



SPC Transit Operators Committee

Meeting Minutes: March 15, 2023

Attendees:

Members:

Alan Blahovec, WCTA
Amy Mathieson, ACTA
Anthony Hickton, CommuteInfo
Ashley Seman, MMVTA
David Wohlwill, PRT
John Paul, BTA
Mary Jo Morandini, BCTA
Mavis Rainey, OTMA
Patti Lynn Johnston, TACT
Rudy Dutko, FACT
Sheila Gombita, WASH

Guests & Transit Staff:

Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County
Brandon Leach, PennDOT
Cody Slater, ANR
Ellie Newman, PRT
Elijah Hughes, HDR
Emily Ciganik, Allegheny County
Jason Theakston, Washington County
Kevin McCullough, PennDOT
Lynda Conway, CCSPPro (rep. HCT)
Mitchel Henderson, Sen. Fetterman
Nugent Laing, HDR
Ray McDonald, FACT
Robin Snyder, FACT
Seth Davis, PRT

PC Staff:

Chuck Imbrogno
Dan Bernazzoli
David Totten
Leann Chaney
Ronda Craig
Tomas Klevan

1. Minutes

- a. The minutes of the February 15, 2023 TOC meeting were approved on a motion by Alan Blahovec and a second by Mary Jo Morandini.

2. TIP Adjustments

- a. No TIP actions were requested.
3. Member Updates
- a. WASH: Sheila Gombita reported that property had been secured for Freed Transit’s new maintenance facility. They are working with Strabane Township on the zoning. Construction should begin in Fall 2024 and the facility is scheduled to open in 2025.
 - b. BCTA: Mary Jo Morandini reported on improvements being made along the Rt. 18 corridor area around Geneva College in Beaver Files. The idea is to extend the corridor plan to include multimodal improvements—transit and bike—south to Rochester. This includes Streetscape projects funded through SPC’s SMART and TA programs. She also noted that Rt. 18 connects Beaver to Cranberry, making it something to consider with SPC’s ongoing research into transit options for southern Butler County.
 - c. TACT: Patti Lynn Johnston reported that TACT is investigating options for a bikeshare program in Kittanning and Ford City that would improve access to trail assets. They are also considering pedestrian improvements. The TACT terminal is one block from the trail.
 - d. WCTA: Alan Blohovec reported that Kimley-Horn has been assigned through the PennDOT on-call contract for WCTA’s updated Transit Development Plan. They plan to release a survey to riders and will want to talk to transit stakeholders.
 - e. *There were no further updates.*
4. PennDOT Update
- a. SPC Staff noted upcoming deadlines for federal earmarks and requested that TOC members please keep SPC staff informed about any requests to lawmakers for funding or any needs for letters of support or letters confirming that projects would be eligible for inclusion on the TIP.
 - b. SPC Staff reviewed the transit implications of the annual President’s budget request.
 - c. PennDOT Central Office made several important announcements and updates:
 - i. The National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program is currently open for applications. An official NOFO will be issued 3/27 with applications open through May 5.
 - ii. The State Transportation Commission is working on the current 12-Year Plan. A survey is open to the public to participate in the plan at <https://talkpatransportation.com/>
 - iii. PennDOT has opened an update page to track NOFO status and other key information about the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law at <https://www.penndot.pa.gov/Doing-Business/Pages/IJJA.aspx>
 - iv. PennDOT Connects sessions have been scheduled for the SPC region:
 - 1. District 10: Virtual, May 3
 - 2. District 11: Virtual May 30
 - 3. District 12: Hybrid May 24
 - v. Kevin McCullough confirmed that this will be his last TOC meeting representing Central Office, as he is retiring from the agency. The TOC warmly thanked him for his many years of service to the region’s transit operators.
5. Staff Updates:

- a. Cranberry Service Plan: SPC staff reported that they are working on a Transit Service Concept of Operations report. This research is based on *SmartMoves Connections* and the recently completed Cranberry Hub Feasibility study.
6. Long Range Plan Update
 - a. Staff briefed the TOC on the draft list of transit projects for the 2023-50 LRTP. This includes regional transit, Pittsburgh Regional Transit, and projects currently beyond fiscal constraint. In total, the plan estimates nearly \$29 billion in fiscally constrained transit projects.
 - b. **TOC action**: The TOC voted unanimously to endorse the draft list of projects for the region's Long Range Transportation Plan and recommend that the projects be adopted by the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission on a motion by Mary Jo Morandini and a second by Alan Blahovec.
7. Downtown Bus Routing Study
 - a. Ellie Newman from PRT presented the latest work on the Downtown Bus Routing Study project. PRT is actively seeking feedback from the public and stakeholders about two scenarios for changing the configuration of bus routes in Downtown Pittsburgh.
 - b. Scenario A will consolidate lines onto Liberty and Smithfield. This has the advantage of having both the East and West Busway routes connect on Liberty Ave.
 - c. Scenario B reverses the direction of the Smithfield St. contraflow lane and allows the P1 and G2 routes to utilize the new Bus Rapid Transit infrastructure, but could result in longer walks for riders making connections.
 - d. She said that there will be more activities to get regional transit input, including stop locations, later in the process.
 - e. More information about the project, including opportunities for feedback and input, is at the PRT website: <https://nexttransit.network/downtown>
8. Other Business
 - a. The next meeting of the SPC Transit Operators Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 10am. This will be a virtual (Webex) meeting.
9. Adjournment
 - a. The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Alan Blahovec and seconded by Ashley Seman.