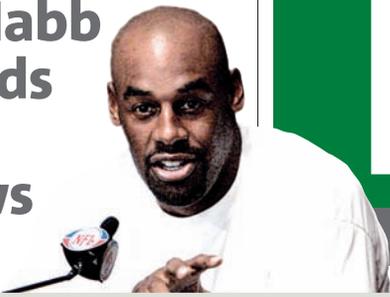


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The Word

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In the news



Bush: Expand wire tap law

MARYLAND. President Bush said yesterday he wants Congress to expand and make permanent a law that temporarily gives the government more power to eavesdrop without warrants on suspected foreign terrorists.

Without such action, Bush said, "Our national security professionals will lose critical tools they need to protect our country."

"It will be harder to figure out what our enemies are doing to train, recruit and infiltrate operatives into America," the president said during a visit to the super-secret National Security Agency's headquarters. AP

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Students still waiting for free ride to school

Food page 08

Foreign eats: Save a trip, make it at home



Entertainment page 12



The Wrens do good



Take a HIKE

SEPTA plans to raise fares to compensate for keeping transfers

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PHILADELPHIA. Tokens and transfers will each cost 15 cents more through another fare increase proposed yesterday by SEPTA, which said the higher prices will make TransPasses a viable option for more riders.

A month after losing a court battle with the city over a plan to eliminate the 60-cent transfers, SEPTA officials also cited worse-than-expected revenue from its City Transit division because it was unable to do away with transfers.

"Our riders know what the best deals are," Chief Ridership Officer John McGee Jr. said. "We're getting e-mails from customers who said they won't be buying passes."

McGee said that without raising the price of tokens from \$1.30



Since SEPTA was told a month ago it couldn't eliminate paper transfers, the transit agency has decided to raise fares by 15 cents to offset the lost revenue.

to \$1.45 and transfers from 60 cents to 75 cents, the number of riders using the more modern TransPasses has fallen slightly.

The token and transfer increases, which were called "interim" yesterday because the agency is

still fighting to have transfers eliminated, will be voted on by the SEPTA Board next Thursday.

City Solicitor Romulo Diaz Jr. said the city does not object to the 15-cent increases, but said the increases should be made perma-

nent and the transit agency should remove its appeal set to be heard Oct. 29 in Commonwealth Court.

"It continues the uncertainty," Diaz said. "We think this fare increase should be made permanent and the paper transfers should remain in place until a complete modern fare collection system is in place."

SEPTA officials again defended the elimination plan and said its analysis of eliminating transfers complied with federal regulations — which, they said, require only studying how "minority routes" are affected.

Diaz said city residents, not city routes, are the issue.

"What do they believe are the majority and minority streets?" Diaz said. "I have never heard such a canard. The legal responsibility of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 does not protect routes. It protects people."



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