



## SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION

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### MINUTES TRANSIT OPERATORS COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: September 19, 2018  
Location: Two Chatham Center  
112 Washington Place  
Pittsburgh, PA

Attendance:  
Members: Alan Blahovec, WCTA (Chairperson)  
David Huffaker, PAAC  
Anthony Hickton, CommuteInfo  
Sheila Gombita, WASH  
Lucinda Beattie, PDP  
Donna Wickowski, MMVTA (phone)  
John Paul, BTA (phone)  
David Richards, NCATA (phone)  
John Kanyan, ICTA (phone)

Guests: Robert Sharp, PennDOT  
John Levitsky, PennDOT  
Ann Ogoreuc, ACED  
Ed Typanski, PAAC  
Cathy Williams, ACCESS  
Nick Fedorek, Pittsburgh URA

SPC Staff: Tom Klevan  
David Totten  
Kathy Stefani  
Chuck Imbrogno  
Andy Waple

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 June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Transit Operators Committee and the July 19<sup>th</sup> Joint TOC/Transportation Technical Committee meetings**

- *The Committee considered the minutes meetings.*

*Action: Minutes of the June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 TOC meeting and the July 19<sup>th</sup> Joint TOC/TTC meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Sheila Gombita and a*

*second by John Paul.*

#### **4. FTA/PennDOT Updates**

- FTA NOFA: Pilot Program for Expedited Project Delivery
  - SPC Staff highlighted an FTA notice soliciting statements of interest in a new pilot program for transit agencies that wish to use Public/Private Partnerships. FTA has a \$25 million grant available to support this program.
- FTA NOFA: Access & Mobility Partnership Grants.
  - Staff distributed information about a new FTA grant to enable transit access to support health outcomes.
- PennDOT's Robert Sharp reported that the Bureau of Public Transportation is in the midst of a move to the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of their building in Harrisburg.

#### **5. Meeting Participant Updates**

- URA/PAAC—Nick Fedorek from the Pittsburgh Urban Redevelopment Authority updated the TOC on the URA/Port Authority Bus Rapid Transit project. URA is the applicant for the Small Starts application, which has been re-submitted to FTA. Engineering work has advanced and a new service plan for the BRT has been created in response to public input. The new plan maintains the existing transit service quality for Mon Valley communities. The next step for the application is to be included in the President's Budget for 2019.
- WASH—Sheila Gombita reported to the TOC on the current status of the Medical Access Transportation Program. She noted that the Department of Human Services is on-track to issue a Request for Applications in December. They are still working on answering key questions about the process, but plan to issue the RFA by the date required by state legislation. She said PPTA is proposing new legislation or possibly committee hearings to look at the MATP situation, but it may have to happen in the next session.
- BTA—John Paul reported that the road reconstruction project at Butler Transit's transit facility is complete. The new CNG fueling station is now under construction and is expected to be completed by year's end. Also, BTA is offering a mobile ticketing option through the smartphone app "Token Transit". This is the same app being used by York County's Rabbit Transit. BTA is planning a new website to market the mobile option and will continue to use ConnectCard.
- PAAC—Port Authority plans to issue an RFP in October for a custom-built mobile ticketing app, according to Ed Typanski.

*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. Transit Asset Management Plans**

- Robert Sharp from the PennDOT Bureau of Public Transportation updated the TOC on the requirements for transit agencies to adopt Transit Asset Management plans. Sharp said that the state has released a draft “group plan” available for transit agencies to adopt. The draft plan has been shared with planning partners. The Bureau used data from its Capital Planning Tool to set the state’s targets. Later, MPOs such as SPC will set regional targets. The Bureau is planning to conduct training for MPO staff on how to use the CPT for these tasks. Sharp said that it is critical that transit agencies keep the CPT up to date and accurate. Bureau staff have spoken with FTA staff and they are okay with the draft sign-off/opt-in documents. According to Sharp, the state has already reported asset management data through the National Transit Database for the state-administered 5311 and 5310 programs.
- SPC staff told the TOC that agencies will include the opt-in memo for the state TAM plan as part of the planned update of the MPO/Transit agency planning agreement MOU which will occur at a future meeting. In addition, a separate agreement will be needed for agencies that participate in the sub-allocation agreement.
- Port Authority of Allegheny County is the only “Tier 1” agency in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Their draft TAM plan will be completed within two weeks of the TOC meeting.

## **9. Port Authority of Allegheny County Agency Update**

- David Huffaker updated the TOC on recent developments at Port Authority, including his taking over as Director of Development. Huffaker said that while he was working at Sound Transit, he had a good coordination relationship with Seattle’s MPO, Puget Sound Regional Council. Like SPC, the PSRC oversees a region with overlapping service areas and multiple

agencies. PAAC has rearranged the structure so that his department includes short range service planning, long range planning and engineering. Other priorities for the agency:

- PAAC CEO Katharine Eagan Kelleman has identified the need for a new Long Range Plan for the agency. This process will include attention to on-the-street needs, a vision for the future and a build plan.
- PAAC plans to conduct a management retreat in the next year to start the LRP project.
- In the near term, continued work on the Downtown-Oakland-East End Bus Rapid Transit project.
- Port Authority plans to put more work into issues around climate change, which Huffaker says is the nexus of good planning and asset management, including water, wind, and identifying what PAAC assets might be vulnerable.

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

- SPC staff updated the Committee on the Long Range Transportation Plan update.
- In September, SPC hosted a Regional Policy Conference at Station Square in Pittsburgh. This event was streamed live on YouTube and an archived video of the event is available at: <https://youtu.be/J5r4rbh-4eQ>
- Meetings in each county will be held starting in October. These are to be coordinated with Public Participation Panel meetings.
- PennDOT District Workgroup meetings are scheduled for: October 31<sup>st</sup> for District 12; November 5<sup>th</sup> for District 11; and November 11<sup>th</sup> for District 10.

#### **11. SPC Regional Transportation Demand Management Plan**

- Federal regulations call for metropolitan regions to use Travel Demand Management tools to reduce regional congestion. SPC will begin a project to produce a regional TDM plan. The project is to be funded with PennDOT planning money. The “TDM Strategic Action Plan” will be based on facilitating collaboration between PennDOT, the Federal Highways Administration, SPC, Allegheny County’s three Transportation Management Associations. The project will seek to take good ideas from the TMAs as well as from a recent FHWA TDM workshop held at SPC and push them out to the rest of the region. The approach to the plan will be performance-based. Plan elements (some of which are mandated by US DOT, and some of which SPC has already completed) will include:
  - Regional Operations Plan (SPC has this)
  - Congestion Management Process (SPC has this)
  - Maximizing existing strategies and policies
  - Developing strategies and incorporating them into existing plans and strategies
  - Incorporating communities
- SPC plans to complete this planning project by the end of the fiscal year. Staff will organize a steering committee shortly.

#### **12. SPC Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan**

- SPC Staff reported on the progress in updating the region’s Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan. The plan’s vision is to create a transportation network across Southwestern Pennsylvania that is definitively multimodal, provides for seamless travel, includes a variety of options in rural, urban and suburban areas and meets the access needs of anyone—regardless of ability or income. Over the past several months, working groups from SPC’s Alliance for Transportation Working in Communities have been focusing on system components:
  - Multimodal transportation
  - Seamless travel chains

- Urban, suburban and rural environments
  - Accessibility for everyone
- The CHSTP will be a component of the SPC Long Range Transportation Plan. Research and outreach activities will continue through March 2019, with the plan due to be completed in May and presented to the SPC board in June. SPC staff are available to give more detailed outreach presentations to the region's stakeholders during this process.

**13. Other Business**

- *The next meeting of the TOC is scheduled for 10 a.m. Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, in Pittsburgh, PA.*

**14. Adjournment**

*Action: The Meeting was adjourned by a unanimous vote on a motion by Lucinda Beattie and a second by Anthony Hickton.*