Twitter Thread by Jacob Bogage



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Wow, it is 8:45 a.m., on a Friday and we've had so much news.

And USPS's board of governors is about to meet in 15 minutes, and I have a feeling things could get feisty.

And we have another USPS story that will drop today, and I think lots of folks will read.

Buckle up.

In the BoG meeting, both Chair Ron Bloom and DeJoy open by saying the board "may not always agree on everything."

Which has gotta make you wonder -- what's coming up in this meeting?

Oh man, here we go. Ron Stroman (D) is giving a statement OPPOSING DeJoy's 10-year plan.

This is BIG. This NEVER happens at board of governors meetings. The board HATES exposing public fissures. This a massive fault line.

STROMAN on DeJoy's plan: "Strategically-ill conceived, creates dangerous risks that are not justified by the relatively low financial return, and doesn't meet our responsibility as an essential part of America's critical infrastructure."

Wow.

Now HAJJAR, after long preamble, takes aim at the planned mail slowdowns.

Holy cow.

"I ask why this change needs to be implemented now. Why not wait until management implements the impressively innovative changes in the rest of the [Delivering for America] plan?"

Transcript of Stroman's dissent at the Board of Governors. Lays down a tremendous marker.

Ron Stroman statement at Board of Governors meeting

Mr. Chairman, as you know, the newest Governors did not have the opportunity to participate in the Board's decision in May to change our service standards. I appreciate your decision to have a full and robust discussion of this issue at yesterday's closed Board meeting. All Board members were given an opportunity to voice their points of view. But in spite of that discussion, the Board decided to move forward with implementing slower delivery standards for some First-Class Mail and packages. I would like to take a few minutes to explain why I disagree with that decision.

I believe the Board of Governors should guide the transformation of the Postal Service into a world-class, 21st century delivery service, that meets the evolving needs of the American people. By statute, we are required meet these needs by providing the nation with prompt, reliable and efficient delivery service, while financing the Postal Service without Congressional appropriations. In my view, the decision by the Board to change our service standards, will likely hinder the Postal Service's capacity to achieve either of these twin goals.

At this critical moment in America's history, with our country only beginning to emerge from a global pandemic, struggling with the Delta variant, and with our delivery service below pre-pandemic levels, intentionally slowing First-Class Mail and package delivery by changing service standards, is strategically-ill conceived, creates dangerous risks that are not justified by the relatively low financial return, and doesn't meet our responsibility as an essential part of America's critical infrastructure. This change also has the potential to disproportionately impact our seniors, middle-and low-income Americans, and small businesses, who are our most loyal customers, and most dependent on us.

From a financial perspective, I have deep concerns about the consequences of degrading service for our premier product—First Class Mail. A product that is the most profitable, and most associated with the Postal Service's outstanding reputation. Slowing the mail unnecessarily risks accelerating digital substitution out of the mail, especially when it is combined with one of the largest rate increases in the Postal Service's history. While mail will continue to decline regardless of this change, accelerates that decline, will erode the balanced network of mail and parcels needed to sustain our organization.

Please forgive any typos. Was typing fast and our transcription software is great, but not perfect.

BLOOM says the board has created a new election mail committee. MOAK will chair.

And, we're adjourned. News from financials and service performance didn't have any surprises. Package revenue is still good, but lower than last year. Paper mail volumes/revenue making a slight comeback.

Service scores were eh. Better than they've been, but still well below targets. Noticed the board did not discuss when the new service standards would take effect.

The main takeaway: there are public divisions on the board for the first time in who knows how long.

Will that change USPS policy, or the way USPS conducts its business? We shall see.

Remember I said I had another USPS story dropping today?

Here it is.

USPS will pay DeJoy's former company, XPO Logistics, $120 million to take over two key sorting facilities.

Meanwhile, DeJoy maintains significant financial ties to XPO.

https://t.co/6mZ3mkRAcD