



SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION

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MINUTES TRANSIT OPERATORS COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: June 14, 2017
Location: Two Chatham Center
112 Washington Place
Pittsburgh, PA

Attendance:
Members: John Paul, BTA (Chairperson)
Alan Blahovec, WCTA (Vice-Chairperson)
Ed Typanski, PAAC
Lisa Kay Schweyer, CommuteInfo
Lucinda Beattie, PDP
Mary Jo Morandini, BCTA (phone)
Mavis Rainey, OTMA
Lynn Manion, ACTA
Joe Thomas, WASH
Donna Weckoski, MMVTA (phone)
David Richards, NCATA (phone)
John Kanyan, ICTA (phone)

Guests: Ann Ogoreuc, ACED
Jon Smith, Allegheny Co. Transit Council
David Wohlwill, PAAC
Cathy Williams, ACCESS
Jina O'Neill, OTMA
Matthew Kelly, PennDOT
Kevin McCullough, PennDOT
Ralph Volpe, FHWA
Matt Smoker, FHWA
Khan Mitchell, FHWA
Camille Bonham, FHWA
Gregory Becart, EPA
Ryan Long, FTA

SPC Staff: Tom Klevan
Doug Smith
Chuck Imbrogno
David Totten
Kathy Stefani
Malie Yoon
James Hassinger
Andy Waple
Josh Spano

Leann Chaney
Dom D'Andrea

This meeting of the TOC was called to order at 10:00 A.M.

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Public Comment –

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for the April 19th, 2017 Transit Operators Committee

- *The Committee considered the minutes from the April 19th, 2017 TOC meeting.*

***Action:** Minutes of the April 19th, 2017 meeting of SPC's Transit Operators was unanimously approved on a motion by Mary Jo Morandini and a second by Alan Blahovec.*

4. Election of TOC Officers

- *The Committee heard a report from Alan Blahovec, chairperson of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee recommended that Alan Blahovec be elected Chairperson and Sheila Gombita be elected Vice-Chairperson of the Transit Operators Committee for the term ending July 2019. Further nominations were solicited from the membership.*

***Action:** Hearing no further nominations from the floor, the Committee accepted the recommendation of the Nominating Committee and selected Alan Blahovec as Chairperson and Sheila Gombita as Vice-Chairperson of the TOC.*

5. Approval of 2017-18 TOC Meeting Schedule

- *The Committee considered the draft meeting schedule for 2017-18 (Attachment A)*

***Action:** The proposed meeting schedule was approved unanimously on a motion by John Paul and second by Joe Thomas.*

6. FTA/PennDOT Update

- *FTA Staffing—Ryan Long from FTA reported that the hiring freeze that had accompanied the presidential transition has been lifted.*
- *National Transit Map Participation Process—SPC Staff distributed a draft Memorandum of Understanding between SPC and any TOC members that wish to enter into a data hosting agreement that would allow for participation in USDOT's National Transit Map project. Participating transit operators returned signed MOUs to staff. SPC staff has completed work to set up a hosting folder online for the data and will now work with the participants to add their data to the system for use in the NTM project.*

7. Meeting Participant Updates

- *Port Authority of Allegheny County (PAAC)/City of Pittsburgh—David Wohlwill updated the TOC on the current planning for a Bus Rapid Transit improvement from Downtown Pittsburgh to Oakland and several East End neighborhoods. The project has now received FTA approval to enter the Project Development stage, which will allow the project sponsors to use FTA planning funds to prepare for a fall Small Starts program application and complete the environmental documents.*

- *Freedom Transit (WASH)*—Joe Thomas reported that WASH has recently entered into a service contract with First Transit to operate fixed route transit service in Washington County. Freedom Transit has also implemented route changes that have resulted in a modest expansion of service hours and into parts of the county that did not have service previously. Freedom employees have now begun training on the use of the West Busway, with a goal of operating on the busway in late summer.
- *Butler Transit Authority (BTA)*—BTA has entered into an operating contract with MV Transportation for fixed route service. John Paul also reported that CNG facility upgrades have started and will be completed in the fall. The CNG fueling station project through the state’s PPP arrangement with Trillium is set to begin in September. Also, John Paul reported that Meyer’s Coach plans to discontinue service to Pittsburgh in the fall, adding to the need for BTA to provide commuter service.
- *RideACTA Shuttle*—Lynn Manion reported that the RideACTA shuttle is currently providing last-mile service at two hubs in the Airport Corridor, with ridership continuing to grow. She said ACTA has been asked to provide service to Greentree Borough, but the agency does not have the funding to provide it. However, ACTA has recently completed two studies of potential future service expansions: one by Delta Development, looking at last-mile service from Port Authority’s Moon park-and-ride lot, and the other by University of Pittsburgh students, who connected last-mile service with other multi-modal options, including walking and biking. Lynn says she is analyzing the results to determine if ACTA should request demonstration service funding from PennDOT.

There were no further member updates.

8. Staff Updates

- *Alliance for Transportation Working in Communities (ATWIC)*—Staff reported on the May 3rd accessible transportation brainstorming session presented by Maya Design and the RAND Corporation. The brainstorming included innovative group decision making processes. ATWIC staff plan to continue to nurture these relationships. Staff also reported on three health insurance companies that have applied to become the managed care providers throughout the state, including transportation for “waiver” program recipients, including social and quality-of-life activities. ATWIC is helping with coordination assistance between these insurance companies and transportation providers.
- *Active Transportation Planning Update*—SPC Staff said the next task in the Active Transportation Plan project has been completed, defining the roles and responsibilities for active transportation planning at the regional level. The next task is to craft goals and objectives for the regional plan.
- *Regional Freight Conference Update*—Staff reported on the successful Regional Freight Conference, held in Cranberry. The day included participation from six states, local and regional planners, elected officials as well as educators, consultants and other planning process participants. The keynote presentation from Eric Zimmerman from the National Association of Regional Councils on the impact of the new presidential administration on freight issues. Participants also had a tour of the Cranberry Township Operations Center to see a demonstration of incident management and a demonstration of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Authority’s drone.
- *Westmoreland Transit Development Plan*—Staff updated the TOC on the kickoff of the Westmoreland TDP. This project will use consultant help from Michael Baker International and Moore Design Group to look at short and long range transit options in Westmoreland County as well as a strategic plan for WCTA.

There were no other staff updates.

9. Amendments and Administrative Actions to the FFY2017-2020 TIP

- *Butler Transit Authority (BTA)* requested an amendment to the FFY2017-2020 TIP to add the project “CNG Support Equipment” to purchase equipment for commuter bus service from Butler to Pittsburgh, including Avail system, fareboxes, cameras USB outlets and upgraded 3-point passenger seating, using \$287,776 in federal 5307, \$62,181 in state 339, \$6,536 in state 340 and \$2,290 in local funding in FY2017. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$358,783**
Action: This action was unanimously approved and the appropriate changes were made to the region’s FFY2017-2020 TIP by the TOC on a motion by Joe Thomas and a second by Ed Typanski. Staff will transmit this project information to the PennDOT Program Center within one week of this action.
- *Westmoreland County Transit Authority (WCTA)* amend the FFY2017-2020 TIP to add the project “Replacement Commuter Buses” (MPMS# 77741) to purchase six replacement 45’ CNG commuter coaches using \$3,252,317 in federal 5307, \$787,061 in state 339 and \$26,019 in local funding in FY2017. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$4,065,397**
- *WCTA* also requested that TOC perform an administrative adjustment to the FFY2017-2020 TIP project “Replacement Buses” (MPMS# 102362) to add \$694,560 in federal 5307 funding, \$787,604 in state 339 and \$26,036 in local funding and to remove \$640,000 in non-federal/other funding in FFY2017. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$868,200**
Action: These actions requested by WCTA were unanimously approved and the appropriate changes were made to the region’s FFY2017-2020 TIP by the TOC on a motion by John Paul and a second by Joe Thomas. Staff will transmit this project information to the PennDOT Program Center within one week of this action.

There were no other TIP actions requested.

10. Transportation 101 Update

- Lisa Kay Schweyer from CommuteInfo updated the TOC on recent Transportation 101 seminars held for users of Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority, Freedom Transit and Town & Country Transit. These events start with a classroom-style presentation on transportation options, including transit and other multi-modal options, then also include a demonstration of how to use a bus in actual service. In the future, sessions might be planned for return visits to Armstrong County and MMVTA.

11. Port Authority of Allegheny County: Transit Oriented Development Guidelines

- Breen Masciotra from PAAC gave the TOC an overview of the latest Transit Oriented Development Guidelines as well as reviewing recent TOD planning, including near Negley Station in Pittsburgh. The guidelines are available at:
[http://www.portauthority.org/paac/CompanyInfoProjects/TransitOrientedDevelopment\(TOD\).aspx](http://www.portauthority.org/paac/CompanyInfoProjects/TransitOrientedDevelopment(TOD).aspx)

12. US DOT MPO Certification Review

- Officials from the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency conducted a roundtable discussion with TOC members relating to the US DOT certification review of the planning process, including the coordination

between SPC, the federal government and state agencies such as PennDOT. John Paul noted SPC's technical assistance through transit development plan projects, which help local transit operators coordinate with state performance reviews. SPC staff noted that the PennDOT Bureau of Public Transportation's Capital Planning Tool is helping coordinate the planning and programming of capital projects between the state and local level.

13. Other Business

- *The next meeting of the TOC is scheduled for 10 a.m. Thursday, July 13th, 2017 at the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, in Pittsburgh, PA. **NOTE: This will be the annual joint TOC/TTC meeting.***

14. Adjournment

***Action:** The Meeting was adjourned by a unanimous vote on a motion by John Paul and a second by Joe Thomas.*