



# SPC Transit Operators Committee

## Meeting Minutes: Aug. 16, 2023

### Attendance

#### Members:

Aaron Sukenik, PDP  
Amy Mathieson, ACTA  
Anthony Hickton, CommuteInfo  
Ashley Cooper-Brounce, WCTA  
Ashley Seman, MMVTA  
David Richards, NCATA  
David Wohlwill, PRT  
Ian Ramsey, WTA  
John Paul, BTA  
Mary Jo Morandini, BCTA  
Mavis Rainey, OTMA  
Patti Lynn Johnston, TACT

#### Guests & Transit Staff:

Betsy Zang, McCormick Taylor  
Brandon Leach, PennDOT  
Jason Theakston, Washington County  
Julia Cornell, PennDOT  
Lynda Conway, CCSPro  
Tiffany Chaffee, TACT  
Toby Fauver, Rockland Planning

#### SPC Staff:

Chris Jaros  
Chuck Imbrogno  
Lillie Gabreski  
David Totten  
Dom D'Andrea  
Russell Singer  
Ryan Gordon  
Tomas Klevan

1. Introduction
2. Minutes
  - a. The minutes of the July 13 joint TOC-TTC meeting were **approved** on a motion by David Richards and a second by Ashley Seman.
3. Transit Participant Updates

- a. Pittsburgh Regional Transit: David Wohlwill reported that in June, PRT was officially awarded an FTA Small Starts grant for the PRT's bus rapid transit project, now called "The University Line." The grant includes \$150 million in federal funding. A branded bus is now serving on East Busway routes to promote The University Line. Those interested in the project may sign up for a newsletter at [rideprt.org](http://rideprt.org). Information about the grant is available from FTA at: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/about/news/biden-harris-administration-announces-nearly-150-million-grant-bus-rapid-transit>
  - b. There were no other participant updates.
4. PennDOT and FTA Updates
    - a. PennDOT's Brandon Leach reported that the first round of funding of electric charging projects had been announced through the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure program. This amounts to \$33.8 million in federal funding to 54 projects in 35 Pennsylvania counties, including several in the SPC region. The awards were limited to installing DC fast-charging stations within one mile of the high-priority EV corridors (mostly Interstates) at a spacing of every 50 miles. Details of the awards are at: [https://www.penndot.pa.gov/ProjectAndPrograms/Planning/EVs/Documents/NEVI%20Round%201%20Conditional%20Awards\\_List\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.penndot.pa.gov/ProjectAndPrograms/Planning/EVs/Documents/NEVI%20Round%201%20Conditional%20Awards_List_FINAL.pdf) and an interactive map of the awards can be found at: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/b3e694355d77400da7cb5efaffd017dc/page/Page/>
    - b. There were no further PennDOT or FTA updates.
  5. TIP Amendments and Administrative Actions
    - a. No TIP actions were requested, however SPC staff wished to acknowledge that the TOC had utilized the expedited TIP procedures to approve an administrative adjustment for the Washington County Transportation Authority the previous week and wished to thank Brandon Leach at PennDOT for his attention.
  6. Regional Mobile Ticketing Feasibility Study
    - a. SPC Staff and project consultants (Betsy Zang with McCormick Taylor and Toby Fauver with Rockland Planning) previewed material from the final report on the project, including a detailed matrix, highlighting five regional mobile ticketing alternatives: 1) Single contract; 2) Single vendor w/individual contracts; 3) Individual procurements w/bi-lateral or regional agreements; 4) Open Payment policy at the regional level; 5) individual contracts with no interoperability.
    - b. David Wohlwill noted the similarity to the Clipper system in the San Francisco Bay Area. Toby Fauver said that the intent was for CalITP to expand California's statewide open payment system to include intercity bus and Amtrak rail trips. Mary Jo Morandini noted that BCTA has an agreement with Masabi for mobile ticketing and asked if an open payment system would require a second on-vehicle validator. Toby Fauver said that Masabi currently does not support open

payments and this would depend on the vendor. John Paul remarked that the system sounds similar to EZ Pass. Toby Fauver noted that open payment systems do raise issues with banks that need to be worked out, including transaction fees, but it has the advantage of being easier for users to figure out.

- c. A copy of the final document will be made available to the TOC shortly.
- d. Staff will bring this issue back to the TOC at the September meeting, including a discussion of potentially forming a workgroup to advance the concept.

## 7. SPC Staff Updates

- a. Transit Labor Shortage: Tom Klevan briefed the TOC on efforts by SPC staff to research concepts relating to the national shortage of transit workers, including drivers and mechanics. Transportation staff are working together with the Economic Development staff on this issue, and have talked with experts at PennDOT, PennTrain and others. Staff will bring the issue back to the TOC in September with an interactive exercise.
- b. NTD GTFS Requirement: Chris Jaros reviewed new requirements by FTA for transit agencies to make their services publicly available in the GTFS format and to link these maps to the National Transit Database. The requirement for Report Year 2023 is that all grantees have accurate GTFS files available; in RY2024, agencies will need to annually certify that the links are accurate. Files will need to be updated after service changes and/or annually (not including temporary changes). There is no requirement to maintain historical data. SPC staff are ready to assist agencies if they need help. Rural agencies will likely want to coordinate with PennDOT's RTAP program on this. More information:
  - i. Bureau of Transportation Statistics National Transit Map FAQ:  
<https://www.bts.gov/national-transit-map/frequently-asked-questions>
  - ii. Technical assistance through the National RTAP:  
<https://www.nationalrtap.org/Technology-Tools/GTFS-Builder>
  - iii. Federal Register post from 7/7/2023:  
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/07/07/2022-14502/national-transit-database-reporting-changes-and-clarifications>
  - iv. Federal Register post from 3/3/2023:  
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/03/03/2023-04379/national-transit-database-reporting-changes-and-clarifications>
- c. SPC Special Policies and Initiatives Update: Lillian Gabreski reported to the TOC that SPC had conducted a joint workshop with PennDOT and Pittsburgh Regional Transit to coordinate corridor planning efforts. She noted that this is something SPC staff could do for other agencies interested in planning at the corridor level. She also reported on the SPC discretionary programs—the pre-application period has closed and applicants will need to upload their final application documents to the designated SharePoint site by September 15<sup>th</sup>. Staff also reviewed the appointments to the selection committee.

- d. TIP Update Process: Ryan Gordon updated the TOC on the TIP Update process. Staff have conducted six workshops with the three PennDOT engineering districts. Staff have also reviewed more than 900 comments relating to Southwestern Pennsylvania made to the State Transportation Commission through a recent outreach effort and will be forwarding transit-related comments to the TOC. Those comments will be used, along with the Long Range Plan, as the starting point for 1-on-1 meetings between SPC staff and the transit agencies to form the TIP project lists. Staff are also working to map all projects and to screen all candidate projects for transit impacts. The current timeline calls for these 1-on-1 meetings to begin in September; a preliminary draft TIP to be completed by the end of the calendar year; project list to be locked after the March TOC and TTC meetings.
8. Other Business
  - a. The next meeting of the TOC will be September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023. NOTE that this date has been changed due to a conflict with a statewide transit meeting.
9. Adjournment
  - a. The meeting was **adjourned** on a motion by Mary Jo Morandini and a second by David Wohlwill.