

## SUMMARY OF RESOLUTION

### Authorization to Proceed to Public Comment Period for Service Reductions and Fare Increases

As a result of the statewide transportation funding crisis brought about by the Federal Highway Administration's failure to approve Pennsylvania's proposed tolling of Interstate 80, Port Authority (Authority) is facing a severe budget deficit in the amount of approximately \$47 million dollars. In June 2010, the Authority's Board approved an operating budget for FY 2011 that included an option to balance the budget by drastically reducing service and implementing across-the-board fare increases in January 2011 if the Pennsylvania Legislature does not implement a solution to the funding crisis by that time.

For the past several months, the Authority staff has worked on a plan for Board consideration that includes a timeline for the statutorily required public comment period and a public hearing regarding the proposed service reductions and fare increases. The criteria utilized by staff in identifying the proposed route and service changes included the following:

- Preservation of key corridors with established ridership;
- Discontinuation of routes with the lowest productivity (keeping in mind that post-Transit Development Plan and absent budgetary issues, these routes would be sustainable);
- Discontinuation of routes with high operating costs;
- Reduction of frequencies while adhering to Board-adopted service standards as closely as possible;
- Reduction of the Authority's span of service;
- Elimination of mid-day and evening service; and
- Focus on peak direction trips.

Attached to this resolution for consideration by the Board are the key documents that the Authority staff will rely upon to communicate with the public during the public comment and hearing period, including the fare increase proposal, the specific service reductions proposed, a list identifying those neighborhoods completely losing service, an overall summary of impacts and a timeline of proposed actions. Comments received through the public comment and hearing process, as well as further evaluation and consideration by the Board, will enable the Authority staff to refine a final set of recommendations for Board consideration and approval at the Board's regularly scheduled meeting on September 24, 2010.

This resolution authorizes the Authority to proceed with the public comment and hearing period for the proposed service reductions and fare increases that will be implemented in January 2011 if the Pennsylvania Legislature does not resolve the ongoing transportation funding crisis.

## RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the statewide transportation funding crisis brought about by the Federal Highway Administration's failure to approve Pennsylvania's proposed tolling of Interstate 80, Port Authority (Authority) is facing a severe budget deficit in the amount of approximately \$47 million dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, in June 2010, the Authority's Board approved an operating budget for FY 2011 that included an option to balance the budget by drastically reducing service and implementing across-the-board fare increases in January 2011 if the Pennsylvania Legislature does not implement a solution to the funding crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, for the past several months, the Authority staff has worked on a plan for the Board's consideration that includes a timeline for the statutorily required public comment period and a public hearing relating to the proposed service reductions and fare increases in the event the budget crisis is not resolved; and

**WHEREAS**, staff utilized various key criteria in assessing and identifying the proposed route and service changes, including preservation of key corridors with established ridership and discontinuation of routes with high operating costs; and

**WHEREAS**, attached to this resolution as Exhibits A through E, respectively, are the key documents that the Authority staff will rely upon to communicate to the general public during the public comment and hearing period the proposed service reductions and fare increases, which include the fare increase proposal (Exhibit A), the specific service reductions and eliminations proposed (Exhibit B), a list identifying those neighborhoods completely losing service (Exhibit C), an overall summary of impacts (Exhibit D) and a timeline of proposed actions (Exhibit E).

**WHEREAS**, after due consideration and recognizing the need to act now in light of the fact that the transportation funding crisis remains unresolved, the Board agrees with staff's recommendation to proceed as outlined in this resolution and attached Exhibits.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Authority's chief executive officer, assistant general manager Service Planning and Development and/or other relevant Authority staff be, and they hereby are, authorized to proceed with a public comment period and a public hearing, in a form and manner approved by counsel, to consider proposed service reductions and fare increases and to take any and all other actions necessary to carry out the purpose and intent of this resolution. Should the Pennsylvania Legislature resolve the funding crisis, the Board reserves the right to revoke this resolution, or any actions taken hereunder, at a future meeting of the Board.