



SPC Transit Operators Committee

Meeting Minutes: April 16, 2025

Attendance

Members

Sheila Gombita (WASH)	Mollie Crowe (ACTA)
Mary Jo Morandini (BCTA)	Kelly Stewart (BTA)
David Richards (NCATA)	Mavis Rainey (OTMA)
David Wohlwill (PRT)	Alan Blahovec (WCTA)
Ashley Seman (MMVTA)	Anthony Hickton (CI)
Tosh Chambers (PDP)	

Guests & Transit Staff

Kelsey Shannon (PRT)	Paulina Mandeville (PRT)
Kathryn Simpson (PRT)	Brandon Leach (PennDOT)
Jaclyn Karolski (ACED)	Cody Slater (ANR)
Molly Allwein (Heritage)	Alison Keating (PPT)
Mark Cassel (Bowman)	Deborah Phillips (PRT)
Ashley Cooper-Brounce (WCTA)	

SPC Staff

Devon White	Russell Singer
Belachew Ayele	Chuck Imbrogno
DJ Ryan	Lillie Gabreski
Mark Hoblitzell	Nick Mannone

1. Introductions

- a. The meeting was called to order by Sheila Gombita

2. Minutes of March 12, 2025 TOC Meeting

- a. Motion: David Richards Second: Mary Jo Morandini Action: Approve

3. Transit Participant Updates

- a. Paulina Mandeville (PRT) provided an update on the PRT PRTner Pass program which is launching this month. The program provides for discounted passes to be purchased by employers, multi-family property owners/managers, or schools not eligible for U-Pass. Passes are at \$28/month or 70% discount. There was a pilot program prior to launch that included four employers covering 200 employees.
 - i. Discussion questions included inquiries about the success of the pilot program, what the differences were to U-Pass (which is university specific and charges participants per tap as opposed to monthly unlimited pass), if there were tiers for businesses, and whether or not there was a survey of pilot participants (not as yet).

- b. Sheila Gombita (Freedom Transit) shared an update that Senator Costa has introduced legislation and is looking for a co-sponsor to create a regional administrative agency SWPTA. Raised concerns around timing in light of budget concerns, what impacts this could have on operations and funding, and concerns around the confusion of issues in the legislature. Alan Blahovec (WCTA) agreed with comments and concerns brought forward by Sheila, it will not fix budget challenges and the timing wrong. Mavis Rainey (OTMA) inquired about what benefits were outlined, but there was not a straight forward understanding at this time. Cost savings would be one-time related to streamlining of administrative costs. Kelsey Shannon included link for the policy hearing: [Policy Committee Hearing: The Future of Mass Transit - State Senator Jay Costa](#)

David Wohlwill included comment on legislation that questioned if the Senator believed administrative costs may be greater than they actually are.

**Note power failure at SPC caused a temporary loss of communication for those attending in-person

4. PennDot and Federal Updates

- a. Brandon Leach (PennDOT) discussed the release of the Federal Funding Allocation and Use Report. This report was shared on 3/26. Looks at the allocation and use of public funds over the past ten years, who has received the funding and how they have been spent. Current and prior reports are available. Shared Ride Transportation Phase I report is now posted- overviews history of program and high-level considerations around the fiscal sustainability of the program.

5. TIP Amendments and Administrative Actions

a. MMVTA

- i. Speers Terminal Construction (MPMS# 121269): Due to project delays, this adjustment reprograms funds originally slated for FFY2025 into FFY2026. No total TIP value change.

1. Motion: Alan Blahovec Second: David Richards Action: Approved

b. WASH

- i. Maintenance Facility Construction (MPMS# 102353): This TIP amendment programs money made available to WASH through PennDOT's statewide 5339 funding pool for the construction of a maintenance facility. An increase of \$4,000,000 of Federal 5339 funding, plus state and local match for a total TIP value change of \$5,000,000

1. Motion: Ashley Seman Second: Mary Jo Morandini Action: Approved

c. WCTA

- i. Fixed-Route Bus Wash Replacement/Rehabilitation (MPMS# NEW): This TIP amendment introduces a new project for the urgent replacement of WCTA's bus wash system and rehabilitation of the wash bay area due to poor condition. This amendment programs for \$1,440,000 from Federal sources in FFY25, plus state and local match for a total TIP value change of \$1,800,000

1. Motion: David Richards Second: Mary Jo Morandini Action: Approved

6. SPC Staff Updates

- a. Chuck Imbrogno & Nick Mannone: Data presentation - people and jobs near transit stops
 - i. SPC Data team provided an updated on a request from the transit team. This project is part of an effort to look at economic impact and value of local transit agencies. This looks at population and jobs within 1/4th of a mile of transit stops to provide insight to discussions about access to transit and percentage of populations in a county that is served. A 3-mile buffer will be used to look at access to park and ride facilities. The full report will look at costs value between fare costs and driving, VMT savings, and more. This will be done for each agency; Freedom Transit was used as an example for a pilot effort. Agencies were interested in expanding buffer to 3/4th of a mile from stops to factor in paratransit regulations.
- b. Devon White: NFL Draft Transportation Coordination
 - i. Discussion to look at impacts on transit and how transit can support the NFL draft as crowds will outpace Pittsburgh area hotel rooms, meaning guests will be coming in to stay across the region. How can SPC help coordinate with transit agencies and event around route impacts, drop locations, chartering, signaling and traffic control, coordinating existing regular service, encouraging remote work, ride share, etc. Discussion included outreach to past couple of cities or MPOs on how transit was coordinated for event. Interest in trying to schedule a specific meeting with operations staff included. Tosh Chambers suggested PDP has joined early discussion with the city on the subject and offered to help coordinate.
- c. Mark Hoblitzell: Scheduling discussion for Coordinated Plan breakout meeting
 - i. Reminder for upcoming May meeting on the human services coordinated plan sub-committee. One of the action items of the recently adopted plan is to have a working group improving communication and coordination between human services providers and transit agencies. Please consider who from your agency would be appropriate members for this group.

7. Other Business

- a. Next meeting: May 7, 2024

8. Adjournment

- a. Motion: Mary Jo Morandini Second: Ashley Seman Action: Approved