SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION

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MINUTES
TRANSIT OPERATORS COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: April 17, 2019
Location: Two Chatham Center
             112 Washington Place
             Pittsburgh, PA

<u>Attendance</u>:
Members: Alan Blahovec, WCTA (Chairperson)
             David Huffaker, PAAC
             Anthony Hickton, CommuteInfo
             Sheila Gombita, WASH
             Donna Wickowski, MMVTA (phone)
             Mary Jo Morandini, BCTA
             John Paul, BTA (phone)
             Lynn Manion, ACTA

Guests: David Wohlwill, PAAC
             Ed Typanski, PAAC
             Cathy Williams, ACCESS
             Akshali Gandhi, Michael Baker
             Ann Ogoreuc, ACED
             Q. Aniqua Zahra, PAAC
             Nugent Laing, HDR

SPC Staff: Tom Klevan
             David Totten
             Andy Waple
             Chris Jaros
             Chuck Imbrogno
             Ronda Craig
             Leann Chaney

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

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

2. **Public Comment –**

   a. *There was no public comment.*

3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes for the February 13th, 2019 Transit Operators Committee meeting**
   - *The Committee considered the minutes of the meeting.*
       - *Action: Minutes of the February 13th, 2019 TOC meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Mary Jo Morandini and a second by Sheila Gombita.*

4. **FTA/PennDOT Updates**
   - TRB Transit Webinar.
       - SPC Staff distributed an invitation to a webinar by the Transit Research Board on "Dialysis Transportation: The Intersection of Transportation and Healthcare."
   - Transit Asset Management Plan Update
       - SPC Staff updated the TOC on activities related to the Transit Asset Management Plan, including plans to update SPC Commissioners on the TAM performance measurement process. The TAM process is now in place for all Southwestern Pennsylvania transit agencies, now that all planning agreements have been signed. Staff thanked the TOC membership for their help with the planning agreement process.

5. **Meeting Participant Updates**
   - *BCTA*—Beaver County Transit Authority discussed planned service changes. Overall, the changes add 25 hours of service per week. Mary Jo Morandini noted that one route is not running on-time, but this route will add an additional run to ensure riders can make their transfers. BCTA is re-instating one mid-day trip to Pittsburgh. There are 19 trips per day to Pittsburgh, including Port Authority trips. One stop at the end of a route at a drug-and-alcohol treatment center is eliminated—Morandini said this stop required BCTA to maintain a turn-around at the cost of $25,000/year and that only one person would be impacted and that rider would be able to use the DART shared-ride service.
   - BCTA also reported that BCTA is planning to implement a new Smart Card fare payment system over the next several months.
   - *WASH*— Freedom Transit reported the start of new service from the City of Washington to Monongahela in the Mon Valley. The new route begins at the end of April. Sheila Gombita also reported that WASH was acquiring two new buses to operate on the new route.
   - ACTA—Lynn Manion updated the TOC on the status of the TransLoc Pilot ride scheduling app project, which started in February. The goal is to improve rider experience and service efficiency and increase ridership. Manion says reviews have been mixed. Some of the negative reviews relate to accurate counting of riders, compared to the previous methods. Some other issues relate to RideACTA's hybrid fixed-route/on-demand system. The positives for ACTA include having access to much more data than before—including wait times for individual riders and precise locations of pick-ups. The pilot continues for another four months, after which ACTA would have to find funding for the service. Manion says the cost at that point would be $500 per vehicle, per month, or about $18,000 per year for ACTA. The app is called "microtransit app".
   - *PAAC*—Port Authority reported on the current status of the Downtown Pittsburgh-Oakland Bus Rapid Transit project. The new project website is live, and accessible through the www.portauthority.org website. FTA recently announced that the project is rated as one of the top Small Starts projects in the country. A future TIP adjustment is anticipated for the project as the sponsorship is expected to switch from the URA of Pittsburgh to PAAC.

There were no other meeting participant updates.

6.   **SPC Staff Updates**

- *SPC Active Transportation Plan*—Staff reported that the Active Transportation Plan has been completed and the draft plan will be presented to SPC Commissioners later in April. Other staff work on Active Transportation includes maintenance and updating of the Active Transportation Forum website— www.atrc-spc.org. In addition, staff is working on mapping of "Communities of Concern" for bike and pedestrian crashes, and a guide to bike symbols, signs and pavement markings and updating of the bicycle suitability mapping. SPC will host a bike-to-work day in May.
- *CommuteInfo*—SPC staff reported that the second-annual CommuteInfo Commuter Challenge kicks-off April 22nd. Information is at the CommuteInfo home page. The challenge will take place May 13-19. Participants in the challenge will be asked to track their commute for a chance to win prizes. Staff also reported that the region will likely soon see vehicles labeled "Commute with Enterprise." Although Enterprise is SPC's contract partner, these vehicles are not part of the CommuteInfo program.
- *SPC Long Range Transportation Plan*—SPC staff updated the Committee on work to complete the adoption process for the update to the region's Long Range Transportation Plan & Economic Development Strategy. Draft materials for "Smart Moves for a Changing Region" is available at the SPC website, www.spcregion.org. In addition, SPC staff will be taking the draft plan to the public in May and June through a series of Public Participation Panel meetings/open houses in all 10 counties, as well as an online public comment form. The draft will be presented to the Commission for a final vote at the June 24th meeting.
- *ATWIC/Coordinated Transportation Plan*—SPC staff updated the TOC on the Coordinated Transportation Plan (CTP). The work is on this plan is focused on transportation for people who "fall outside the margins" for other transportation modes. The work on the plan began over one year ago. The regional transportation goal is to have a regional multimodal transportation network that includes seamless travel chains, in rural/suburban/urban environments for in-county and cross-county trips, that anyone—regardless of ability or income—can take advantage of in order to access health care, jobs, education, quality nutrition and social activities. The planning process also looked at barriers to use. The update of the CTP is aligned with the update of the LRTP, especially over the theme of connected mobility. Staff are working to compile the work done so far into a three-prong approach: Embracing Change; Greater Access; and Smarter Service Delivery. The next Alliance meeting will be on May 1st.
- *Regional Operations Plan Update*—SPC Staff reported that the update to the Regional Operations Plan was at the 60% complete level. Staff will share the draft document with the TOC. This plan seeks to identify the operations needs and also identify plans and projects that could address those needs. Staff will meet at the PennDOT district offices to work on the plan in May.
- *SR 885/Second Avenue Multimodal Corridor Study*—SPC's work continues on the multi-modal corridor study of SR 885/Second Avenue, from the 10th Street Bridge through the Hazelwood Green development site, through Hazelwood and across the Glenwood Bridge. There are upcoming steering committee and public meetings in April and May. The project will be completed by the end of June.
- *GIS*—SPC staff reminded transit operators to continue the practice of informing SPC staff when there are changes to routes and stops so that the region's GTFS files and maps can remain up-

to-date.

There were no other staff updates.

7. **Amendments and Administrative Actions to the FFY2019-2022 TIP**
   - *Allied Coordinated Transportation Services (ACTS)* requested an administrative adjustments to the FFY2019-2022 TIP project "Computer Workstations" (MPMS# 113100) to add the project to the current TIP with $29,000 in state 341 funding AND to project "Office Copier" (MPMS# 113101) to add it to the current TIP with $14,000 in state 341 funding AND to project "Bus Cellular Radio Mounts" (MPMS# 113102) to add it to the TIP with $2,300 in state 341 funding AND to project "Service Pickup Truck" (MPMS# 113103) to add it to the TIP 2ith $60,000 in state 341 funding AND TO PROJECT "Snow Plow and Salt Spreader" (MPMS# 13104) to add it to the TIP with $13,000 in state 341 funding—all of these projects in FFY2019 will make various capital improvements. ***TOTAL CHANGE: $118,300***
     - *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.*

   - *Butler Transit Authority (BTA)* requested an amendment to the FFY2019-2022 TIP to add the project "Transit Center Improvement" (MPMS# 113106) with $1,200,000 in federal 5311 funding and $290,325 in state 339 funding and $9,675 in local funding in FFY2019 to improve BTA's maintenance and bus storage facility, including a training room, passenger waiting area and park-and-ride lot. ***TOTAL CHANGE: $1,500,000***
     - *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 Sheila Gombita and a second by Mary Jo Morandini. Staff will transmit this project information to the PennDOT Program Center within one week of this action.*

   - *Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority (MMVTA)* requested administrative actions to the FFY2019-2022 TIP to project "Security Cam Sys Upgrade" (MPMS# 110550) to add $28,526 in state local funding and $951 in local funding for FFY2019. ***TOTAL CHANGE: $29,477***
     - *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.*

   - *Westmoreland County Transportation Authority (WCTA)* requested administrative actions to the FFY2019-2022 TIP to project "Bus Storage Facility" (MPMS# 111124) to remove $800,000 in federal 5307 funding and $200,000 in OTHER STATE funding from FFY2020 and add $2,325,690 in federal 5339 funding and $562,672 in state 339 funding and $18,751 in local funding to FFY2019 to advance the project to this year, AND to project "Preventive Maintenance" (MPMS# 77739) to add $100,000 in federal 5307 funding and $20,968 in state 339 funding (changed from OTH-S) and $4,032 in local funding in each year: FFY2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022. ***TOTAL CHANGE: $2,407,133***
     - *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 John Paul. Staff will transmit this project information to the PennDOT*

Program Center within one week of this action.

There were no TIP actions requested.

8. **Regional Travel Demand Management Strategic Action Plan Update**
   - Staff updated the Committee on the progress to produce a Regional TDM Strategic Action Plan. SPC is in the middle of this project, which will be completed by June 30. A stakeholder workshop was recently held on April 5. Draft materials will be added to the project website, www.spcmobility.org . The next workshop is scheduled for May 14.

9. **SPC Regional GIS Sidewalk Layer**
   - SPC's Chris Jaros presented a demonstration of SPC's new Regional GIS sidewalk layer, which allows geographic analysis of every sidewalk in the region. This project started with a look at Cranberry Township, but has grown to include the entire region, using data from aerial photographs taken in 2015-16. The layer also includes data from the City of Pittsburgh's city-steps inventory of public stairs. The layer draws crosswalks and crossing points, sidewalks and transit stops. This can be used to create walkshed analyses that are built on an actual safe walking distance, rather than the road network. While this layer is not yet available on SPC public-facing GIS website, analysis and data requests from planning partners, such as transit agency or county transportation planners, are welcome and can be addressed to SPC.

10. **TOC Officer Selection Committee**
    - The TOC appointed Alan Blahovec to comprise the TOC Officer Selection Committee. Blahovec will report to the TOC at the next meeting on recommendations for the chairperson for the term of 2019-21.

11. **MATP Update**
    - Sheila Gombita updated the TOC on current activity in the Pennsylvania Legislature related to the Medical Assistance Transportation Program. Gombita said SB390 had passed committee and was heading to the Senate Floor. Meanwhile, HB986 was introduced and assigned to the Health Committee but was not being heard. She said there was little interest in the bill in House leadership, however some lawmakers were considering efforts to avoid this committee.

12. **Other Business**
    - *The next meeting of the TOC is scheduled for 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 19th, 2019 at the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, in Pittsburgh, PA.*

13. **Adjournment**

    Action: The Meeting was adjourned by a unanimous vote on a motion by John Paul and a second by Sheila Gombita.