



## SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION

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### MINUTES TRANSIT OPERATORS COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: June 20, 2018  
Location: Two Chatham Center  
112 Washington Place  
Pittsburgh, PA

Attendance:  
Members: Alan Blahovec, WCTA (Chairperson)  
David Wohlwill, PAAC  
Mary Jo Morandini, BCTA  
Ronda Craig, CommuteInfo  
Mavis Rainey, OTMA  
Lynn Manion, ACTA  
Rick Blaker, Greene Co.  
Donna Wickowski, MMVTA (phone)  
John Paul, BTA (phone)

Guests: Jina O'Neill, OTMA  
Mark Gordon, Butler County Economic Development  
Andy Batson, Michael Baker, Int'l.  
Cathy Williams, ACCESS

SPC Staff: Tom Klevan  
David Totten  
Kathy Stefani  
Chuck Imbrogno  
Abby Stark

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 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Transit Operators Committee**

- *The Committee considered the minutes from the April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 TOC meeting.*

*Action: Minutes of the February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 TOC meeting was unanimously approved on a motion by Mary Jo Morandini and a second by Mavis Rainey.*

**4. FTA/PennDOT Updates**

- Jennie Granger has been appointed Deputy Secretary of Multimodal Transportation at PennDOT.

## 5. Meeting Participant Updates

- BTA—John Paul reported that Butler Transit Authority was starting new two-seat service to downtown Pittsburgh through a three-year demonstration project.
- PAAC—David Wohlwill reported that Port Authority of Allegheny County was testing a demonstration model of a New Flyer 60' articulated battery-powered bus. The week-long test included runs along the 71B and P3 routes to evaluate its effectiveness as a potential BRT vehicle, and also test runs on the hilly terrain of Mt. Washington. PAAC was happy with the results of the tests, so far, as the vehicles could complete several runs without charging. Also, Wohlwill reported that PAAC had applied to the federal discretionary bus program for no/low emissions buses. If fully funded, the grant would purchase four battery electric buses with charging stations as well as training for PAAC operations and maintenance staff. Wohlwill also reported that PAAC was preparing to participate in terms of the Volkswagen settlement.

Wohlwill also updated the TOC on the Bus Rapid Transit project. Project sponsors held a series of meetings in communities in eastern Allegheny County to discuss impacts of the BRT proposal. The meetings also presented more detail about the project, including the “30% design” drawings. PAAC is in the process of hiring a firm to complete design of the system and plans to submit an updated Small Starts application at the end of the summer. Mavis Rainey asked if there would be an opportunity for a follow-up meeting before final design to address stop location and other issues for Oakland. Wohlwill said there would be an opportunity.

- ACTA—PAAC's CEO had been invited to meet with the ACTA and the Airport Chamber of Commerce to discuss suburban transit needs for the business community.
- CommuteInfo—Ronda Craig reported that CommuteInfo had recently hosted a “Transportation 101” workshop in Westmoreland County.

*There were no other meeting participant updates.*

## 6. SPC Staff Updates

- Active Transportation Plan—SPC staff reported that the final draft Active Transportation Plan has been completed and is being reviewed. Staff plan to present the details of the plan to the public as part of SPC's Long Range Transportation Plan outreach over the summer and to present it to the SPC for adoption this fall.
- ATWIC—SPC staff reported that over 40 people attended the first of four worksessions, held May 25, to develop the region's Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan Update. Participants divided into four workgroups: Multimodal Transportation Network; Seamless Travel; Urban/Suburban/Rural Environments; and Anyone, Regardless of Ability or Income. A fifth group dealing with automation, robotics and accessibility will be handled separately, later. The next meeting will be in August.
- CTAA Expo Recap—SPC staff attended the recent Community Transportation Association of America Expo, held in Pittsburgh, which was attended by over 1,000 people. SPC staff presented a session on “Mobility as a Service” and also attended several transit-related break-out sessions. At one, Paul Comfort from the transit IT company Trapeze presented “Five Hidden Flaws of Transit Systems”. These included: “Not enough individual accountability;” “Need to break-up the power of back-office administrative functions;” “We are tracking and measuring the wrong things;” “There are arbitrary rules that make the system inefficient;” and “The focus (for ADA/paratransit) is on rules rather than the people.” The newly-appointed acting-administrator of FTA, K. Jane Williams, also attended the Expo and talked about efforts to reduce reporting requirements for small transit agencies. In response to Williams' discussion

of repealing regulations, SPC staff recommended transit agency staff check the Rural Transit Assistance Program website, which keeps up-to-date on FTA's procurement regulations <http://www.nationalrtap.org/>

- *Regional Sub-Allocation Group*—SPC staff reviewed the recent meeting of the regional Sub-Allocation Group, held May 24<sup>th</sup>. This meeting included approval of the FFY2018 full-year allocation. Agreements reached at this meeting were distributed and approved by the group via email.
- *Transit Development Plans*—SPC staff reported that the Westmoreland County Transit Development Plan has been completed and posted to the SPC website at [https://www.spcregion.org/trans\\_multi\\_pt.asp](https://www.spcregion.org/trans_multi_pt.asp) Meanwhile, the Washington County Transit Development Plan is in draft stage and will be completed shortly.

*There were no other staff updates.*

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

*There were no TIP actions requested.*

## **8. Long Range Transportation Plan Update**

- SPC staff updated the Committee on the Draft 2019-22 TIP update and the Long Range Transportation Plan update, including a review of the current LRTP timeline.
- The first Expert Resource Panel meeting convened on June 12 to discuss “Forces of Change” that will be part of the LRTP scenarios. Information from these panels will be synthesized into a report. The next effort will involve a MetroQuest public survey. The next Expert Resource Panel workshop will be July 25<sup>th</sup> in Cranberry. The Regional Policy Conference is set for September at Station Square in Pittsburgh. Additional outreach events will be held over the summer.

## **9. FFY2019-22 TIP Update**

- Comment on the Draft TIP was completed in June, including Public Participation Panel meetings and other outreach efforts. In addition to the three rounds of PPP meetings, SPC's TIP Update website—which included an interactive project map—was viewed over 2,000 times. Staff also attended several conferences and PennDOT Connects meetings around the region and promoted the TIP update through social media. SPC received 47 comments through the website, several of which requested additional transit service.

*Action: The Transit Operators Committee recommended that SPC adopt the Title III (Transit) Program of Projects as part of the FFY2019-22 TIP Update by a unanimous vote on a motion by John Paul and a second by Ronda Craig.*

## **10. Westmoreland County Transit Development Plan**

- SPC Staff and consultants from Michael Baker, International presented details from the recently completed Westmoreland County Transit Development Plan. This project included a Transit Plan with recommendations for improved service, a Strategic Business Plan with strategic recommendations for the staff and board of WCTA and a Service Guidelines document to inform future transit service decisions. Some of the recommendations included adding new fixed route service from Greensburg to Monessen; ending fixed route service to Johnstown; making certain minor schedule adjustments to local routes that could greatly increase service; and making better connections between WCTA's board and staff to achieve system

improvements and other goals.

## **11. Meeting Schedule**

*Action: The Transit Operators Committee approved the FY2018-2019 meeting schedule by a unanimous vote on a motion by John Paul and a second by Ronda Craig.*

## **12. Other Business**

- *The next meeting of the TOC is scheduled for 10 a.m. Thursday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, in Pittsburgh, PA. **This will be the annual joint TOC/TTC meeting.***

## **13. Adjournment**

*Action: The Meeting was adjourned by a unanimous vote on a motion by Mary Jo Morandini and a second by Ronda Craig.*