

PATCO New Fare Collection System,  
**FREEDOM Card**

PATCO's smart card, which will be used in its new fare collection system, has been named **FREEDOM**. This name was selected because it best describes some of the major advantages to PATCO customers. By using FREEDOM, customers will be

- FREE from standing in lines to purchase tickets,
- FREE from needing to use change in the ticket vending machines,
- FREE from frequent stops at the vending machines, and
- FREE from using the current magnetic tickets that are vulnerable to damage from items commonly found in today's environment.

PATCO believes the vast majority of its customers will choose to use FREEDOM; however, for those who don't, single and round-trip magnetic tickets using modern magnetic technology will be available.

State of the art fare collection technology involves the use of smart cards, which have an estimated life of four to five years. Transit agencies who are looking to modernize their systems around the world are implementing new smart card fare collection systems. Once a customer has a smart card, he or she loads value onto the card and will then use FREEDOM to (a) access paid parking lots by tapping it at a reader at the entrance to the lot and (b) to pay for fares by tapping the reader upon entering and exiting the fare gates. The system deducts the appropriate value for parking and for the transit fare until the amount loaded on the FREEDOM card is depleted. The customer then reloads value onto the card. **Reloading value** onto the smart card can be done in a number of ways. PATCO will have an **autoload** feature similar to that which is available with the EZPass system. This method requires the customer to sign up for this feature and provide PATCO with certain credit card information. Once a customer's FREEDOM card drops below a certain value, it is automatically replenished from the customer's credit card the next time the FREEDOM card is tapped at a parking device or fare gate. ***This means never having to stop at a vending machine again.***

Alternatively, the customer can add value at new vending machines using cash or a credit or debit card. If using cash, the customer merely puts cash into the machine and taps his/her FREEDOM card on the vending machine target. The vending machine writes that value electronically onto the FREEDOM card. If credit cards or debit cards are used, those cards are inserted into the machine and using a keypad on the machine, the customer selects a value to be deducted from the credit or debit card and added to the Freedom card.

PATCO will be providing more detailed information to its customers regarding how to obtain a FREEDOM card and when they can be used on PATCO. In the meantime, those customers using Woodcrest, 8<sup>th</sup>/Market and 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>/Locust Street stations can catch a glimpse of the new equipment that is being installed as part of the Pilot Project.