

Earlier this year on the "Big Discussion" podcast, I shared my perspective on SEPTA's attempt at a comprehensive bus network redesign, which was rolled out just as the agency faced intense uncertainty over its future funding. It was a bit like trying to rewire an entire building during a power outage—ambitious, but risky given the stakes. SEPTA's plans aimed to improve reliability and efficiency for riders, but the looming budget crisis cast a long shadow over the whole process. There was a palpable tension between bold innovation and harsh fiscal reality, and I couldn't help but feel that, while the redesign had potential, its success would ultimately depend on whether SEPTA could secure the resources needed to implement these changes for the Philadelphia region's riders.