



SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION

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MINUTES TRANSIT OPERATORS COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: February 13, 2019
Location: Two Chatham Center
112 Washington Place
Pittsburgh, PA

Attendance:
Members: Alan Blahovec, WCTA (Chairperson)
David Huffaker, PAAC
Anthony Hickton, CommuteInfo
Sheila Gombita, WASH
Donna Wickowski, MMVTA (phone)
Mary Jo Morandini, BCTA
David Richards, NCATA (phone)
John Paul, BTA (phone)

Guests: David Wohlwill, PAAC
Ed Typanski, PAAC
Jeffrey Devlin, PAAC
Deborah Skillings, PAAC
Cathy Williams, ACCESS
Akshali Gandhi, Michael Baker
Ann Ogoreuc, ACED

SPC Staff: Tom Klevan
David Totten
Kathy Stefani
Chuck Imbrogno
Andy Waple
Ronda Craig
Dom D'Andrea
Leann Chaney

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Public Comment –

- a. *Raymond Tylicki commented on the ConnectCard system, suggesting that there should be a ticket vending machine at BCTA's transit center in Rochester to facilitate transfers between PAAC and BCTA.*
- b. *James Love commented, requesting more transit connections between Downtown Pittsburgh and routes by WCTA, MMVTA and FACT. He also suggested extending the East Busway to Pitcairn and requested direct service between Pitcairn and Indiana.*
- c. *There was no further public comment.*

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for the December 5th, 2018 Transit Operators Committee meeting

- *The Committee considered the minutes of the meeting.*
Action: Minutes of the December 5th, 2018 TOC meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Sheila Gombita and a second by Mary Jo Morandini.

4. FTA/PennDOT Updates

- FTA Research availability: Transit Bus Automation.
 - SPC Staff distributed an FTA funding availability notice for research into transit bus automation.
- MATP Update
 - Sheila Gombita updated the Committee on the current status of the MATP program. She said that PPTA was continuing its process to advocate legislation to slow down, delay or stop the RFA for brokering out statewide MATP transportation until the impacts of this move can be studied. PPTA plans to brief legislators about the issue. One issue being looked at is that while the state Department of Human Services would be able to access \$15 million in additional federal funds to provide MATP transportation, existing transit operators would lose federal formula funding. SPC staff analyzed scenarios for potential impact of this move, by agency, finding that 5307 funding could be reduced 11% to 47% for Freedom Transit, for example.

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 updated the Committee on the Bus Rapid Transit project. The project team has completed the 60% design phase. The team is planning to present these designs to the public at meetings over the summer. Also, the design team is considering two approaches to using Mellon Terrace in Highland Park as a layover station for some BRT routes—these plans were shown to the Highland Park Community Council in January. Project sponsors gave a tour of the BRT corridor to PennDOT Deputy Secretary Jennie Granger. The team is currently working on a new public website for the project. Sponsors anticipate receiving a decision from FTA on the Small Starts application later in 2019.
- Port Authority also reported that the agency has applied for funding through the “Drive PA Forward” program (the Volkswagen settlement) to cover the additional costs of two battery electric buses intended to be used on the 88 Penn route. Duquesne Light is a partner on this project, and would contribute charging stations for the vehicles.
- BTA—Butler Transit Authority's CNG fueling station has been tested. Ribbon-cutting on the facility is set for April 11th—this will also include a celebration of 35 years of BTA. The last three buses for local service will enter operations in April. BTA and PAAC have agreed that BTA's commuter buses can use the East Busway.

There were no other meeting participant updates.

6. SPC Staff Updates

- SR 885/Second Ave. Multimodal Corridor Plan— SPC staff updated the Committee on the current study of the SR 885/Second Ave. corridor in Allegheny County. The plan is being done at the request of PennDOT District 11 and the City of Pittsburgh. This project is looking at the entire corridor from the 10th St. Bridge in Downtown Pittsburgh through the Hazelwood Green development site and the neighborhood of Hazelwood to Hayes, across the Glenwood Bridge. The study area is expected to see considerable growth—up to six million square feet of office space in coming years. It has seen several fatal accidents in recent years. Transit and trail use is already high in this area. Data collection on traffic and transit is complete. While traffic is congested during AM and PM peak hours, speeds can be excessive during the rest of the day. One public meeting is planned for February, and more opportunities for public input are planned. A public “Wikimap” website was opened to gather more specific input at www.spcsecondavenue.com . The project will be complete by the end of June, 2019.
- SPC Active Transportation Plan—Staff reviewed progress on the Active Transportation Plan. The draft plan will be presented to SPC Commissioners in April. This plan is a part of the Long Range Transportation Plan update. Staff also demonstrated the new Active Transportation Forum website, hosted by SPC, which includes profiles for each county and the City of Pittsburgh— www.atrc-spc.org . Draft plan documents are also available at this website. The site also includes pages on Transportation & Health, Funding, Evaluation & Planning and more.
- CommuteInfo—SPC staff unveiled the second-annual Commuter Challenge event, set to run May 13-19. Registration starts April 22nd, Earth Day, at www.commuteinfo.org . Participants can register their commute patterns and earn points for tracking sustainable commutes to register for prizes.
- SPC Long Range Transportation Plan—SPC staff updated the Committee on progress on updating the SPC Long Range Transportation Plan. Strategies were adopted officially by the Commission at their January meeting. Staff are still seeking more public input through an online survey. Project development work groups should finish their work by the end of February, with air quality conformity and environmental justice analyses to follow. Public Participation Panel meetings will take place in early summer, during the official public comment period. The Commission will be able to take action on the plan at its June meeting.
- Regional TDM Plan—SPC staff reported that a signed consultant services contract to work on the Regional TDM Strategic Action Plan will be ready to be signed shortly.
- Regional Operations Plan Update—SPC Staff discussed the update to the Regional Operations Plan, which looks to identify operations needs, such as locating transit bottlenecks, finding the best place for new park-and-ride and implementing new technologies. Staff will meet at the PennDOT district offices in March.

There were no other staff updates.

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

- *Beaver County Transit Authority (BCTA)* requested an administrative adjustment to the FFY2019-2022 TIP project “ETC Renovations” (MPMS# 94985) to move a total of \$134,500 in federal 5307 and state and local funding from FY2020 and FY2021 to FY2019 and to change the state source to 339 to re-prioritize the improvements to BCTA’s Expressway Travel Center passenger waiting and maintenance areas to be completed sooner. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$0**
- *BCTA* also requested an administrative adjustment to the FFY2019-2022 TIP project “Computer Hardware and Software” (MPMS# 83817) to reallocate \$44,800 in federal 5307 and \$10,838 in other state and \$362 in local funding from FY2020 to FY2019 to complete the hardware and software upgrade work needed in 2019. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$0**
 - **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 Sheila Gombita and a second by David Huffaker. Staff will transmit this project information to the*

PennDOT Program Center within one week of this action.

- *Washington County Transportation Authority (WASH) requested an amendment to the FFY2019-2022 TIP to add the new project “Acquisition ADP Hardware Assets” to replace hardware, including tablets, mounting equipment and laptops for shared ride scheduling software with \$20,704 in state 341 funding in FY2019. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$20,704***
- *WASH requested an administrative adjustment to the FFY2019-2022 TIP project “Video System for Paratransit” (MPMS# 111382) to add this carryover project to provide a complete video camera system for installation on all WASH-owned paratransit vehicles. This project was split over two years, requiring it to be added to the current TIP with \$125,000 in state 341 funding in FY2019. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$125,000***
- *WASH requested an administrative adjustment to the FFY2019-2022 TIP project “Replace Paratransit Vehicles” (MPMS# 111383) to purchase 24 small transit buses over three years with \$600,000 in state 41 funding in FY2019 and \$600,000 in state other funding in both FY2020 and FY2021. This project was inadvertently left off the FY2019-22 TIP. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$1,800,000***
- *WASH requested an administrative adjustment to the FFY2019-2022 TIP project “Heavy Duty Buses” (MPMS# 106645) to specify the state source and add local funding in FY2019 with \$360,000 in federal 5307, \$87,096 in state 339 and \$2,903 in local funding to purchase 1 bus in 2019 and 2 buses in 2022. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$0***
- *WASH also requested an administrative adjustment to the FFY2019-2022 TIP project “Support Vehicles” (MPMS# 106652) to replace two support trucks for fixed route service bringing this carry-over project from the previous TIP with \$80,000 in federal 5307 and \$19,355 in state 339 and \$645 in local funding in FY2019. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$100,000***
 - ***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 David Huffaker. Staff will transmit this project information to the PennDOT Program Center within one week of this action.*

There were no TIP actions requested.

8. Port Authority Senior Citizen Connect Card

- Jeffrey Devlin from the Port Authority of Allegheny County reported to the TOC on the new PAAC program to convert senior citizens from paper passes to special ConnectCards. The program will upgrade users to the new cards as they apply for them or request replacements—riders will not be required to replace their cards. Longer-term, PAAC hopes to work with PennDOT to use ConnectCards instead of Medicare cards. The new cards will include a photo of the rider embedded in the card. Senior citizens can visit PAAC’s downtown Pittsburgh office, or their local legislative office to get the new card. A pilot will start soon at the PAAC office and expand to the legislative office of Rep. Dan Deasy in May. On Port Authority buses, riders will be able to tap the card as they board, like any other ConnectCard. On regional buses, the card will function as a flash-pass, like the current paper passes.

9. Regional Coordinated Transportation Plan Update

- SPC’s Kathy Stefani updated the TOC on work over the past 18 months to update the Southwestern Pennsylvania Public Transit Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan (CTP). Working from a regional goal, SPC staff developed four focus groups: Multimodal Transportation Network; Seamless Travel Chains; Urban, Suburban and Rural Environments; and Transportation for Anyone, Regardless of Ability or Income. Each topic was given to a workgroup that performed research, public outreach and even writing material for the plan. The draft plan is scheduled to be presented to SPC in June.

10. Other Business

- *The next meeting of the TOC is scheduled for 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 17th, 2019 at the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, in Pittsburgh, PA.*

11. Adjournment

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