



SPC Transit Operators Committee

Meeting Minutes: April 12, 2023

Attendees:

Members:

Aaron Sukenik, PDP
Anthony Hickton, CommuteInfo
Ashley Seman, MMVTA
David Richards, NCATA
David Wohlwill, PRT
Emily Elkin, WCTA
John Paul, BTA
Lynn Manion, ACTA
Mary Jo Morandini, BCTA
Mavis Rainey, OTMA
Sheila Gombita, WASH
Tiffany Chaffee, TACT

Guests & Transit Staff:

Amy Mathieson, ACTA
Betsy Zang, McCormick Taylor
Chris Sandvig, Mobilify
Curt Conrad, PRT
Derek Dauphin, PRT
Ellie Newman, PRT
Jason Theakston, Washington County
Julia Cornell, PennDOT
Nugent Laing, HDR
Ed Typanski, PRT
Velie Sando, Mobilify

PC Staff:

Chuck Imbrogno
Caitlin O'Connor
Caleb Knudsen
Catherine Tulley
David Totten
Dom D'Andrea
Leann Chaney
Ronda Craig
Tomas Klevan

1. Minutes

- a. The minutes of the March 15, 2023 TOC meeting were approved on a motion by David Richards and a second by John Paul.

2. TIP Adjustments

- a. NCATA: New Castle Area Transit Authority requested an amendment to the FFY2023-26 Title III (transit) TIP to add the project “Bus Wash Rehabilitation” (MPMS# 119744) to replace the existing bus wash system and associated appurtenances with \$737,474 in federal 5311, \$737,934 in state 339 and \$24,592 in local funding in FFY2024 (**Total TIP change: \$1,500,000**) The request was unanimously approved by the TOC on a motion by John Paul and a second by Ashley Seman.
- b. The TIP request will be forwarded to the PennDOT Program Center within one week of the TOC action.
- c. There were no further requests.

3. Member Updates

- a. BTA: John Paul reported that BTA has received its sixth MCI coach, which completes the purchase of commuter buses.
- b. Strategic Planning: SPC staff asked which TOC members are currently doing a service or strategic planning project with PennDOT. Sheila Gombita reported that Freedom Transit will soon be starting a project. WCTA is working with Kittelson & Associates on a TDP right now.
- c. FRITS: Staff also asked which agencies are currently working with PennDOT on a Fixed Route Intelligent Transportation Systems project. David Richards reported that NCATA has held a recent call with the FRITS team and expecting Avail’s representatives to visit in May. Sheila Gombita reported that Freedom Transit is currently pre-planning. Tiffany Chaffee said that TACT is looking at late 2024 for FRITS. FACT is on the list for the next six months. While BCTA has largely implemented FRITS, Mary Jo Morandini noted that they are currently working to add additional modules, such as ERP.
- d. MMVTA reported that the PennDOT Bureau of Public Transportation had reached out asking for data for the Bureau’s annual report. SPC staff can assist agencies with data requirements, such as mapping, as requested.
- e. *There were no further updates.*

4. PennDOT Update

- a. PennDOT Central Office staff noted that the State Transportation Commission will be winding up the public input process for the Twelve Year Plan and asked transit operators to inform riders about the opportunity to respond to the STC survey about transportation priorities.

5. Staff Updates:

- a. *There were no staff updates.*

6. Pittsburgh Regional Transit Federal Funding Update

- a. Staff from Pittsburgh Regional Transit reported on a number of efforts to secure federal funding for transit improvements, including from discretionary sources.
 - i. A request to the Congressional Delegation for funding for improvements to the Dormont Junction light rail station, including joint development of TOD on the parking lots, has resulted in the inclusion of the project on Rep. Deluzio’s funding request list. A similar request was made to the delegation for funding for a station area plan project at the Castle Shannon/Willow/Overbrook LRT complex and for planning at the Sheraden station on the West Busway.

- ii. PRT was recently awarded \$10 million through EPA's Targeted Airshed Grant program which is available to areas afflicted with particulate pollution. PRT and the Allegheny County Health Department applied jointly for the funding for four battery electric buses along with two charging stations and other infrastructure for use on Mon Valley routes.
- iii. PRT has applied to a new program through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for rail vehicle replacement, asking for \$100 million to replace T vehicles.
- iv. PRT requested \$4.875 million through the RAISE program for planning at the South Hills Junction light rail/bus station, including engineering for pedestrian and transit improvements, including a pedestrian bridge for improved station access and support for TOD, as recommended in the recent Station Area Plan.

7. Regional Mobile Ticketing Feasibility Study

- a. Staff briefed the TOC on the ongoing Regional Mobile Ticketing Study. The official kickoff meeting for the project was held 4/11. The lead planners are Betsy Zang from McCormick Taylor, Toby Fauver from Rockland Consulting and Valarie Southern. They are researching the best practices, including equity issues, for mobile ticketing. The team will be surveying transit operators (there will be an email requesting information from SPC). They also plan to conduct a short survey of transit riders. SPC staff advised that transit agencies should proceed if they have funding or other needs for fare projects, but this study should add useful information and options. The study will be completed in the next three months. The team will return with more at the next TOC meeting.

8. Long Range Transportation Plan Update

- a. SPC staff noted that there are a number of public participation meetings for the update to the region's Long Range Transportation Plan:
 - i. 5/11 2pm Beaver County (virtual)
 - ii. 5/15 3pm Washington County (in person)
 - iii. 5/18 3pm Indiana County (in person)
 - iv. 5/22 11:30am Lawrence County (in person)
 - v. 5/23 3pm Armstrong County (in person)
 - vi. 5/25 5:30pm City of Pittsburgh (virtual)
 - vii. 5/30 5pm Westmoreland County (in person)
 - viii. 5/31 5:30pm Fayette County (in person)
 - ix. 6/1 5pm Greene County (in person)
 - x. 6/6 5pm Butler County (virtual)
 - xi. 6/8 6pm Allegheny County (virtual)

9. Other Business

- a. The TOC notes and congratulates long-time planning partners Lynn Manion of ACTA and Ray McDonald of FACT on their retirements and thanks them for their contributions to public transit in Southwestern Pennsylvania.
- b. The next meeting of the SPC Transit Operators Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 10am. (Note that this date was changed due to conflicts with a statewide transit meeting) This will be a virtual (Webex) meeting.

10. Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned on a motion by John Paul and a second by Mary Jo Morandini.