



# SPC Transit Operators Committee

Meeting Minutes: May 17, 2023

## Attendees:

### Members:

Aaron Sukenik, PDP  
Amy Mathieson, ACTA  
Anthony Hickton, CommuteInfo  
Ashley Seman, MMVTA  
David Richards, NCATA  
John Paul, BTA  
Mary Jo Morandini, BCTA  
Mavis Rainey, OTMA  
Sheila Gombita, WASH

### Guests & Transit Staff:

Ann Ogoreuc, ACED  
Ashley Cooper, WCTA  
Betsy Zang, McCormick Taylor  
Brandon Leach, PennDOT  
Carrie Machuga, McCormick Taylor  
Cody Slater, ANR  
Chris Sandvig, Mobilify  
Ed Typanski, PRT  
Elijah Hughes, HDR  
Emily Ciganik, ACED  
Gillian Gillett, CalTrans/CalITP  
Jason Theakston, Washington County  
Jeffrey Devlin, PRT  
Joe Maritato, PRT  
Julia Cornell, PennDOT  
Lynda Conway, CCSPRO  
Mark Cassel  
Melissa Girty, PRT  
Nugent Laing, HDR  
Sam Plocinski, PennDOT  
Toby Fauver, Rockland Planning  
Valerie Southern, VJS Consulting

### SPC Staff:

Chuck Imbrogno	DJ Ryan
Caitlin O'Connor	Dom D'Andrea
Caleb Knudsen	Leann Chaney
Dan Bernazzoli	Lillie Gabreski
David Totten	Ronda Craig
Russell Singer	Tomas Klevan

1. Minutes
  - a. The minutes of the April 12, 2023 TOC meeting were approved on a motion by Mary Jo Morandini and a second by David Richards.
2. Member Updates
  - a. PRT: Pittsburgh Regional Transit reported that the ongoing downtown service planning project would be holding a stakeholders meeting the upcoming Friday, 4/14.
  - b. CommuteInfo: SPC/CommuteInfo staff reported that the annual Commuter Challenge program is now underway and will run through 5/21. They reported that 91 people are participating in the travel diary and mode-shift contest.
  - c. *There were no further updates.*
3. PennDOT Update
  - a. Sam Plocinski from the PennDOT Bureau of Public Transportation staff noted that state operating grants are going out now and capital grants are coming up next. The Bureau is looking forward to meeting with transit staff at the upcoming PPTA conference.
4. TIP Adjustments
  - a. FACT: Fayette Area Coordinated Transportation requested seven administrative adjustments and two amendments the FFY2023-26 Title III (transit) TIP:
    - i. Communication Equipment: MPMS# 114613 Remove state 339 funding of \$20,201 in 2023, \$19,500 in 2024 and \$43,143 in 2025 and add federal \$82,645 in 5307 funding in 2023 to accelerate purchase of radios for FR buses.  
*Administrative adjustment.*
    - ii. Maintenance Equipment: (new project) Add new project with \$29,709 in state 339 and \$991 in local funding in FFY2023 to upgrade maintenance equipment.  
*Administrative adjustment.*
    - iii. Office Equipment: (new project) Add new project in FFY2023 with \$38,708 in state 339 funding and \$1,292 in local funding to replace office equipment.  
*Administrative adjustment.*
    - iv. Paving: (new project) Add new project in FFY2023 with \$7,742 in state 339 and \$258 in local funding to seal and repair parking lots. *Administrative adjustment.*
    - v. Server-Firewall: (new project) Add new project in FFY2023 with \$19,355 in state 339 and \$645 in local funding to replace FACT's server and firewall.  
*Administrative adjustment.*
    - vi. Tablets: (new project) Add new project in FFY2023 with \$8,000 in state 339 funding to replaced outdated tablets in Shared Ride buses. *Administrative adjustment.*
    - vii. Van Replacement: (MPMS# 118137) Add funding in FFY2023 with \$480,000 in federal 5310 and \$120,000 in state 341 funding to accelerate planned van replacement and increase number of vans purchased to seven. *Administrative adjustment.*
    - viii. Facility Improvements: (New Project) Add new project with \$16,000 in federal 5307, \$13,062 in state 339, and \$438 in local funding in FFY2023 to replair leaking roof at the main building. *Amendment.*

- ix. HVAC: (New Project) Add new project with \$30,224 in federal 5307, \$7,312 in state 339 and \$224 in local funding in FFY2023 to replaced the outdated HVAC system at FACT's main building.
  - x. **The TIP actions were approved unanimously on a motion by Mary Jo Morandini and a second by Ashley Seman.**
- b. PRT: Pittsburgh Regional Transit requested eight administrative adjustments and three amendments to the FFY2023-26 Title III (transit) TIP:
- i. Bus Procurement: (MPMS# 71148) Reduce \$16,769,541 in federal 5307, \$418,441 in state capital bond, and \$263,585 in local funding in FFY2023. *Administrative adjustment.*
  - ii. Bus Procurement: (MPMS# 71148) Add CMAQ funding for planned fleet replacement of approximately 220 buses between 2023-26 (note that this project is also shown on the Title I TIP at MPMS# 77273), with:
    1. 2023: \$6,172,200 federal 5307, \$1,493,287 state 339, \$49,763 local
    2. 2024: \$6,172,200 federal 5307, \$1,493,287 state 339, \$49,763 local
    3. 2025: \$6,172,200 federal 5307, \$1,493,287 state 339, \$49,763 local
    4. 2026: \$6,172,200 federal 5307, \$1,493,287 state 339, \$49,763 local
    5. *Administrative adjustment.*
  - iii. Bus Procurement: (MPMS# 71148) Remove \$6,400,000 federal 5337, \$7,491,161 in state 339 and \$3 in local funding in FFY2023. *Administrative adjustment.*
  - iv. Bus Procurement: (MPMS# 71148) Add \$626,885 federal 5339, \$688,640 state 339 and \$26281 in local funding in FFY2023. *Administrative adjustment.*
  - v. CCOC: (MPMS# 65465) Add funding to the ACCESS paratransit project with \$1,709,957 in federal 5307, \$413,703 in state 339, and \$13,786 in local funding in FFY2023. *Administrative adjustment.*
  - vi. Preventive Maintenance-Bus: (MPMS# 65535) Reduce funding for preventive maintenance, reducing \$6,010,186 in federal 5337 and \$1,502,546 in FFY2023. *Administrative adjustment.*
  - vii. Preventive Maintenance-Bus: (MPMS# 65535) Add \$21,751,817 in federal 5307 and \$5,437,954 in local funding in FFY2023. *Administrative adjustment.*
  - viii. Preventive Maintenance-Rail: (MPMS# 95006) Reduce \$887,631 federal 5537 and \$221,908 local funding in FFY2023. *Administrative adjustment.*
  - ix. BRT Bike Lanes: (New Project) Add new project with \$2,919,000 in federal 5307, \$706,216 in state 339 and \$23,534 in local funding in FFY2023 to show CMAQ funding for bike lanes in the downtown loop phase of the BRT project. This project is shown on the Title I TIP at MPMS# 114280. *Amendment.*
  - x. BRT Downtown Improvements: (New Project) Add \$6,423,000 in federal 5307, \$1,553,965 in state 339, and \$51,785 in FFY2023 to show CMAQ funding to construct the downtown loop phase of the Bus Rapid Transit project. This project is shown on the Title I TIP at MPMS# 114283. *Amendment.*
  - xi. Panhandle Bridge Rehab: (New Project) Add project to the TIP with \$25,729,977 in federal 5337, \$6,227,466 in state 339, and \$207,528 in local funding in

FFY2023 to reconstruct the transit-only Panhandle Bridge over the Monongahela River. *Amendment.*

**xii. The TIP actions were approved unanimously on a motion by Mary Jo Morandini and a second by Ashley Seman.**

- c. WCTA: Westmoreland County Transit Authority requested an administrative adjustment to the FFY2023-26 TIP for the project ‘Replacement Shared-Ride Vehicles’ (MPMS# 114540) to add \$847,615 in federal 5307, and \$211,904 in state funding in FFY2023 for cost increases and to add additional vehicles to the planned order. *Administrative Adjustment.*

- i. **The TIP action was approved unanimously on a motion by Ashley Seman and a second by David Richards.**

- d. The TIP actions will be forwarded to the PennDOT Program Center within one week.
  - e. There were no further requests.

5. Pittsburgh Regional Transit Fare Media Update

- a. Staff from Pittsburgh Regional Transit reported on plans and changes for the agency’s fare media. They noted that they are pleased with the Masabi-powered “Ready to Ride” pilot project. The plan is switch to Masabi’s account-based system starting in the spring of 2024, possibly including a fare-capping policy. In addition, PRT plans to issue a Request for Proposals for new Masabi-compatible ticket-vending machines and a system of cash-only, on-vehicle fareboxes. The plan is to sunset the current S&B-based ConnectCard by the end of 2025. The TVMs need to replace 1-for-1 the S&B system, but PRT hopes to also expand the network. ConnectCard will be replaced with a new fare card.

6. Regional Mobile Ticketing Feasibility Study

- a. SPC staff and the project consultant team updated the TOC on the ongoing Regional Mobile Ticketing Study.
  - i. The team asked the TOC to help promote a brief user survey.
  - ii. Guest Gillian Gillette from the California Department of Transportation’s CalITP program briefed the TOC on that state’s approach to transit ticketing, based on an open technology platform. Gillette said the goal was to have a system that uses the existing banking network, rather than force riders to convert their money into a transit fare currency. In the CalITP system, riders are treated like customers and the transit agency is a merchant—riders can use their existing payment systems, such as credit and debit cards. The benefits of this approach include lower operating costs, faster transaction speed (and lower dwell times), more people already have compatible payment media (don’t need fare cards), fare capping is “organic” to the model. CalITP is making its technology available nationally and there has been interest from other agencies. The plan to incorporate compatibility for the un/under-banked involves working with “bank-like” card services that can turn mobility into a pathway to financial inclusion, for example by using services that do not require a minimum balance before purchasing a transit fare. Other fare policy issues that are under development include ways to qualify individuals for subsidies or discounts—CalITS is working with the federal government’s Login.Gov system as a demonstration to allow

benefits for seniors. They are also working to integrate GTFS and real-time transit tracking into the ticketing system. So far, 7 agencies have adopted the system and 50 more are in-progress.

7. Staff Updates:

- a. Staff reported that they were meeting with stakeholders in the Allegheny River Valley about potential to extend transit service including using SPC's *SmartMoves Connections* Multimodal Hub concepts.
- b. SPC are looking to move into new offices around the end of June, in Pittsburgh's Strip District.
- c. Public Participation meetings are ongoing for the draft Long Range Transportation Plan update.
- d. *There were no staff updates.*

8. Other Business

- a. The TOC meeting calendar will be presented at the next meeting.
- b. Alan Blahovec volunteered to serve on the TOC Officers Nominating Committee to nominate candidates to serve a two-year term as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. He will report back to the Committee at the June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- c. The next meeting of the SPC Transit Operators Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 10am. This will be a virtual (Webex) meeting.

9. Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Ashley Seman and a second by David Richards.