



Temporary \$.25 Bus Fare is a Good Permanent rate for Trolley Buses

According to a news article in the Aug. 21 *Intelligencer Journal*, Red Rose Transit Authority (RTTA) will offer a \$.25 fare rate on all buses for the month of September. Its executive director, Dave Kilmer, explained “*We want the community to have a chance to try RTTA as a part of their daily commute ...*”

Perhaps such a system wide discount for a day or even a week would have promotional merit, but how can RTTA afford not to collect most of its revenue for an entire month?

But more important is the implicit and correct message that a free or near free trolley bus loop would generate far more riders, something that street cars at a regular fare are unlikely to achieve given the low level of

patronage of the faux trolleys currently in operation.

***NewsLanc* has urged that the trolley buses be free, at least as an experiment, and rerouted to service from the Water Street Refuge Mission to the south, to the Amtrak station to the north.**

If the reduction or elimination of trolley bus fares spurs patronage, tax payers would save \$20 million in up front streetcar costs, operating subsidies would not be any greater than for proposed street cars, clogging of the most important north / south downtown streets would be avoided, and the public would get a real ride rather than being taken for a ride!

SD of L Athletics Director McCloud Resigns

According to information made available at the Aug. 19 School Board meeting of the School District of Lancaster (SDL), Athletics Director Allen McCloud is stepping down from his position effective Aug. 26.

McCloud is being hired as a mathematics teacher effective Aug. 27 at an annual salary of \$67,392.00.

SDL Superintendent Pedro Rivera said of McCloud’s resignation, “*It was his decision... He wanted to spend more time with his family*”

although he went on to admit that the decision was made amongst “*restructuring*” hearings Rivera held with SDL executive staff.

The resignation comes after *NewsLanc* raised repeated concerns about the effectiveness of the department under his leadership.

About his new gig, Rivera said that McCloud is a “*certified, highly qualified teacher*” and said that his salary is based on a formula which takes into account years of experience as a District employee.

Are We Repeating Postwar Errors in Urban Renewal?

This is a first of a series of articles based upon “*A City Transformed; Redevelopment, Race, and Suburbanization in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 1940 – 1980*” by Franklin & Marshall historian David Schuyler.

In referring to the effect of the Housing Act of 1949, Schuyler quotes Judith Martin and Antony Goddard as observing in reference to Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, “*Urban renewal made a vast pool of [federal] resources available to cities but left decisions about where and how to spend the money primarily to local officials’ discretion.*”

Schuyler then states “*In Lancaster ...the combination of a massive infusion of federal and*

state dollars and generally ineffectual local governments had disastrous consequences.”

In our current time with federal, state and local governments providing or guaranteeing over 90% of the required funds for the Convention Center / Hotel Project and the Street Car Project, do we not have history repeating itself?

Rather than focusing on factual information and what is best for the future of Lancaster, the sponsors / prime movers concentrate on how to utilize and, in some cases, profit from the use of governmental generated funding. Feasibility reports are banned and, when others provide them, repudiated and ignored.

Police Chief Shares His Perspective on Lancaster

Interviewed by *NewsLanc* on Monday, Lancaster’s Chief of Police, Keith Sadler, said the biggest challenge for the city police is “*staying progressive enough that you mix modern police tactics and technology with established investigative and patrol tools....*”

“*I think this is a pretty solid police department,*” he said. “*And the challenge for us is to stay solid. And to get the respect and admiration from the community.*”

“*That’s a challenge in any department,*” he continued. “*You’re dealing with an urban environment. If your department loses credibility, it’s hard to investigate crimes and it’s hard to involve the community in preventative foot patrol if they don’t buy into you. So you need to be validated by the city you’re policing before you can be successful.....*”

Sadler revealed that 15 out of some 160 sworn officers are Hispanic/Latino and “*most of them are bilingual,*” speaking Spanish in addition to English.

He added that the department also has 25 civilian employees who are Hispanic/Latino.

Sadler thinks it’s very important for the police to be perceived as friendly and approachable.

Sadler says that “*about 90%*” of his department is “*devoted to patrol-type duties.*” He also has about 80 civilian employees at the Chestnut Street headquarters. Most patrols are one-person patrols, although occasional tactical assignments or officers-in-training might involve a two-person patrol.

He adds “*As long as you have crime issues, you’ll have to keep addressing them and tie the public into them. You can’t keep the public in the dark. That’s a mistake we made in the profession years ago. We really wouldn’t share crime stats with people. But in this day and age, you have to.*”

(Editor’s note: The above are excerpts from a much longer interview by Matt Henderson that can be read at www.NewsLanc.com.)

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