

Contact:

Allison Kelsey, 215 875 1000 x114, akelsey@economyleague.org
Leslie Parker, 215 717 2777, parker@econsultsolutions.com

SEPTA'S VALUE TO COMMONWEALTH EVALUATED IN NEW REPORT

(April 29, 2013 – Philadelphia) On Monday, April 29, the Economy League of Greater Philadelphia and Econsult Solutions will release a new report, “Understanding SEPTA’s Statewide Economic Value.” Commissioned by SEPTA, the report updates their 2007 analysis for the William Penn Foundation. Economy League Executive Director Steve Wray and Richard Voith, President of Econsult Solutions, will present findings on at 8:30am at PNC Bank’s Center Hall in Philadelphia.

“Understanding SEPTA’s Statewide Economic Value” examines the Authority’s stewardship of public funds, performance, and economic and fiscal impacts in the context of transportation revenues and expenditures in the region generally and in comparison to those of industry peers and Commonwealth agencies. The report also outlines potential long-term consequences on the region and the state if funding for SEPTA remains flat.

“As the legislature considers transportation funding proposals,” said Wray, “the information in this report provides context and comparisons to other systems that demonstrate SEPTA’s importance to our region.”

Key findings include:

- SEPTA carries 77% of transit riders in the state and receives 62% of state transit funding;
- Ridership is at a 23-year high, but SEPTA’s current capital budget is at 15-year low;
- SEPTA’s 2013 capital budget of \$304 million is smaller than those of its peer group. For example, Boston’s MBTA 2013 capital budget exceeds \$800 million;
- SEPTA requires \$452 million annually in additional capital funding to work off its repair backlog;
- Its fare recovery ratios are comparable to peer transit agencies and higher than those of other systems in Pennsylvania;
- SEPTA supports nearly 26,000 jobs, contributes \$3.21 billion in economic output, and generates \$62.5 million in state tax revenues; and
- Without an infusion of capital funding, SEPTA will not be able to provide current levels of service which could cost the region nearly 25,000 jobs, \$96 million in tax revenue, and \$8 billion in property value.

The Economy League and Econsult found that SEPTA has made significant progress toward several key performance indicators since their earlier report, and SEPTA has used capital funds provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and Act 44 funds efficiently.

“This analysis shows how important it is to the regional economy and the Commonwealth as a whole to fund SEPTA adequately,” said Voith, the lead economist with Econsult Solutions. “SEPTA has proven to be an exemplary steward of public funds and continues to be a wise investment for the Commonwealth.”

Find the full report on EconomyLeague.org.

--- more ---

About the Economy League of Greater Philadelphia

The Economy League of Greater Philadelphia brings together regional leaders and organizations across all sectors to address the most pressing and challenging issues facing the Greater Philadelphia region. Built on our historic foundation of independent, high-quality analysis and practical insight, we spark new ideas, develop strategies, and galvanize action to make Greater Philadelphia a globally competitive region. For more information, visit www.EconomyLeague.org.

About Econsult Solutions, Inc.

Econsult Solutions, Inc. is a Philadelphia-based economic consulting firm that provides businesses and public policy makers with economic consulting services in transportation, public infrastructure, urban economics, real estate economics, development, public policy and finance, community and neighborhood development, planning, as well as expert witness services for litigation support. For more information, visit www.econsultsolutions.com.