



# SPC Transit Operators Committee

Meeting Minutes: February 15, 2023

## Attendees:

### Members:

Alan Blahovec, WCTA  
Anthony Hickton, CommuteInfo  
Ashley Seman, MMVTA  
David Richards, NCATA  
David Wohlwill, PRT  
Kathryn Schlesinger, PDP  
Mary Jo Morandini, BCTA  
Mavis Rainey, OTMA  
Patti Lynn Johnston, TACT  
Sheila Gombita, WASH

### Guests & Transit Staff:

Amy Mathieson, ACTA  
Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County  
Brandon Leach, PennDOT  
Derek Dauphin, PRT  
Ed Typanski, PRT  
Elijah Hughes, HDR  
Emily Ciganik, Allegheny County  
Jason Theakston, Washington County  
Julia Cornell, PennDOT  
Kevin McCullough, PennDOT  
Nugent Laing, HDR  
Panini Chowdhury, Pgh DOMI  
Seth Davis, PRT  
Tiffany Chaffee, TACT  
Stephanie Kambic, MBI  
Susan Leinenbach, ANR

### SPC Staff:

Caleb Knudsen  
Chuck Imbrogno  
Dan Bernazzoli  
David Totten  
Dom D'Andrea  
Erika Eagan  
Josh Spano  
Leann Chaney  
Lillie Gabreski  
Ronda Craig

Russell Singer  
Tomas Klevan

1. Minutes

- a. The minutes of the January 15, 2023 TOC meeting were approved on a motion by Ashley Seman and seconded by Mavis Rainey.

2. TIP Adjustments

- a. No TIP actions were requested.

3. PennDOT Update

- a. SPC Staff noted upcoming deadlines for federal transportation programs including *Areas of Persistent Poverty* and *RAISE*.
- b. SPC staff noted the proposal request made by the PennDOT Bureau of Planning & Research, Research Division for suggestions for the Innovations Deserving Exploration & Analysis program. Ideas for IDEA should be submitted to SPC staff ([dtotten@spcregion.org](mailto:dtotten@spcregion.org)) for forwarding to the Bureau by the end of March.
- c. Longtime planning partner, Kevin McCullough, has announced his upcoming retirement from the PennDOT Program Center.
- d. Kevin McCullough noted upcoming municipal outreach sessions for PennDOT starting in March. The District-11 virtual session will be 3/30; the District-10 hybrid session will be 5/3 and the District-12 hybrid session will be 5/24.
- e. The PennDOT Highway Safety Survey is now online. The survey is available at: <https://www.penndot.pa.gov/pages/all-news-details.aspx?newsid=1019>
- f. NEVI—the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure—is now open for applications. The notice was released 2/24 with applications due by April 6.
- g. Sam Plocinski with the PennDOT Bureau of Public Transportation offered several updates to the Committee:
  - i. The Capital Planning Tool audit period is open to 3/17. Transit operators are asked to update all of their assets in the system.
  - ii. The Shared Ride reimbursement limit has been raised
  - iii. The Bureau is conducting a study of Shared Ride. SPC staff will distribute slides to the TOC reviewing the status of the study.
  - iv. The Bureau is aware of the impacts of the recent Census announcements on transit agencies and their designation as urban areas, especially the potential impact on four agencies—including MMVTA and FACT—that will lose their urban status. The Bureau is meeting with FTA to discuss the issue and work on transition.

4. Sub-Allocation Process

SPC staff are working on the sub-allocation process, including preparing the new service area maps based on the new Census information. The maps will be available shortly. Staff will arrange a meeting of the Regional Sub-Allocation Workgroup in early march. Sub-Allocation participants will need to use the new map starting in FFY2024. More information about the Census maps and their impact on federally funded transit programs can be found through a recent webinar from FTA at: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/2020-census-and-impacts-fta-funding-recipients>

5. Regional Mobile Ticketing Feasibility Study
  - a. SPC staff updated the TOC on the mobile ticketing study. The project is close to receiving a Notice to Proceed, with the consultant team selected.
  - b. Pittsburgh Regional Transit reported that they are participating in a national mobile ticketing research project through the Eno Center for Transportation.
6. Long Range Plan Update
  - a. At the March 15 TOC meeting, the Committee will be asked to endorse the list of Long Range Plan projects to be presented to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission.
  - b. Nine workgroup meetings with have been completed, so far. Air quality analysis of the projects will follow SPC approval of the draft list. Work will begin in March and April to assemble the document. Public meetings will take place from late April through June for public comment. The Commission will take a final vote on plan adoption in June.
7. NCATA TDP
  - a. Staff presented an overview of the New Castle Area Transit Authority Transit Development Plan. This project was completed in the summer of 2022 and included a Strategic Business Plan, a Marketing Plan, and a microtransit concept. Slides from the presentation were distributed to the TOC.
  - b. NCATA General Manager David Richards reported that the NCATA board is working to implement the ideas in the TDP and has formed a marketing committee. In addition, NCATA and the Lawrence County Shared Ride provider, ACTS, are meeting to finalize plans to implement a microtransit pilot project.
  - c. Regional Transit and SPC leadership to coordinate planning, projects and funding.
8. Other Business
  - a. The next meeting of the SPC Transit Operators Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 10am. This will be a virtual (Webex) meeting.
9. Adjournment
  - a. The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mary Jo Morandini and seconded by Ashley Seman.