



June 23, 2020

Thank you for your letter. This is an issue we at SEPTA have given a lot of thought and discussion to. As an organization, we have been weighing the role we play and considering all possibilities.

As an agency that serves a five-county area, we have had a relationship with Emergency Management Organizations in each, and we partner with on a variety of large-scale emergencies and disasters. Those partnerships include using our vehicles to transport emergency workers to assist with fire emergencies and emergency shelter for firefighters and the displaced in extreme weather. Our partnership has also meant we have used our vehicles to transport for police for very positive major events like Made in America, conventions, the Phillies' and Eagles' Parades, and the visit by the Pope.

As of now we anticipate that that our partnership with the Philadelphia Office of Emergency Management will continue. We will, however, continue to evaluate our position and make a change as may be appropriate. SEPTA is committed to playing a role in the supporting the needs of our riders, our employees, our citizens and the communities we serve.

As for the detours, the road closures were dictated by the Philadelphia Office of Emergency Management (OEM). Unfortunately, the extent and breadth of the closures that ran river to river across Center City left little opportunity for alternate routes. The closures also were not the same from day to day, which made determining consistent detour routes difficult. We certainly recognize that not having a detour plan available to our riders presented a challenge. Fortunately, we were able to work with OEM on subsequent closures to allow buses to travel across Center City on detoured routes. In the event of a future "Center City Box" shutdown, we now know what impact that will have on SEPTA and can release a detour plan if and when the shutdown is announced. We have also been working with the City over the past year to standardize street closures for major events so we can anticipate detours and communicate them more clearly with our customers, including providing maps.

In response to your question about cost, the fuel and labor did not exceed what SEPTA would have ordinarily incurred in operating our service without the protests

These are difficult issues and responsibilities to balance, and I assure you SEPTA takes them seriously. I appreciate you reaching out to discuss them.

Sincerely,

Leslie S. Richards