



## SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION

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### MINUTES TRANSIT OPERATORS COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: February 14, 2018  
Location: Two Chatham Center  
112 Washington Place  
Pittsburgh, PA

Attendance:  
Members: Alan Blahovec, WCTA (Chairperson)  
John Paul, BTA  
Ed Typanski, PAAC  
Lisa Kay Schweyer, CommuteInfo  
Mavis Rainey, OTMA  
Lynn Manion, ACTA  
Sheila Gombita, WASH  
David Richards, NCATA  
Donna Wickowski, MMVTA (phone)

Guests: David Wohlwill, PAAC  
Amy Silbermann, PAAC  
Cathy Williams, ACCESS  
Alex Labrinidis, Univ. of Pittsburgh

SPC Staff: Tom Klevan  
Dom D'Andrea  
Chuck Imbrogno  
David Totten  
Kathy Stefani  
Ronda Craig  
Sara Walfoort

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 December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Transit Operators Committee**

- *The Committee considered the minutes from the December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 TOC meeting.*

**Action:** *Minutes of the December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 TOC meeting was unanimously approved on a motion by Sheila Gombita and a second by John Paul.*

#### 4. FTA/PennDOT Updates

- Transit Asset Management planning information is available from FTA, including recordings of webinars and other information, at [www.transit.dot.gov/TAM/outreach](http://www.transit.dot.gov/TAM/outreach). Most transit agencies in Pennsylvania are opting to utilize PennDOT's TAM planning process. PennDOT staff reported to the TOC by email that the state's plan is currently being developed and a draft will be completed shortly. The Bureau of Public Transportation will circulate a draft for comment by transit agencies, MPOs (such as SPC) and RPOs before the plan is finalized. BPT reports that much of the data needed for the plan is already collected through the Bureau's Capital Planning Tool. This data will be used by the Bureau to set TAM targets. FTA has set an October deadline for agencies to complete and submit their TAM plans.
- BPT is currently reviewing the list of projects for the Draft 2019-22 TIP update. Bureau staff are working with SPC staff, providing technical assistance and feedback.
- BPT also reported, via a written message to the committee, that training for transit operators had recently been completed on the Bureau's Capital Planning Tool, including the final project planning phase. Agencies will now be able to develop their FY18-19 state capital plan in the CPT. Once approved by the state, the approved projects will be copied over to DOT-Grants and this will serve as the grant application for 18-19.
- Four of the region's transit agencies are scheduled for FTA Triennial Reviews this Spring: Washington (Freedom Transit), BCTA, SPC and Port Authority. The agencies completed FTA's triennial training in January.
- SPC has received the final report on its MPO Certification Review, conducted by USDOT in 2017. In response to a recommendation in this report, SPC is planning to update the MPO Planning Agreements between SPC and the transit agencies. The new agreement will include compliance with recent federal regulations on Performance-Based Planning. SPC will work on this over the next planning cycle. Staff are also seeking PennDOT input on the agreement.

#### 5. Meeting Participant Updates

- PAAC: Port Authority of Allegheny County reported that FTA had released its annual report on the Capital Investment Grants program. While the report recommended against funding for new projects, it also included a rating of "high" and "medium high" in several categories and an overall project rating of "high" for the proposed Pittsburgh Bus Rapid Transit application (only two other projects, both in Seattle, were rated "high"). If Congress chooses to fund the CIG program, the Pittsburgh BRT would be eligible for a Small Starts award.
- CommuteInfo: Lisa Kay Schweyer of CommuteInfo reported that she would be leaving her position with the program to work at the Traffic 21 program at Carnegie Mellon University.
- BTA: The Butler Transit Authority reported that commuter service to Pittsburgh had started December 18—after being notified December 1<sup>st</sup> that Myers Coach was ceasing service. John Paul thanked PAAC for working with BTA on the service. The service follows Route 8 from Butler to Pittsburgh. Demonstration service is set to begin July 1<sup>st</sup>, using PennDOT funding.
- ACTA: Lynn Manion reported that ACTA was awarded second prize in a national contest for innovative transit. The prize includes in-kind consulting service from the technology company TransLoc focused on increasing ridership and efficiency. For example, a TransLoc will use a computer simulation to analyze proposed new service to the Moon Twp. Park-and-Ride lot.
- WASH: Sheila Gombita reported that Freedom Transit has put two new Gillig buses on the road. Freedom has also kicked-off a Transit Development Plan and Strategic Plan with SPC, which started with a recent meeting with Freedom's board. Gombita said the agency will have several upcoming compliance review activities, including a Shared Ride compliance review, a federal Triennial review and a state Act 44 performance review in 2018.

#### 6. SPC Staff Updates

- *Active Transportation Plan*—SPC staff reported on outreach to over 400 municipalities and ten counties in the region to create county profile web pages that reviews everything going on in active transportation, including facilities and plans, with pleasing graphics. SPC will put out a small consultant contract for the job to assemble the document.
- *ATWIC*— SPC staff reported that the recent quarterly meeting of the Alliance for Transportation Working in Communities had a turnout of 15 participants as well as six people on the phone, despite the snow. The event included a presentation by Community Transportation Associate of America. CTAA plans to hold its annual expo in Pittsburgh June 13-14. This event will also include a “Transportation Camp” and will have workshops on micro-transit, complete streets and mobility-as-a-service. SPC staff continues to work on updating the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan.
- *Regional Freight Forum*—The recent meeting of SPC’s Regional Freight Forum included an update from Pittsburgh International Airport on new dedicated air cargo service from Pittsburgh to Luxemburg and Doha, Qatar, as well as other efforts to grow airlines and destinations. Staff reported that the group discussed how trucking fits into congestion measures and an update on efforts to implement Positive Train Control. The next Regional Freight Forum is scheduled for October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018.

#### 7. **Amendments and Administrative Actions to the FFY2017-2020 TIP**

- *Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority (MMVTA)* requested an administrative adjustment to the FFY2017-2020 TIP to the project “Security Camera Sys. Update” (MPMS# 110550) to add funding for an updated security camera system for a park-and-ride facility and change the state source of funds using \$53,226 in state Section 1514 funding and \$1,774 in local funding in FFY2018. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$27,000**
  - *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 John Paul and a second by Sheila Gombita. Staff will transmit this project information to the PennDOT Program Center within one week of this action.*

*There were no other TIP actions requested.*

#### 8. **Long Range Transportation Plan/FFY2019-22 TIP Update**

- SPC staff reviewed the fiscally constrained list of projects on the Draft FFY2019-22 TIP update. The list of Title I (road and bridge) projects includes \$740 million in bridges, \$659 million in road projects, \$184 million in operations and \$100 million in multi-modal projects. The Draft Title III (transit) TIP totals \$2.1 billion in funding, which is comprised \$1.8 billion in PAAC projects and \$97 million represents the Bus Rapid Transit project. Staff also discussed the available SMART transportation fund, administered through SPC.

#### 9. **CommuteInfo Commute Options Awareness Month**

- CommuteInfo staff previewed activities that will be part of the upcoming Commute Options Awareness Month, May, 2018. This includes the “CommuteInfo Commuter Challenge, 2018”— a contest with prizes and activities to encourage commuters to try alternative transportation, such as transit, carpool, vanpool and active transportation. Registration opens April 22 and the challenge runs May 14 to May 20.

#### 10. **Pitt Smart Living Project**

- Alex Labrinidis from the University of Pittsburgh updated the Committee on a research project through the Pitt schools of Computing & Information Science, Engineering and the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. The \$1.4 million project is funded by the National Science Foundation. The goals are to create a mobile, multimodal trip planning app that includes transit as well as active transportation modes, such as HealthyRide. Another goal is to research the potential of a “marketplace” of multimodal mobility, including the use of coupons and influence travel behavior. For example, an interactive screen at the Pitt Student Union shows real-time bus information and offers coupons to students willing to select a less-crowded bus.

#### **11. Other Business**

- *The next meeting of the TOC is scheduled for 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, in Pittsburgh, PA.*

#### **12. Adjournment**

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