

Jeffrey Knueppel, Corporate Transit Practice Leader

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Jeffrey Knueppel joined KCI Technologies in January 2020 after serving for 32 years with the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, the nation's sixth largest transit agency. He joined SEPTA as an entry level structural engineer, rose to become Chief Engineer at the age of 36 and ultimately led the agency as its tenth General Manager from 2015 to the end of 2019. Mr. Knueppel excels in the strategic management of capital resources, advancing innovative ways to maximize available funds, schedules, and workforce assets. He is known for his ability to deliver results.

During Mr. Knueppel's time at SEPTA, he provided strong leadership in support of several special events including the U.S. Open (2013), the Papal Visit (2015), the Democratic National Convention (2016), the NFL Draft (2017) and the Eagles Super Bowl Parade (2018). Each of these events involved large crowds, heavy security and the development of customized and innovative transportation plans. The SEPTA team won high praise for its performance in support of all these special events.

Mr. Knueppel strongly supported training efforts during his time at SEPTA. He was personally involved in the **Leadership Exchange and Development (LEAD)** program. The program's goal was to develop the next generation of leaders. The LEAD program was formed through a consortium of transit and commuter rail operators including New York, Chicago, Boston, New Jersey, Connecticut, Philadelphia and Toronto. Each agency selected future leaders to be part of a 20+ cohort that visited the various properties. The training included lectures, system tours, Q&A sessions and special events.

Working alongside SEPTA's Head of Innovation, Mr. Knueppel developed the **SEPTA "Looking Ahead at Our Business"** Training Program designed to provide managers with an understanding of the changing mobility landscape and to challenge them to implement new management techniques for addressing the varying needs of a multi-generational workforce. The entire management workforce (1900+) was accommodated over 19 two-hour sessions during 2018 -2019. Mr. Knueppel was the main speaker at all 19 of the sessions.

Mr. Knueppel's hands-on and communication-based leadership style led him to develop a successful **SEPTA Employee Engagement Program** in 2013. The program drew heavily on his participation, including onsite outreach efforts at field locations accompanied by his staff, small group breakfasts with management and hourly employees (totaling some 200 employees over time) and the shadowing of some 40 hourly and management employees. Mr. Knueppel also established quarterly expanded staff meetings with over 300 managers (150 at a time) in order to improve communication within the company. The program led to increased employee commendations made by customers, a dramatic decrease in lost time work injuries and improved management/labor relations.

Mr. Knueppel also worked to prioritize the Authority's Sustainability, Women in the Trades and Homeless Support Programs. With a steadfast commitment to safety, he initiated SEPTA's customer safety outreach program "Make the Safe Choice", as well as the employee safety program "Never Too Busy for Safety". SEPTA's Positive Train Control (PTC) efforts have been nationally recognized and Mr. Knueppel testified before Congress on behalf of our industry's efforts in this critical area.