



SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION

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MINUTES TRANSIT OPERATORS COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: February 17, 2021
 Location: **Meeting was held by online video/teleconference**

Attendance:

Members: Sheila Gombita, WASH (Chairperson)
 David Wohlwill, PAAC
 Anthony Hickton, CommuteInfo
 Mary Jo Morandini, BCTA
 Ashley Seman, MMVTA
 Alan Blahovec, WCTA
 Lynn Manion, ACTA
 Kathryn Schlesinger, PDP
 Lori Groover-Smith, FACT
 David Richards, NCATA
 John Paul, BTA
 John Kanyan, ICTA

Guests/Staff: Andy Batson, PennDOT
 Kevin McCullough, PennDOT
 Sam Plocinski, PennDOT
 Lynda Conway, Delta Development (HCI)
 Darryl Phillips
 Brandon Leach
 Lisa Kay Schweyer, CMU/Mobility21
 Matthew Crea
 Nugent Laing
 Jeff Hans
 Ann Ogoreuc, ACED

SPC Staff: Tom Klevan
 David Totten
 Kathy Stefani
 Ronda Craig
 Chuck Imbrogno
 Leann Chaney
 Erika Eagen

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 December 9, 2020 TOC meeting on a motion by Alan Blahovec and a second by David Richards.*

4. FTA/PennDOT Updates

- FTA has issued a new Dear Colleague Letter announcing that the agency is reverting to pre-2018 rules for administering the New Starts program.
- Staff discussed the process for the FFY2021 sub-allocation of federal formula funding. Staff are still waiting for some numbers to complete the allocation of funding from the CRRSSA Act. This information is expected in a matter of days and SPC will schedule a remote meeting for participants in the regional sub-allocation process immediately thereafter.
- Kevin McCullough from PennDOT updated the Committee on the status of the current federal transportation law, the FAST Act. McCullough said that funding through federal COVID-19 relief acts for PennDOT highways totaled \$407 million.
- McCullough also updated the TOC on the PennDOT Major Bridge P3 Initiative, which is due to be launched in the coming weeks.

5. Meeting Participant Updates

- BTA—John Paul reported that Butler Transit Authority had executed its CARES Act Grant. Also, BTA has awarded contracts for construction of a multimodal center in Butler, to be completed in the Fall.
- Freedom Transit—Sheila Gombita reported that Freedom Transit is providing free trips to vaccination sites starting this week. The service is being subsidized with CARES Act funding, where needed. MMVTA and BCTA are also providing free rides for vaccinations.
- PAAC—David Wohlwill reported that Port Authority conducted four public meetings on the Bus Rapid Transit project. These were the first public meetings on the project since 2018 and were to review the 90% design. Wohlwill said attendance was good, with 50+ people at each virtual meeting
- ACTA—Lynn Manion reported that ACTA is participating in a first-mile/last-mile study with researchers from the University of California, Berkeley.

There were no other meeting participant updates.

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

- *Port Authority of Allegheny County (PAAC) requested an amendment to the FFY2021-2024 TIP to add the project “Electric Bus Purchase” (MPMS# 110551) to cover the differential cost for the purchase of seven additional battery-electric buses and one charging station for use in the planned Downtown-Uptown-Oakland-East-End Bus Rapid Transit corridor with \$5,666,950 in discretionary funding through the EPA Targeted Airshed program, \$5,080,687 in state CB funding and \$169,313 in local funding. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$10,916,950***
 - *Action: This action was unanimously approved and the appropriate changes were made to the region’s FFY2021-2024 TIP by the TOC on a motion by John Paul and a second by Mary Jo Morandini. Staff will transmit this project information to the PennDOT Program Center within one week of this action.*
- *Beaver County Transit Authority (BCTA) requested an amendment to the FFY2021-2024 TIP to add the project “Midlife Vehicle Overhaul” (MPMS# 114400) to perform midlife overhauls on six 2013 MCI coach buses (this project had previously appeared on the FFY2019-21 TIP and is*

being moved to the FFY2021 TIP) with \$384,000 in federal 5307 funding, \$92,904 in other state funding and \$3,096 in local funding. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$480,000**

- **Action:** *This action was unanimously approved and the appropriate changes were made to the region's FFY2021-2024 TIP by the TOC on a motion by John Paul and a second by David Richards. Staff will transmit this project information to the PennDOT Program Center within one week of this action.*
- **Fayette Area Coordinated Transportation (FACT)** requested an administrative adjustment to the FFY2021-2024 TIP project "Capital Assistance" (MPMS# 71083) to add previously allocated federal and state funding for the purchase of one additional light-duty vehicle, security cameras, garage lighting and heating/AC unit to the project with \$284,000 in federal 5307 funding and \$57,535 in other state funding and \$13,785 in local funding. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$35,320**
 - **Action:** *This action was unanimously approved and the appropriate changes were made to the region's FFY2021-2024 TIP by the TOC on a motion by Mary Jo Morandini and a second by David Richards. 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 FFY2021-2024 TIP to add the project "Bus Shelters" (MPMS# 107255) to purchase and construct up to eight bus shelters for fixed-route service (this project had previously appeared on the FFY2019-21 TIP and is being moved to the FFY2021 TIP) with \$155,870 in federal 5307 funding, \$20,130 in federal 5311 funding, \$42,710 in other state funding and \$1,420 in local funding. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$220,130**
 - **Action:** *This action was unanimously approved and the appropriate changes were made to the region's FFY2021-2024 TIP by the TOC on a motion by Alan Blahovec and a second by David Richards. Staff will transmit this project information to the PennDOT Program Center within one week of this action.*

There were no TIP adjustments requested.

7. SmartMoves Connections

- SPC staff demonstrated the new StoryMaps for putting the SmartMoves Connections material to use. Staff took several suggestions for improvements to the maps. The maps are live and available now:
 - SmartMoves Connections Story Map: <https://tinyurl.com/8z9z6pvx>
 - SmartMoves Connections Cluster Map: <https://tinyurl.com/ppamhyj9>

8. NexTransit Update

- Port Authority staff updated the TOC on the agency's long range plan project, NexTransit. The plan has a time horizon of 2045. The goal is to look at connections, hubs and corridors, including recommendations for high-capacity transit, street upgrades, new neighborhood connectors, community circulator routes. Other study elements include a best use study and possible topography connectors, such as aerial tramways or inclines. New policies and programs are also being reviewed, including stop optimization, amenities, mobility technology, sidewalks, parking, ADA, wayfinding and fare policies (Port Authority is also conducting a separate fare study).

9. Other Business

- *The next meeting of the TOC is scheduled for 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 14, 2021. 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 Alan Blahovec and a second by Ashley Seman.*

