



SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION

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MINUTES TRANSIT OPERATORS COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: December 05, 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)
Lynn Manion, ACTA
Mary Jo Morandini, BCTA
Mavis Rainey, OTMA

Guests: David Wohlwill, PAAC
Ed Typanski, PAAC
Greg O'Hare, PAAC
Justin Bhagat, HDR
Cathy Williams, ACCESS

SPC Staff: Tom Klevan
David Totten
Kathy Stefani
Chuck Imbrogno
Andy Waple
Dan Alwine
Kristin Baum

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 September 19th, 2018 Transit Operators Committee meeting**
 - *The Committee considered the minutes of the meeting.*

Action: Minutes of the September 19th, 2018 TOC meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Sheila Gombita and a second by Mary Jo Morandini.

4. FTA/PennDOT Updates

- FTA Region III Staff Update.
 - SPC Staff distributed an updated FTA Region III staff assignment list. FTA staff said they would contact grantees directly, but if any agencies need specific staff contact information, they can ask SPC for phone numbers/e-mails.
- PPTA Winter Meeting Report
 - The winter meeting of the Pennsylvania Public Transportation Association was held in Pittsburgh, recently. SPC Staff attended and reported that the US Department of Homeland Security presented bus safety information in the first statewide tabletop exercise in the country. SPC will explore the possibility of getting more specific training for TOC members in the future.

5. Meeting Participant Updates

- MMVTA—Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority reported on their recent completion of a bus bike rake project.
- PAAC—Port Authority of Allegheny County staff reported on the completion of the agency's new Transit Asset Management Plan. This plan was in response to federal requirements. The plan developed is a strategic management document to track the condition of assets and inform future investment decisions. This includes vehicles, facilities, systems and guideway—over 2,500 assets each valued at \$50,000 or more. SPC Staff noted that the plan will be presented for a formal endorsement vote by SPC on the performance measure targets at the April Commission meeting. This is a requirement of the Performance-Based Planning regulations and will be further implemented in the updated Planning Agreement between SPC, the regional transit operators, Port Authority and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The agreement must be signed by SPC, PennDOT and each transit agency—either the agency General Manager, or the agency's board, whichever works best for each agency. Staff will distribute the agreement letters to each agency.
- BCTA—Mary Jo Morandini reported that more than half of the BCTA fleet has been replaced over the past two years. BCTA is moving forward to adding new automated fare collection systems, including ticket vending machines as well as upgrades to shelters. Morandini said BCTA is also investigating a partial re-branding—BCTA plans to issue an RFP for the marketing project. Morandini noted that BCTA facility in Center Township will be due for repairs and investments, soon.
- BTA—SPC staff relayed an update from BTA that their the agency plans to provide some free commuter trips to encourage potential riders to switch modes to transit.
- WASH—Sheila Gombita reported that Freedom Transit saw a 25% increase in ridership over 2018. Freedom has also hired a new marketing coordinator who is launching a social media campaign and is also meeting with individual riders.

There were no other meeting participant updates.

6. SPC Staff Updates

- ATWIC—SPC staff updated the Committee on work to update the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan (CTP). Four working groups are providing input into the plan: Multimodal Transportation Network, Seamless Travel Chains, Urban Suburban and Rural Environments, and Mobility for Anyone Regardless of Ability or Income. A fifth section on robotics may be added in the future. Staff are currently writing the plan document, including incorporating

current data from SPC sources. The next Alliance meeting to work on the plan is set for February 6, 2019.

- Regional TDM Plan—SPC staff reported that the RFP for consultant support for a Regional TDM plan has been released. The goal is to award this contract in January with work to begin at the end of January.
- CommuteInfo—SPC staff played the newest TV commercials for CommuteInfo. This is the latest result from the new marketing project at CommuteInfo. Staff noted the cross-promotion on radio and on Port Authority buses. Hits on the ride-matching software have gone through the roof. Staff also reported that a new contract for providing vanpool services is set to go into effect. The new provider is Enterprise, a much larger company than the previous operator. Staff stressed that promoting transit as the number one option is part of CommuteInfo’s mission and so this marketing effort is available to help any other marketing from TOC members.
- Rail~Volution—Staff reported that the Rail~Volution 2018 conference had been held in Pittsburgh in October. This event was attended by many transit staff, private sector planners, government officials and stakeholders. SPC especially thanked BCTA for hosting a mobile workshop to investigate Pennsylvania’s P3 process.
- Pennsylvania State Planning Conference—SPC staff recently presented workshops at the annual state planning conference, held in Erie. The workshops included Mobility as a Service and a transit planning board game. Staff plan to bring both of these topics to the TOC at future meetings.

There were no other staff updates.

7. Amendments and Administrative Actions to the FFY2019-2022 TIP

- *Butler Transit Authority (BTA)* requested an administrative adjustment to the FFY2019-2022 TIP project “CNG Gillig Buses” (MPMS# 102345) to add \$95,163 in federal funding and \$33,868 in state funding and remove \$10,077 in local funding in FFY2019 and to change the federal source to 5311 and the state source to 340. This project is to purchase six CNG-fueled 30’ Gillig buses with AVAIL systems to replace buses for local service. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$118,954**
- *BTA* also requested an amendment to the FFY2019-2022 TIP to add the project “Terminal Relocation” (MPMS# 112541) to relocate the downtown Terminal Transfer Center with \$117,159 in state 339 funding and \$3,904 in local funding in FFY2019. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$121,063**
- *BTA* also requested an amendment to the FFY2019-2022 TIP to add the project “Commuter Buses” (MPMS# 112542) to replace commuter buses in FFY2019, 2020 and 2021 with \$447,630 in federal 5307 funding and \$108,271 in state funding and \$3,637 in local funding in each year. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$1,678,614**
 - **Action:** *These actions were unanimously approved and the appropriate changes were made to the region’s FFY2019-2022 TIP by the TOC on a motion by Mary Jo Morandini 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 TIP actions requested.

8. Census 2020 Update

- Kristin Baum from SPC Staff reported to the TOC on the work being done to support the Census 2020 through the Complete Count Committee program. Census data is used in many aspects of planning and transit management, determining Congressional representation as well as FTA formula funding levels. Baum noted that there are Complete Count Committees in every

county in the region for transit agencies to participate or support the Census through these committees. Transit agencies that wish to participate can contact SPC for more information.

9. Lawrence County Multimodal Study

- SPC Project Development Specialist Dan Alwine presented details of the draft Lawrence County Multimodal Study, which includes several transit-related elements. This project was part of the PennDOT Connects program which seeks to engage municipalities earlier in the transportation planning process. This study looked at the US422 and SR65 corridors near New Castle. Some of the potential future capital improvements identified in the study recommend pedestrian infrastructure that would also help transit riders. The study also suggested investments in improved bus stops, signs and shelters and implementing a real-time arrival system. Staff noted that this is a good example of how the PennDOT Connects process can lead to better transit. The next PennDOT Connects meeting is set for PennDOT District 10 on February 8th in Kittanning.

10. Long Range Transportation Plan Update

- SPC Director of Transportation Andy Waple reported on progress in drafting SPC's Long Range Transportation Plan. SPC has compiled a great deal of input through surveys and workshops. From this, SPC has developed three themes for the plan: Connected Mobility, Resiliency and A Globally Competitive Economy. A "laundry list of strategies" developed through independent expert resource panels was boiled down into strategies that will be presented to the SPC Commissioners for their endorsement in January. Some of the Connected Mobility strategies include:
 - Develop and support infrastructure that advances progress,
 - Provide equitable transportation services disadvantaged populations in both urban and rural areas,
 - Support infrastructure that prepares the region for technological advances,
 - Offset the impacts of connected and autonomous vehicles on public safety, traffic congestion, public and private sector revenue and quality of life,
 - Work with many partners and other plans in the region,
 - Invest in a seamless, connected transit system for the region,
 - New transit investments in key corridors and networks,
 - Comprehensive regional plan for public transit connections,
 - Streamline and prioritize project development,

11. Other Business

- *The next meeting of the TOC is scheduled for 10 a.m. Wednesday, February 13th, 2019 at the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, in Pittsburgh, PA.*

12. Adjournment

Action: The Meeting was adjourned by a unanimous vote on a motion by Mary Jo Morandini and a second by Sheila Gombita.