



## SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION

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### MINUTES TRANSIT OPERATORS COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: June 16, 2021  
Location: **Meeting was held by online video/teleconference**

Attendance:

Members: Sheila Gombita, WASH (Chairperson)  
David Huffaker, 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  
Mavis Rainey, OTMA

Guests/Staff: Chris Sandvig, Mobilify  
Velie Sando, Mobilify  
Jess Scott, Mobilify  
David Wohlwill, PAAC  
Breen Masciotra, PAAC  
Maira Egler, PAAC  
Ann Ogoreuc, ACED  
Laura Wiens, Pittsburghers for Public Transit  
Sam Plocinski, PennDOT  
Tiffany Chaffee  
Lucinda Beattie, WPPR

SPC Staff: Tom Klevan  
Kathy Stefani  
Kim Beaver  
Cathy Tulley  
Belachew Ayele  
Leann Chaney  
Ronda Craig  
Chuck Imbrogno  
Erika Eagen  
Dan Bernazzoli  
Kristin Baum  
Stephanie Kambic

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. TOC Officer Selection

- The TOC Officer Selection Committee reported that Sheila Gombita was nominated to serve a two-year term as Chairperson of the SPC Transit Operators Committee. There were no further nominations from the floor. Alan Blahovec was nominated to serve as Vice-Chairperson.
- *Without objection, the report of the TOC Officer Selection Committee was accepted by the TOC on a motion from Alan Blahovec and a Second by Lynn Manion. A letter will be sent to the SPC board noting the appointments.*

## 4. Approval of Meeting Minutes for previous Transit Operators Committee meetings

- *The Committee approved the minutes for the April 14, 2021 TOC meeting on a motion by Alan Blahovec and a second by Ashley Seman.*

## 5. Amendments and Administrative Actions to the FFY2019-2022 TIP

- *Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) requested an administrative adjustment to the FFY2021-2024 TIP to add the project “Website Development” (MPMS# 116322) to develop and implement a new website for MMVTA with \$24,193 in state 339 funding and \$807 in local funding in FFY 2022.. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$25,000***
  - ***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 Alan Blahovec and a second by Anthony Hickton. Staff will transmit this project information to the PennDOT Program Center within one week of this action.*
- *Washington County Transportation Authority (WASH) requested two administrative adjustments to the FFY2021-2024 TIP: to the project “Surveillance/Security System” (MPMS# 111123) to add funding and move this project to FFY2022, removing all \$10,000 in funds from FFY2021 and adding \$36,000 in federal 5307, \$8,710 in Other State and \$290 in local funding; AND to adding additional funding to the project “Small Transit Buses (MPMS# 106646) to reflect current paratransit vehicle costs, adding \$390,000 in Other State funding to FFY2022, \$307,500 in Other State funding to FFY2023 and \$82,500 in Other State funding to FFY2023. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$815,000***
  - ***Action:** These actions were 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 Ashley Seman. Staff will transmit this project information to the PennDOT Program Center within one week of this action.*
- *Westmoreland County Transit Authority (WCTA) requested an amendment to the FFY2021-2024 TIP to add the project “Bus Storage Facility” (MPMS# 116323) to demolish and rebuild WCTA’s bus storage facility, using \$5,800,000 in federal 5307 and \$1,450,000 in Other State funding in FFY2021. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$7,250,000***
  - ***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 Ashley Seman and a second by Mary Jo Morandini. Staff will transmit this project information to the PennDOT Program Center within one week of this action.*

*There were no TIP adjustments requested.*

## 6. FTA/PennDOT Updates

- SPC Staff discussed plans for the annual joint TOC/TTC meeting, scheduled for July 15. This meeting will include activities associated with FTA’s MPO certification review process. While the agenda for the

meeting has not been set, yet, it will include items such as the planning agreements, as well as selected focus areas of importance to FTA and FHWA. More information will be included in the meeting notice prior to the July meeting.

## 7. Meeting Participant Updates

- PAAC—Port Authority reported that the American Public Transportation Association is accepting abstracts for presentations at the annual sustainability and multimodal operations workshop through June 19.
- WCTA—Alan Blahovec reported that the national staffing shortage was affecting WCTA’s shared ride service and may require the agency to limit service. BCTA and WASH concurred. Sheila Gombita reported that Freedom Transit may have to limit shared ride service to essential trips—however, there are very few non-essential trips.
- BCTA—Mary Jo Morandini reported that BCTA tried to address a potential driver shortage in their last collective bargaining agreement, last year, by lowering the CDL requirement for shared ride drivers and added a higher pay rate for drivers who take the higher rating, however no drivers have taken advantage of it. On the maintenance side, BCTA is offering additional pay for workers who take additional training, but no workers have taken these steps, either. Of six mechanic positions, BCTA is down to three. The agency is considering re-opening the collective bargaining agreement to address staffing levels. BCTA has also increased the recruitment bonus for staff who find a worker.
- NCATA—David Richards said that New Castle’s CBA has new mechanics starting at 75% of the wage, but the agency is considering waiving this to offer 100% to new mechanics.

*There were no other meeting participant updates.*

## 8. Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership Downtown Mobility Plan

- PDP staff presented details from the newly completed Downtown Mobility Plan. PDP made specific efforts to coordinate and align with other concurrent planning projects, including SPC’s SmartMoves Connections regional transit vision project and Port Authority’s NEXTransit long range plan as well as the City of Pittsburgh’s 2070 Transportation Vision plan and Comprehensive plan. PDP used a range of public input measures to hear from stakeholders both in downtown and outside of downtown. They aimed to identify new opportunities for core infrastructure improvements downtown, including sidewalks, curbs, and streetscapes, as well as perceptions, like safety and congestion. The plan is available at: [downtownmobilityplan.org](http://downtownmobilityplan.org).

## 9. Port Authority of Allegheny County: NEXTransit Plan

- Port Authority staff reviewed the latest material from the NEXTransit planning project. At this stage, PAAC is working on creating a final draft plan. Public comment revealed interest in exploring service that crosses county lines, neighborhood-to-neighborhood connections and finding the best use of the Library light rail line. Specific comments showed support for transit corridors, such as Route 8, Route 65, the Ross transit hub, more connections to Oakland, the Mon Valley, the South Hills transit hubs and connections to the airport. A public release of the draft plan is expected in July. Project details are available at [nextransit.network](http://nextransit.network).

## 10. Port Authority Station Improvement Program Update

- PAAC staff updated the TOC on station area planning. PAAC has completed three station area plans: Negley, Station Square and Dormont Junction, and a plan is underway for South Hills Junction. The plans aim to address station development feasibility, access and design.

## 11. SPC Staff Updates

- SPC staff reviewed the regional park-and-ride planning activities, including schedules for upcoming field views. Staff asked facility operators to keep SPC updated on facility status, such as construction or closures. Information on the park-and-ride program is available at: [commuteinfo.org/for-commuters/park-ride-locator](http://commuteinfo.org/for-commuters/park-ride-locator)
- SPC staff updated the TOC on the recent meeting of the Active Transportation Forum—this meeting was held at an active trailhead and included a hike and bike ride on the trail. SPC staff is now conducting monthly rides on the region’s trails. Contact staff if you would like to participate.

**12. Other Business**

- **FFY2021-22 TOC Meeting Schedule.** The TOC considered the proposed schedule of meetings for FFY2021-22:

July (Joint TOC/TTC)	7/15/2021
September	9/8/2021
December	12/8/2021
February	2/16/2022
April	4/13/2022
June	6/15/2022

***Action:** The meeting schedule was unanimously approved on a motion by Alan Blahovec and second by David Wohlwill.*

- *The next meeting of the TOC is scheduled for 10 a.m. **Thursday, July 15, 2021.** This will be the annual joint TOC/TTC meeting. Participation details will be made available at [www.spcregion.org](http://www.spcregion.org)*

***Action:** The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Alan Blahovec and a second by David Richards.*