

BEHIND the SCENES at PATCO



The friendly faces behind PATCO stand in front of one of their rail cars currently in for repair.

Left to Right:
Deputy CEO, Robert Gross;
Assistant General Manager,
Cheryl Spicer; Director of
Equipment, John Shea.

To view more pictures from
"behind the scenes at PATCO"
visit: driveless.com/btc_patco



A "heavy metal" tour that's been rolling since the time of Woodstock. Over 2.3 billion passenger miles, with a safety record just as impressive—now that's some serious motorin'! Join CCC backstage for an exclusive audience at PATCO HQ!

The line transports over 38,000 people daily and operates 24 hours a day; one of only four U.S. rapid transit systems to do so.

PATCO operates 121 67-foot rail cars, which were originally designed and manufactured by Budd of Philadelphia, PA in 1968. Additional cars were added in 1980, based on the original Budd design. These cars are comprised of 10,000 major parts and each run using 12 different, major mechanical operational systems.

Maintenance plays a critical role in the safety and readiness of PATCO operations. A comprehensive and preventive maintenance program has played an important part in PATCO's provision of safe and reliable transportation. PATCO safety record speaks for itself: over 2.3 billion passenger miles without a serious train-related passenger injury. Maintaining this fleet, and overseeing the operational order and equipment needs of rail cars, is the job of PATCO's equipment director, John Shea.

Mr. Shea recently took Cross County Connection on an exclusive, private, behind-the-scenes tour of the Lindenwold train service facility. But "service facility" does not really describe what happens at this amazingly interesting shop. It's more like a spa, beauty salon and fitness center...but not in the pampered and delicate sense..... not at all.

In the photos to the left you'll find exclusive images of the tough and gritty work done by skilled mechanics, machinists and technicians as they rebuild, repair, replace and refurbish many of the parts and systems mentioned above. Oh...and a carwash...but, well, for trains!

In an upcoming publication, we'll show you more of these exciting scenes as we take you inside the Lindenwold Maintenance Shop and explore the unique workings of a truly one-of-a-kind facility that is, truth be told, something of a mechanical marvel itself.

Machines have parts that move. Lots of them.

Usually complex, intricately-designed, and mind-bogglingly curious to behold, when one actually stops to think about it. Machines with parts that move together for the purpose of physically moving the machine itself....well, that's very impressive indeed. Like automobiles and airplanes, TRAINS are an example of such mechanical marvels.

Here in south Jersey, commuters are very familiar with one such train, and an electrical one at that: the PATCO Speedline. PATCO is renowned for its run over the Delaware River via the Ben Franklin Bridge, and an efficient route serving nine stops in Camden County.