



SPC Transit Operators Committee

Meeting Minutes: October 16, 2024

Attendance

Members

Sheila Gombita (WASH)
Julia Ferri (SPC)
Seth Davis (PRT)

David Richards (NCATA)
Alan Blahovec (WCTA)
Nancy Basile (MMVTA)

Guests & Transit Staff

Kathryn Simpson (PRT)

David Totten (HDR)

SPC Staff

Chris Jaros
Ronda Craig
Devon White
Lillian Gabreski

Matt Fisher
Chuck Imbrogno
Russell Singer

1. Introductions

- a. This meeting was not officially called to order as a quorum of TOC voting members was not met

2. Minutes

- a. The draft minutes from the previous meeting of the TOC on September 18, 2024 were **approved by expedited procedure via e-mail vote, with 11 votes in favor and 4 abstaining.**

3. Transit Participant Updates

- a. There were no transit participant updates

4. PennDOT and FTA Updates

- a. PennDOT:
 - i. **NEVI (National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure)** funding awards for round 1b are announced. More information about awards and active projects can be found here:
 - 1. [PennDOT NEVI Round 1 and Round 1A Active Projects Map](#)
 - 2. [PennDOT NEVI Newly awarded projects](#)
 - 3. **PennDOT is seeking public feedback:** PennDOT has developed a NEVI community phase framework for the estimated \$102 million in funds that will remain after completing build-out of the Alternative Fuel Corridors. Your responses to the survey linked below will help PennDOT refine and implement the community phase of the NEVI program. [NEVI Community Phase Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](#)

5. TIP Amendments and Administrative Actions

- a. PRT: Homestead Eighth Ave Transit and Ped Improvements (**MPMS# 119329**); Funding to advance improvements along the PA Route 837 segment within Homestead and Munhall

Boroughs with bus stop, pedestrian crossing, signal upgrades, and the addition of queue jump lanes for buses on the Homestead Grays Bridge. This amendment programs \$420,000 of 5307 funding in FFY 2025. These funds were approved on the previous TIP, but the grant award won't occur until FFY 2025 so they must be amended on the current TIP. **The amendment was approved by expedited procedure via e-mail vote, with 11 votes in favor and 4 abstaining.**

6. SPC Updates

- a. Devon White: SPC is working on an **Active Transportation Plan**, if you have any thoughts on how pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and activities now is a good time to bring it up. If you or your staff want to be involved with the planning, please contact Leann Chaney at lchaney@spcregion.org
- b. Chuck Imbrogno: **CMAQ Performance Plan Mid-Performance Report** shows performance measures and progress towards targets established for 2023 and 2025. States and MPO's are federally required to track performance on 21 different measures – three of those measures are discussed in this report:
 - i. *Annual Hours of Peak Hour Excessive Delay (PHED) Per Capita*: Excessive delay is considered time spent on the road at peak travel times where the travel speed is 60% or less of the speed limit
 - ii. *Percent Non-Single Occupancy Vehicle Travel (Non-SOV)*: The percent of people traveling in vehicles with more than one occupant, as reported by Census data
 - iii. *On-Road Mobile Source Emissions Reduction – CMAQ Funded Projects*: Measures the amount of emissions and compares against reduction targets for VOC, NOx, PM25, PM10, and CO

The report was approved by expedited procedure via e-mail vote, with 11 votes in favor and 4 abstaining. **Full details of the report are attached as Appendix A at the end of the minutes document.*

- c. Devon White: **PennBid** is a procurement platform that was presented at the recent PPTA conference and has a multitude of features to aid in gathering submissions. It reduces the barrier to entry for suppliers to put in bids, and increases the pool of suppliers who you can notify of your requests. It aggregates all suppliers in Pennsylvania and allows you to search for any needed item, such as tires, or janitorial services.

**Full details of the PennBid presentation are attached as Appendix B at the end of the minutes document.*

- d. Devon White: **Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)** is under development
- e. Russell Singer: This month begins the **2025-2028 TIP** period. This TIP was discussed with the Transit Operator Committee at length before it was adopted by the commission and followed the Federal Approval Process. Projects on the 2025-2028 TIP that were adjusted in the 2024-2025 TIP between TIP submission and now will need to be adjusted for the new TIP period as well. Russell also noted that it is time to complete the Obligations Report and SPC will require copies of the grant for every federally funded grant from each agency obligated during the last year.

7. Other Business

a. Discussion on TOC Meeting Content and Practices:

- i. Sheila Gombita: Now is a good time to start discussing future TOC meeting locations, topics, and open the table to conversation on what everybody wants to get out of the transit operators committee. Questions were presented to the group: How often do you want to meet? Where do you want to meet? Do you want it to be all virtual? Do we want it to be some in person? What can we do to make this committee help us to do our jobs better?
 1. Devon White: During some of the communications for the Human Services Coordinated Plan, we've received some comments that there are items in this plan that have been included in previous years. Some of this conversation is, how can this committee be more actionable? How can we create more change in the region?
 2. Seth Davis: As the Manager of Corridor Planning, a lot of coordination is with PennDOT and District 11-0 and DOMI, and they've formed really good partnerships there. It may be about zooming out from the TIP before the projects are on the board and they're loosely scoped. It's thinking about things like Chuck brought forward with CMAC and all of the data that shows us people are moving differently. Nobody will see a difference on the McKnight Road repavement other than fresh pavement. And we've got bus stops that are inaccessible all across that corridor. We've got good ridership in that area, but if you've ever been to that area you know it isn't designed for people. That is why we need to get ahead of that and why they attend both TOC and TTC, because there are direct partners on the infrastructure side. The elements we share here with fares and potential transfer hubs and transit hubs are critical as well, but for Seth's work specifically, shared coordination with TTC, PennDOT, DOMI and District 11-0 partners would be helpful.
 3. Devon White: We already hold a yearly joint meeting with TTC in July. It was noted that people are frequently on vacation in July, and 2-4 joint meetings per year was thrown out as an option.
 4. Sheila Gombita: Other thoughts? Do we meet too frequently? There is a challenge for everyone to drive in all the time. Is there an issue with occasional in person meetings, but not every month? We have gotten away from in person meetings, but Zoom meetings don't facilitate the same level of participation, feedback, or discussion.
 5. Alan Blahovec: It is always his goal to be here when he can, but maybe an in person meeting once a quarter could help membership.
 6. Nancy Basile: There isn't an issue to get here from MidMon, because the bus drops very close. MidMon is open to hosting a TOC meeting, and already has an excellent board room space to do so.
 7. Seth Davis: Freedom Transit is working on a new garage that would be fantastic to see when things are coming online. Quarterly in person meetings to visit other facilities could be something that works. PRT can host as well.
 8. Alan Blahovec: You know, I would say we've probably gotten away from why we do these things. You did a little thing on PennBld, and I think it was great. I didn't

know about it, and I would like an educational element to these meetings. We all know we have to get projects on a TIP because that's how it works, but Why? I just know I have to do it, not why we are doing it. It is hard to confirm that you're in compliance until someone comes in and tells you that you're not. Any assistance with confirming compliance prior to auditing would be worth spending meeting time on. For example, an explanation on DBE would be helpful.

9. Devon White: The idea of Themed TOC meetings was brought up. Each month we can go through a section of the triennial like a checklist.
10. Chris Jaros: We can also assist with any GTFS or data needs.
11. Seth Davis: PRT has mapped bus stops, access to bus stops, and other items that would love to see living at a regional scale. The task is daunting for a staff of PRT's size, so it is imaginably hard for others as well.
12. Sheila Gombita: With regards to the Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan, let's pick something off the list every single time and talk about what it is. We might not solve it in a meeting, but if it's an action item, how about me spend time talking and thinking about a solution. Alan agrees – this topic should almost always be on the agenda.
13. General Discussion: Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans have been a big push lately too. This have been a big lift for some small agencies. Regional help on some of those things would be helpful. Sometimes agencies sit on calls where information is provided, but it still is not enough. Discussion here locally on how each other have done things would be helpful. Sharing language in some contracts would be helpful.

We are the only Transit Operator's Committee in the state that meets like this. Some of the consolidated agencies in central PA have some coordination with their MPO.

Balancing the need for coverage and frequency is the hard part about planning service for these agencies. Is the amount of travel into and out of the region overblown?

In person meetings several times a year are preferred, and agencies noted that participation from as many partners as possible would be helpful, including PennDOT, the bureau and FTA if possible.

- b. The next TOC meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2024 at 10:00am

8. Adjournment

- a. The meeting was not officially adjourned as a quorum of members was not met