Outbound | 3/19/03 | 9:05 | 7 | walked | school | home | 58th \& baltimore | phila. | 19143 | moylan rose | cash | yes | trolley to 30th to El to 69th to media | none |
| 38 | Angora | Outbound | 3/19/03 | 12:10 | 6 | walked | work | home | 57th \& cedar | phila. | 19143 | primos | cash | yes | g to El to 69th street to 109 bus | train is consistently off schedule |

# Inbound Outbound Total 

Survey conducted Tuesday, April 1, 2003 (6:20-10:25 am, 2:25-5:38pm)


How did you arrive at the station? Walked: 11, Drove \& Parked: 9, Dropped-off: 1
What is the purpose of this trip?

| Home: | 9 | School: | 5 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Work: | 7 |  |  |

Where did you begin this trip? Home: 10, School: 6, Work: 5
Business name \& address / Nearby Intersection?
See shed map, 20 of 21 are shown on map
Municipality? Doylestown Twp: 11, New Britain Boro: 6, Buckingham Twp: 1, Hilltown Twp: 1, Plumstead Twp: 1, Towamencin Twp: 1

Zip Code? 18901: 17, 18917:1, 18944:1, 18947:1, 19446:1
To which station are you destined now?

| Market East: | 7 | $30^{\text {th }}$ Street: | 1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Fern Rock: | 5 | Glenside: | 1 |
| Suburban: | 4 | Melrose Park: | 1 |
| Temple: | 2 |  |  |



Temple: 2
What payment method are you using?

| Trailpass: | 14 | Ten Trip: | 1 |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :--- |
| Cash: | 4 | Round Trip: | 1 |
| Single Ticket: | 1 |  |  |

Do you know what alternatives exist if this station were to become unavailable? 13 answered YES, or showed that they knew of one or more alternatives 8 answered NO
How would you complete your trip?
Doylestown Station:
5
Bus\# 55 (via DART, walk, drive, or drop-off): 4
New Britain Station:
3
Drive or Get a Ride:
3


Station platform and shelter

Chalfont Station: 1

Not Sure: 5
Comments / Suggestions:

9:25 train didn't stop, didn't slow
knew of New Britain station, but not where it is or how to get there more express time
very convenient station
SEPTA service and personnel are excellent, station is important to students


| drive to doylestown station | very convenient station |
| :--- | :--- |
| doylestown station | more express time |
| new britain station | none |
| drive to new britain station | SEPTA service and personnel are <br> excellent, station is important to <br> students |
| doylestown station | none |
| dart to 55 to broad olney <br> terminal | none |
| drive to doylestown station | none |
| doylestown station | none |
| drive to chalfont | none |
| drive | none |
| hitch a ride | 9:25 didn't stop \& didn't slow, <br> customer retuned to campus for <br> breakfast, "no problem" |
| get a ride to doylestown to | none |
| 55 bus | knew of new britain station but not <br> where it is or how to get there |
|  | none |
| none | none |
| drive or walk to 55 bus |  |
| new britain station | none |
| no | none |
| get a ride | none |
| drive to doylestown to 55 | none |
| bus | none |
| no | none |
| no |  |

$$
\stackrel{\infty}{\infty} \stackrel{\infty}{\infty} \stackrel{\infty}{\infty}
$$

$$
\stackrel{\infty}{\stackrel{\infty}{\sim}} \stackrel{\infty}{\infty} \stackrel{\infty}{\infty} \stackrel{\infty}{\infty} \stackrel{\infty}{\infty} \stackrel{\infty}{\infty} \text { ○ }
$$

$\qquad$




How many days of the week do you use this station? Average 4.70
How did you arrive at the station? Drove \& Parked: 21, Dropped-off: 19, Walked: 13
What is the purpose of this trip?

| Work: | 26 | Recreation: | 2 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Home: | 24 | Medical: | 1 |

Where did you begin this trip? Home: 27, Work: 25, N/A: 5
Business name \& address / Nearby Intersection?
See shed map, 48 of 53 are shown on map
Municipality? New Britain Boro: 32, New Britain Twp: 5, Doylestown Twp: 5, Plumstead Twp: 3, Doylestown Boro: 2, Warrington Twp: 2 Buckingham Twp: 1, Chalfont Boro: 1, Dublin Boro: 1, N/A: 1

Zip Code? 18901: 46, 18976:2, 18914:2, 18947:1, 18917:1, N/A: 1


To which station are you destined now?


Do you know what alternatives exist if this station were to become unavailable?
30 answered YES, or showed that they knew of one or more alternatives 22 answered NO, 1 was N/A
How would you complete your trip? (some gave more than one answer)
Chalfont Station (via walk, drive, or drop-off): $13 \quad$ Bus: 2
Doylestown Station: 8
Lansdale Station: 3
Delaware Valley College Station: 3
Drive: 3
Get a Ride: 3

Colmar Station: 1
North Penn Station: 1
Warminster Station: 1
Not Sure: 17

## Comments / Suggestions:

very convenient, many people stand on outbound train until Fort Washington station
don't close Warminster
more express time
most convenient
don't close station, don't raise fares - high enough
Chalfont needs more parking
Chalfont needs parking
don't close
would have to quit job
wouldn't be able to get to work
no alternatives
I wouldn't be able to get to work
please don't close station
express with 18 stops is not express, $80 \%$ get on at 5 stops

1. Parking availability, 2. Chalfont needs parking, 3. Please don't close
if station becomes unavailable he would have to quit job Chalfont has no parking
more service to Doylestown is desirable
company is considering a shuttle bus
would have to quit
lose job
no alternatives



Survey conducted Wednesday, April 16, 2003 (4:20pm - 5:53pm)

| Surveys conducted | 19 | 1 | 20 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Passengers missed | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| Total Boards | 24 | 1 | 25 |


| Summary of SEPTA 2001 Census Data |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Weekday Boards | 40 | 0 | 40 |
| $4: 20-5: 53 p m$ Boards | 35 | 0 | 35 |
| Saturday Boards | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Sunday Boards | 4 | 0 | 4 |

How many days of the week do you use this station? Average 4.45


How did you arrive at the station? Walked: 17, Dropped-off: 3
What is the purpose of this trip?

| Home: | 14 | School: | 2 |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :--- |
| Work: | 4 |  |  |

Where did you begin this trip? Home: 18, Other: 2
Business name \& address / Nearby Intersection?
See shed map, 17 of 20 are shown on map

Municipality? Hatfield Twp: 17, Allentown City: 2, Collegeville Boro: 1
Zip Code? 18915: 17, 19426:1, N/A: 2
To which station are you destined now?

| Market East: | 6 | Doylestown: | 1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Fern Rock: | 3 | Lansdale: | 1 |
| Glenside: | 2 | Mount Airy: | 1 |
| Wayne Jct: | 2 | North Broad: | 1 |
| $30^{\text {th }}$ Street: | 2 | North Wales: | 1 |
| $y m e n t ~ m e t h o d ~ a r e ~ y o u ~ u s i n g ? ~$ |  |  |  |
| Trailpass: | 14 | Single Ticket: | 1 |
| Cash: | 2 | Child Ticket: | 1 |
| Cross County Pass: | 2 |  |  |

Do you know what alternatives exist if this station were to become unavailable? 9 answered YES, or showed that they knew of one or more alternatives 11 answered NO
How would you complete your trip?
Colmar Station: 3
Drive or Get a Ride: 3
Delaware Valley College Station: 2


Station platform, shelters, and amenities

Bus \#23:
Not Sure:
Comments / Suggestions:
wouldn't work here anymore, late everyday
would walk but would be late
would like a bus service
will use a car instead
walk is about 15-20 minutes uses Warminster line from Glenside no other way to get here


| ID | Station | Platform | Date | Time | Days/Wk | Mode | Purpose | Begin | Address/Int | MCD | Zip | Destination | Payment | Alternative | Trip Complete | Comments |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 138 | Link Belt | inbound | 4/16/03 | 4:25 | 5 | walked | home | work | r\&b walnut | hatfield | 18915 | market east | monthly trailpass | yes | drive | none |
| 139 | Link Belt | inbound | 4/16/03 | 4:27 | 5 | walked | home | work | r\&b walnut | hatfield | 18915 | fern rock | monthly trailpass | no | none | none |
| 140 | Link Belt | inbound | 4/16/03 | 4:30 | 5 | walked | home | work | r\&b walnut | hatfield | 18915 | wayne jct | weekly trailpass | yes | drive | no other way to get here |
| 141 | Link Belt | inbound | 4/16/03 | 4:30 | 5 | walked | home | work | r\&b walnut | hatfield | 18915 | market east | monthly trailpass | no | no | none |
| 142 | Link Belt | inbound | 4/16/03 | 4:31 | 5 | walked | work | work | r\&b walnut | hatfield | 18915 | market east | monthly trailpass | yes | colmar station | would walk but would be late |
| 143 | Link Belt | inbound | 4/16/03 | 4:31 | 5 | walked | home | work | r\&b walnut | hattield | 18915 | glenside | cross county pass | no | no | uses warminster line from glenside |
| 144 | Link Belt | inbound | 4/16/03 | 4:32 | 5 | walked | home | work | r\&b walnut | hatfield | 18915 | mount airy | trailpass | yes | bus\#23 | none |
| 145 | Link Belt | inbound | 4/16/03 | 4:32 | 5 | walked | work | work | r\&b walnut | hatfield | 18915 | fern rock | trailpass | no | no | none |
| 146 | Link Belt | inbound | 4/16/03 | 4:35 | 5 | walked | home | work | r\&b walnut | hatfield | 18915 | wayne jct | cross county pass | yes | walk to colmar | will use a car instead |
| 147 | Link Belt | inbound | 4/16/03 | 4:40 | 5 | walked | home | work | r\&b walnut | hatfield | 18915 | glenside | monthly trailpass | no | no | none |
| 148 | Link Belt | inbound | 4/16/03 | 4:40 | 5 | walked | work | work | r\&b walnut | hatfield | 18915 | market east | weekly trailpass | no | no | wouldn't work here anymore, late everyday |
| 149 | Link Belt | inbound | 4/16/03 | 4:40 | 5 | walked | home | work | r\&b walnut | hatfield | 18915 | lansdale | monthly trailpass | no | no | none |
| 150 | Link Belt | inbound | 4/16/03 | 4:42 | 5 | walked | home | work | r\&b walnut | hatfield | 18915 | north broad | weekly trailpass | no | no | none |
| 151 | Link Belt | inbound | 4/16/03 | 4:43 | 5 | walked | home | work | r\&b walnut | hatfield | 18915 | north wales | cash | yes | get a ride | none |
| 152 | Link Belt | inbound | 4/16/03 | 4:45 | 6 | walked | home | work | r\&b walnut | hatfield | 18915 | fern rock | weekly trailpass | no | no | would like a bus service |
| 153 | Link Belt | inbound | 4/16/03 | 4:46 | 5 | walked | work | work | r\&b walnut | hatfield | 18915 | market east | weekly trailpass | yes | colmar station | walk is about 15-20 minutes |
| 154 | Link Belt | inbound | 4/16/03 | 4:50 | 5 | walked | home | work | r\&b walnut | hatfield | 18915 | market east | trailpass | no | no | none |
| 155 | Link Belt | inbound | 4/16/03 | 5:48 | 1 | dropped off | other | other | allentown (bethlehem bridge) | allentown | n/a | 30th street | single ticket | yes | would drive to Del Val College | Scott Maits (dvarp) plus one child |
| 156 | Link Belt | inbound | 4/16/03 | 5:48 | 1 | dropped off | other | other | allentown (bethlehem bridge) | allentown | n/a | 30th street | child ticket | yes | accompanied by adult | child with survey 155 |
| 157 | Link Belt | outbound | 4/16/03 | 5:23 | 1 | dropped off | home | work | collegeville | collegeville | 19426 | doylestown | cash | no | no | none |

Survey conducted Wednesday April 8, 2003 (6:36-8:39 am, 2:42-4:37pm)


How many days of the week do you use this station? Average 4.76
How did you arrive at the station? Walked: 23, Drove \& Parked: 17, Dropped-off: 5, Carpooled: 1 What is the purpose of this trip?

| Work: | 32 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Home: | 12 |

Where did you begin this trip? Home: 34, Work: 12
Business name \& address / Nearby Intersection?
See shed map, 43 of 46 are shown on map
Municipality? Hatfield Twp: 37, Franconia Twp: 2, Hatfield Boro: 2, Montgomery Twp: 1, Lower Salford Twp: 1, Souderton :1, N/A: 2

Zip Code? 19440: 26, 19446: 13, 18964: 4, 18969: 1, 18932: 1, N/A: 1


To which station are you destined now?

| Suburban: | 19 | Ambler: | 1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Market East: | 9 | Doylestown: | 1 |
| Wayne Junction: | 6 | Lansdale: | 1 |
| North Broad: | 3 | Norristown: | 1 |
| $30^{\text {th }}$ Street: | 2 | Temple: | 1 |
| Fern Rock: | 2 |  |  |

What payment method are you using?

| Trailpass: | 37 | Senior Ticket: | 1 |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :--- |
| Cash: | 6 | Half-fare card: | 1 |
| Ten Trip: | 1 |  |  |

Do you know what alternatives exist if this station were to become unavailable?


28 answered YES, or showed that they knew of one or more alternatives 17 answered NO, 1 was N/A
How would you complete your trip? (some gave more than one answer)

Lansdale Station (via walk, drive, or taxi): 2
Colmar Station: 5
Drive: 6
Cornwells Heights Station:
Narberth Station:

North Wales Station: 1
Pennbrook Station: 1
Get a Ride: 1
Not Sure: 1313

Comments / Suggestions:
no close
reopen Hatfield station
inconvenient if station closed
don't close it, usually walks to the station
don't close this station
this station is most convenient
would have to quit job
do not close station
no parking at Temple
needs the train
get a ride or be out of a job
does not know any alternatives
no other way but Fortuna station
couldn't make the trip
would be out of a job
no alternative
don't close station
would find another station, would drive to work
nothing else to use
would be out of a job, 3 shifts affected











| 을 |
| :--- |
| ᄃ |
| $⿻ 二 ⿰ 丿 丨 丶 刂 土$ |






 monthly trailpass






 | 19440 | fern rock |
| :--- | :--- |
| 18964 | market east | 19440 makurban 19440 wayne junctio先 19440 market 19446 suburban 10440 30th street






 suburban


 | 19440 | wayne junction |
| :--- | :--- |
| 19446 | doylestown |

















 ํํํํํํํ를登

orvilla \＆ 463 1415 broad street兑首 율울登
 broad \＆Iynnwood

cowpath \＆broad | cowpath \＆broad |
| :--- |
| broad \＆cowpath |
| walnut \＆463 |
| walnut \＆463 |
| walnut \＆463 |





 $63 \& 113$

 | moyer \＆wimbeldon |
| :--- | :--- |
| moyer \＆carpenter | main \＆vine（hatfield）

norman \＆walnut
n／a



旁
눌
3
3童 $\stackrel{0}{0}$ ！

 5 dropped off
6 walked
5 walked
 0
0
$\frac{2}{1}$
3

3 $\begin{array}{ll}0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 3\end{array}$ | 0 | 0 | $\infty$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 0 | 0 |  |
|  | 0 | 0 |
|  | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | 3 | 0 |
| 0 |  |  |
| 0 |  |  |


 dropped off 능
응
응
응
ल



 5 drove \＆parked

 5 drove \＆parked

## Inbound Outbound Total

Survey conducted Wednesday, April 16, 2003 (6:16am - 12:22pm)


How did you arrive at the station? Walked: 12, Dropped-off: 4, Drove \& Parked: 2
Train: 1
What is the purpose of this trip?
Work: 15 School:
4
Where did you begin this trip? Work: 15, School: 4
Business name \& address / Nearby Intersection?
See shed map, 17 of 19 are shown on map

Municipality? Philadelphia City: 18, Levittown: 1
Zip Code? 19135: 16, 19057:1, 19124: 1, 19136: 1

To which station are you destined now?

| Suburban: | 8 | Levittown: | 2 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $30^{\text {th }}$ Street: | 4 | Cornwells Heights: | 1 |
| Temple: | 3 | Market East: | 1 |

What payment method are you using?
Trailpass: 13
Single Ticket:


Outbound platform

Do you know what alternatives exist if this station were to become unavailable? 17 answered YES, or showed that they knew of one or more alternatives 2 answered NO
How would you complete your trip?
Market/Frankford Line (via Bus \#56 or walk): 7
Bridesburg Station: 5
Tacony Station: 3
Drive: 2
Not Sure:
2

Comments / Suggestions:
don't close station, no car
don't close station
hopes they don't close station
usually uses Holmesburg Junction station long walk (to el), hopes they don't close station


| Ta | e G1-W | noming | Station | Surv | y Datab |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ID | Station | Platform | Date | Time | Days/Wk | Mode | Purpose | Begin | Address/Int | MCD | Zip | Destination | Payment | Alternative | Trip Complete | Comments |
| 158 | Wissinoming | inbound | 4/16/03 | 6:10 | 1 | walked | work | other | comly \& keystone | philadelphia | 19135 | suburban | weekly trailpass | yes | 56 bus | none |
| 159 | Wissinoming | inbound | 4/16/03 | 6:14 | 5 | walked | work | home | harbison \& cheltenham | philadelphia | 19124 | suburban | monthly trailpass | yes | walk to bridesburg station | none |
| 160 | Wissinoming | inbound | 4/16/03 | 6:15 | 5 | walked | work | home | walker \& benner | philadelphia | 19135 | 30th street | monthly trailpass | yes | drive to work | none |
| 161 | Wissinoming | inbound | 4/16/03 | 7:25 | 1 | drove \& parked | work | home | frankford \& devereux | philadelphia | 19135 | suburban | cash | yes | the el | none |
| 162 | Wissinoming | inbound | 4/16/03 | 7:30 | 3 | walked | work | home | torresdale \& comly | philadelphia | 19135 | suburban | monthly trailpass | yes | the el | long walk (to el), hopes they don't close station |
| 163 | Wissinoming | inbound | 4/16/03 | 7:31 | 5 | dropped off | school | home | wissinoming \& comly | philadelphia | 19135 | temple | cash | no | no | new to area |
| 164 | Wissinoming | inbound | 4/16/03 | 7:33 | 5 | walked | work | home | torresdale \& comly | philadelphia | 19135 | suburban | monthly trailpass | yes | drive to bridesburg | hopes they don't close station |
| 165 | Wissinoming | inbound | 4/16/03 | 7:33 | 3 | walked | school | home | levick \& torresdale | philadelphia | 19135 | temple | weekly trailpass | yes | 56 to el to Market east to train back to temple | none |
| 166 | Wissinoming | inbound | 4/16/03 | 7:33 | 5 | drove \& parked | work | home | new falls rd \& woodbourne | levittown | 19057 | suburban | monthly trailpass | yes | drive to bridesburg | none |
| 167 | Wissinoming | inbound | 4/16/03 | 7:34 | 5 | walked | work | home | torresdale \& benner | philadelphia | 19135 | suburban | monthly trailpass | yes | bus to el | none |
| 168 | Wissinoming | inbound | 4/16/03 | 7:58 | 6 | walked | work | home | keystone \& comly | philadelphia | 19135 | 30th street | monthly trailpass | yes | 56 bus to el to 30th street | don't close station, no car |
| 169 | Wissinoming | inbound | 4/16/03 | 7:59 | 3 | walked | school | home | keystone \& comly | philadelphia | 19135 | suburban | cash | yes | walk to tacony station | none |
| 170 | Wissinoming | inbound | 4/16/03 | 8:02 | 5 | walked | work | home | comly \& torresdale | philadelphia | 19135 | 30th street | monthly trailpass | yes | car | don't close station |
| 171 | Wissinoming | inbound | 4/16/03 | 8:03 | 5 | dropped off | school | home | deveraux \& frankford | philadelphia | 19135 | temple | cash | yes | drop off at bridesburg | none |
| 172 | Wissinoming | inbound | 4/16/03 | 8:05 | 1 | walked | work | home | keystone \& comly | philadelphia | 19135 | market east | monthly trailpass | yes | 56 to el to market east | none |
| 173 | Wissinoming | inbound | 4/16/03 | 9:09 | 1 | dropped off | work | home | levick \& torresdale | philadelphia | 19135 | 30th street | weekly trailpass | yes | tacony (station) by foot | none |
| 174 | Wissinoming | outbound | 4/16/03 | 6:55 | 5 | walked | work | home | torresdale \& van kirk | philadelphia | 19135 | cornwell heights | cash | yes | walk to bridesburg | none |
| 175 | Wissinoming | outbound | 4/16/03 | 7:45 | 1 | dropped off | work | home | torresdale \& shelmire | philadelphia | 19135 | levittown | single ticket | no | no | usually uses holmesburg junction station |
| 176 | Wissinoming | outbound | 4/16/03 | 12:15 | 1 | by train | work | work | holmesburg train station | philadelphia | 19136 | levittown | monthly trailpass | yes | use tacony station | none |

Regional Rail Stations Closures Study


Regional Rail Stations Closures Study

|  | Fare Zone | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | Estimated Additional Annual Fares |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| RRD Average Fare Per Zone \$ |  | \$ 1.950 | \$ 2.820 | \$ 3.375 | 3.870 | 4.390 | 6.945 |  |
| Estimate Using Direct Model Outputs |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| R3 | SEPTA 2001Census Onboard Avg. <br> Station Closures Scenario Forecast Avg. <br> Change in Onboard Avg. | $\begin{array}{r} \hline 8,114 \\ 8,003 \\ -111 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline 6,592 \\ & 6,641 \end{aligned}$ | $2,274$ <br> 2,284 <br> 10 |  |  |  |  |
|  | New Boards: Saturday Factor New Saturday Boards: Sunday Factor New Sunday Boards: | $\begin{array}{r} -160 \\ 0.188 \\ -30 \\ 0.120 \\ -19 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 39 \\ 0.198 \\ 8 \\ 0.126 \\ 5 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 10 \\ 0.187 \\ 2 \\ 0.117 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |  |  |  |
|  | Annual Weekday Fares Annual Saturday Fares Annual Sunday Fares | $\begin{aligned} & \$(79,560.00) \\ & \$(3,050.11) \\ & \$(2,171.52) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{rr} \$ & 28,044.90 \\ \$ & 1,132.35 \\ \$ & 803.73 \end{array}$ | $\$$ $8,606.25$ <br> $\$$ 328.19 <br> $\$$ 229.03 |  |  | Total: | $\begin{aligned} & \$(42,908.85) \\ & \$(1,589.57) \\ & \$(1,138.76) \\ & \$(45,637.18) \end{aligned}$ |
| Estimate Using Adjusted Model Outputs |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| R3 | SEPTA 2001Census Onboard Avg. <br> Station Closures Scenario Forecast Avg. <br> Change in Onboard Avg. | $\begin{gathered} \hline 8,114 \\ 8,003 \\ -111 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \hline 6,592 \\ 6,641 \\ 49 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { 2,274 } \\ & 2,284 \end{aligned}$ $10$ |  |  |  |  |
|  | New Boards: Saturday Factor New Saturday Boards: Sunday Factor New Sunday Boards: | $\begin{array}{r} -64 \\ 0.188 \\ -12 \\ 0.120 \\ \hline-8 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 39 \\ 0.198 \\ 8 \\ 0.126 \\ 5 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 10 \\ 0.187 \\ 2 \\ 0.117 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |  |  |  |
|  | Annual Weekday Fares Annual Saturday Fares Annual Sunday Fares | $\begin{aligned} & \$(31,824.00) \\ & \$(1,220.04) \\ & \$ \quad(868.61) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{rr} \$ & 28,044.90 \\ \$ & 1,132.35 \\ \$ & 803.73 \end{array}$ | $\$$ $8,606.25$ <br> $\$$ 328.19 <br> $\$$ 229.03 |  |  | Total: | $\$$ $4,827.15$ <br> $\$$ 240.50 <br> $\$$ 164.15 <br> $\$$ $5,231.80$ |

Regional Rail Stations Closures Study


Regional Rail Stations Closures Study


| Estimate Using Adjusted Model Outputs |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| R7 | SEPTA 2001 Census Onboard Avg. | 9,391 | 7,517 | 4,316 | 3,471 | 2,727 |  |
|  | Station Closures Scenario Forecast Avg. | 9,509 | 7,531 | 4,336 | 3,512 | 2,734 |  |
|  | Change in Onboard Avg. | 118 | 14 | 20 | 41 | 7 |  |
|  | New Boards: | 104 | 0 | 0 | 34 | 7 |  |
|  | Saturday Factor | 0.463 | 0.570 | 0.962 | 1.152 | 1.432 |  |
|  | New Saturday Boards: | 48 | 0 | 0 | 39 | 10 |  |
|  | Sunday Factor | 0.403 | 0.506 | 0.877 | 1.059 | 1.31 |  |
|  | New Sunday Boards: | 42 | 0 | 0 | 36 | 9 |  |
|  | Annual Weekday Fares | \$ 74,786.40 | - | - | \$ 38,061.30 | \$ 12,396.83 | \$ 125,244.53 |
|  | Annual Saturday Fares | \$ 7,061.01 |  | - | \$ 8,941.27 | \$ 3,620.07 | \$ 19,622.35 |
|  | Annual Sunday Fares | \$ 6,855.13 |  | - | \$ 9,167.85 | \$ 3,679.67 | \$ 19,702.65 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | Total: | \$ 164,569.52 |

This page left blank intentionally.

# DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION 

## Publication Abstract

|  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | ---: |
| Title: | Regional Rail | Date Published: | November 2003 |
|  | Stations Closures Study | Publication No.: | 03034 |

Geographic Area Covered: Seven SEPTA regional rail stations (Lamokin Street, Angora, Delaware Valley College, New Britain, Link Belt, Fortuna and Wissinoming) served by the R2 - Wilmington and Newark Line, the R3 - Media / Elwyn Line, the R5 - Lansdale / Doylestown Line, and the R7-Trenton Line

Key Words: regional rail service, regional rail station, service standards, rail ridership, passenger survey, station shed, performance measures, financial analyses, environmental justice


#### Abstract

DVRPC undertook the detailed study of closing seven low activity SEPTA regional rail stations, as a followup to the recommendations of the Regional Rail Improvement Study. The "Station Closures" study was guided by the same multijurisdictional Technical Advisory Committee as guided its parent study. Staff from SEPTA, NJ Transit, Amtrak, the City of Philadelphia, the suburban Pennsylvania counties, among others, were represented on the TAC.

To complete the detailed study and evaluate the potential station closures program, DVRPC staff performed three levels of data collection and analyses-performing passenger surveys, preparing travel demand forecasts, and developing financial analyses. The methodology provided a replicable procedure to assess station closures, quantify value and impact, and identify alternatives so that transportation services are continued for the majority of affected riders.

The study's comprehensive review of human, economic and institutional factors involved in the matter, culminated with a stepped station closures program. The recommended closures program will reduce travel times and increase the reliability and efficiency of the four affected regional rail lines, and accommodate the travel needs of displaced patrons who do not have transportation alternatives.

To stave off operating deficits, SEPTA has already begun closing stations included on the recommended station closures program. SEPTA may also consider extending the analyses to evaluate other low volume regional rail stations within its system and/or to reevaluate its service standards threshold as a means of continuing its economizing.


## For More Information Contact:

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Transportation Planning Division
The Bourse Building, $8^{\text {th }}$ Floor
111 South Independence Mall East
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2515
Phone: 215.592.1800 Fax: 215.592 .9125 website: http://www.dvrpc.org

Staff contacts:
Christian P. Bauer, Project Planner
Jerry Coyne, Project Manager

Direct phone:
215.238.2881
215.238.2850

E-mail:
cbauer@dvrpc.org
jcoyne@dvrpc.org
Regional Rail Stations Closures Study
TABLE 3: Station Area Snap Shots

| Station Name / adjacent stations | Rail Line | $\begin{gathered} \text { fare } \\ \text { zone } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Municipality | County | 2001 Avg Wkday Passenger Activity [B+L]/2 | Weekday Patterns at Station |  | SEPTA's Parking (2002) |  |  |  | comments on parking |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | Ridership / Operating | Station is at: | supply | demand | available | exp. plans? |  |
| Highland Avenue | R2 Wilmington and Newark | 4 | Chester City | Dela. | 95 | Ridership: $30 \%$ - travel the predominant directions in peaks, 25\% in midday and $20 \%$ - in evening; Operating: Full service | Residential end, w/ midday activity \& some evening | 30 | 2 | 28 | No |  |
| 1 Lamokin Street | R2 Wilmington and Nevark | 3 | Chester City | Dela. | 44 |  |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | No |  |
| Chester Trans Ctr. | R2 Wilmington and Newark | 3 | Chester City | Dela. | 277 |  |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | No |  |
| Fernwood | R3 Media / Elwy | 2 | UPPER DARBY | Dela. | 132 | Ridership: 40\% - travel in predominant direction during peak, $15 \%$ - in midday and evening - in \& out;Operating: Flag stop - all trains | Residential end, typicalactivity | 0 | 0 | 0 | No |  |
| 2 Angora | R3 Media/Elwy | 1 | Southwest Philadelphia | Phila. | 35 |  |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | No |  |
| 49th Street | R3 Media/Elwy | 1 | Southwest Philadelphia | Phila. | 55 |  |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | No |  |
| Doylestown | R5 Lansdale / Doylestown | 5 | Doylestown | Bucks | 380 | Ridership: $35 \%$ - travel predominant directions + $35 \%$ - reverse outb. off in AM and inb. on in PM peaks; 15\% in midday and evening;Operating: Flag stop - all trains, may depart early - PM outb. | Residential \& Job end, midday \& evening activity | 185 | 165 | 20 | candidate | * Private property - DVC commuter permit parking spaces available on campus $\$ 10$-mo./\$100 -yr. |
| 3 Delaware Valley College | R5 Lansdale / Doylestown | 5 | DOYLESTOWN | Bucks | 58 |  |  | 0* | 9* | 0* | candidate |  |
| New Britain | R5 Lansdale / Doylestown | 5 | DOYLESTOWN | Bucks | 57 |  |  | 37 | 25 | 12 | candidate |  |
| Delaware Valley College | R5 Lansdale / Doylestown | 5 | Doylestown | Bucks | 58 | Ridership: 40\% - travel predominant directions $+40 \%$ - reverse outb. off in AM and inb. on in PM peaks; Operating: Flag stop - most trains, may depart early - PM outb. | Residential \& Job end | 0 | 0 | 0 | candidate |  |
| 4 New Britain | R5 Lansdale / Doylestown | 5 | Doylestown | Bucks | 57 |  |  | 37 | 25 | 12 | candidate |  |
| Chalfont | R5 Lansdale / Doylestown | 5 | Chaltont | Bucks | 110 |  |  | 56 | 56 | 0 | No |  |
| Chalfont | R5 Lansdale / Doylestown | 5 | Chalfont | Bucks | 110 | Ridership: 75\% reverse riders arriving on 1 outb. train in the AM \& departing on 1 inb . train in the PM, 20\% - in midday and less than $10 \%$ in evening; Operating: Flag stop - all trains | $\underset{\substack{\text { Job end, some midday } \\ \text { activity }}}{ }$ | 56 | 56 | 0 | No |  |
| 5 Link Belt | R5 Lansdale / Doylestown | 5 | hatrield | Montg. | 53 |  |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | No |  |
| Colmar | R5 Lanscale / Doylestown | 5 | hatield | Montg. | 282 |  |  | 291 | 176 | 115 | No |  |
| Colmar | R5 Lansdale / Doylestown | 5 | hatrield | Montg. | 282 | Ridership: 50\% - predominant direction $+15 \%$ reverse outb. off in AM and inb. on in PM peaks; 30\% - midday; 10\% in evening; Operating: Flag stop - most trains, may depart early - PM outb. | Residential \& Job end, midday \& evening activity | 291 | 176 | 115 | No | Large vacant lot opposite side of trax from platform, same side of Cowpath Rd. |
| 6 Fortuna | R5 Lansdale / Doylestown | 5 | hatrield | Montg. | 92 |  |  | 33 | 24 | 9 | No |  |
| Lansdale | R5 Lansdale / Doylestown | 5 | Lansdale | Montg. | 899 |  |  | 497 | 362 | 135 | No | Large adj. underutilized munic. lot |
| Tacony | R7 Trenton | 2 | Near Northeast Philadelphia | Phila. | 180 | Ridership: $60 \%$ - "typical" time \& predominant direction, $10 \%$ or less - in midday \& evening - in \& out Operating: Limited service to station $w$ flag stops inb. - evening, and outb. midday and evening | Residential end, typical activity | 0 | 0 | 0 | No |  |
| 7 Wissinoming | R7 Trenton | 2 | Bridesburg, Kensington, Richmond | Phila. | 22 |  |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | No |  |
| Bridesburg | R7 Trenton | 2 | Bridesburg, Kensington, Richmond | Phila. | 153 |  |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | No |  |

Regional Rail Stations Closures Study



[^0]:    Legend:
    typical commuting pattern reverse commuting pattern midday activity evening activity other

[^1]:    ${ }^{1}$ Source: "... and Justice for All", DVRPC September 2002.
    ${ }^{2}$ The eight elements are: minority, Hispanic, low income, disabled, elderly, car-less, of limited English proficiency, and female head of household with child.

[^2]:    3 "Lost patrons" refers to those surveyed customers who responded that if the station closedthey didn't know what they'd do, they'd (buy a car and) drive, they'd hitch a ride with a friend or coworker, they'd get another job, or they'd lose their job.

[^3]:    ${ }^{4}$ R3 Line and R7 Line riders currently onboard express trains which skip the stations are not included in the calculation.
    ${ }^{5}$ Note: in this work the four Link Belt patrons indicating they would divert to Delaware Valley College were assigned to Doylestown, and the nine Delaware Valley College patrons indicating that they would divert to New Britain were assigned to Chalfont Station.
    ${ }^{6}$ Per-train-per-station-trip time savings may vary by line, time of day and direction of travel. Ranges used in the analysis were between 56 seconds and 82 seconds, and are shown Table 5.

[^4]:    ${ }^{7}$ DVRPC's travel simulation is performed on desktop microcomputers running the Windows NT version of TRANPLAN.

[^5]:    ${ }^{8}$ Sources influencing the values shown in Table 8 came from published timetables, and data contained in published reports or correspondence prepared by Systra Consulting, Inc.

[^6]:    ${ }^{9}$ Of the stations examined, only New Britain and Fortuna are supported by SEPTA maintained parking lots, each very small in size. At the Delaware Valley College Station maintenance activities and costs are shared between SEPTA and the college.

[^7]:    ${ }^{10}$ The Partnership TMA services Northern Montgomery County.

[^8]:    ${ }^{11}$ Initial improvement costs depreciated over a 30-year useful life.

[^9]:    ${ }^{12}+8,100,000-\$ 356,667=\boldsymbol{+} \$ 7,743,333$

