



SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION

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**MINUTES
TRANSIT OPERATORS COMMITTEE MEETING**

Date: April 15, 2020
Location: **Meeting was held by online video/teleconference**

Attendance:

Members: Sheila Gombita, WASH (Chairperson)
Lori Groover Smoth, FACT
Ed Typanski, PAAC
Anthony Hickton, CommuteInfo
Mary Jo Morandini, BCTA
Ashley Seaman, MMVTA
Lynn Manion, ACTA
John Paul, BTA
Alan Blahovec, WCTA
Lynn Manion, ACTA
Mavis Rainey, OTMA

Guests/Staff: Andy Batson, PennDOT
Ronda Craig, CommuteInfo
Nancy Basile, MMVTA

SPC Staff: Tom Klevan
David Totten
Chuck Imbrogno
Steph Kambic
Kathy Stefani
Leann Chaney
Sara Wolfort

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 previous Transit Operators Committee meetings

- *The Committee approved the minutes for the February 19, 2019 TOC meeting on a motion by John Paul and a second by Mavis Rainey*

4. FTA/PennDOT Updates

- Andy Batson from the PennDOT Bureau of Public Transportation updated the Bureau’s response to the ongoing global pandemic, including administration of CARES Act funds:
 - PennDOT BPT staff are giving frequent updates to Governor Wolf
 - State capital grants will be open for applications soon.
 - The Capital Planning Tool will also shortly be open for updates. Agencies are asked to note if any projects are expected to be delayed by the crisis.
 - Batson noted that Pennsylvania is a “pilot state” for the small vehicle contract
 - The deadline to complete a transit safety plan is still July 20, 2020
 - Bureau staff is communicating daily with FTA staff to administer CARES Act funding. The governor’s apportionment letter has been sent. The state is still working out details for distributing section 5311 funding.
- SPC staff completed calculating “splits” of the region’s additional funding through the federal CARES Act. The tables were distributed to the regional sub-allocation group, which agreed to the distribution by consensus. SPC staff continue to work with FTA Region III.

5. Meeting Participant Updates

- PAAC—Port Authority reported that the first two battery-electric buses, built by New Flyer, have entered service. The agency is also making some service changes in response to COVID-19. Port Authority also reported that the Long Range Plan project held its kickoff activities prior to the shutdown and that there was significant public engagement.

There were no other meeting participant updates.

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

There were no other TIP adjustments requested.

7. SmartMoves Connections Project Update

- SPC staff updated the TOC on the SmartMoves Connections regional transit vision project. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the planned Transit Operations Workshop will be postponed until summer.

8. Corridor Master Plan Project

- A new planning project at SPC will endeavor to create a framework to guide future multimodal corridor studies. This will include a prioritization of future studies and a pilot study of a selected corridor. The project will be coordinated closely with the SmartMoves Connections project, including making use of its data and analysis work.

9. FFY2021-24 Transit TIP Update

- SPC staff reported on progress to complete the draft transit TIP. Agencies are requested to complete their Financial Capacity Documentation by the following Friday. The draft TIP will be released for public comment May 11. Three virtual public meetings will be held in May and June. See the SPC website for documents: spcregion.org

10. SPC Staff Updates

- *TDM Regional Partners*—SPC staff updated the Committee on the new TDM Regional Partners group, which has replaced the former CommuteInfo Partners. In light of the COVID-19 crisis, plans for a TDM Regional Partners forum have been postponed to September. Staff are also working to move the planned Commuter Challenge activity to the fall. Staff are also working with the firm Market Space and with CommuteInfo’s transportation contractor, Enterprise, to plan for how CommuteInfo can ramp-up to full service, when that is again possible. Meanwhile staff is working with New Castle Area Transit Authority on a marketing plan, including setting demographics goals for the agency. The CommuteInfo website will remain updated throughout the emergency conditions.
- *Active Transportation Update*—SPC staff updated the Committee on Active Transportation work. May’s “Bike to Work Month” have been postponed. July’s Active Transportation Forum has been canceled. SPC staff continue to work with communities that are in the process of applying for Bike Friendly Communities designation, however a planned meeting for these communities has been postponed. Meanwhile, staff continue to safely carry out bike counts on area trails. Staff reported that bike activity is increasing noticeably.
- *Alliance*—SPC staff reported that the planned May 6th meeting of The Alliance has been canceled. The next scheduled meetin is set for August. Staff continue to work on implementation activities related to the Coordinated Transportation Plan.

There were no other staff updates.

11. Other Business

- *The next meeting of the TOC is scheduled for 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 17th, 2020. This meeting will be held with online/phone participation ONLY. See details at www.spcregion.org*
Action: The meeting was adjourned on a motion by John Paul and a second by Alan Blahovec.