



SPC Transit Operators Committee

Meeting Minutes: August 13, 2025

Attendance

Members

Sheila Gombita (WASH)	Amy Mathieson (ACTA)
Mary Jo Morandini (BCTA)	Anthony Hickton (CI)
David Richards (NCATA)	Mavis Rainey (OTMA)
Alan Blahovec (WCTA)	Tiffany O'Neal (MCTA)
David Wohlwill (PRT)	

Guests & Transit Staff

Mark Cassel (Bowman)	Zoe Iseri (Mobilify)
Nathan Werner (Butler County)	David White (POGOH)
Karen Hoesch (ACCESS)	Cody Slater (BART)

SPC Staff

Devon White	Russell Singer
Rich Fitzgerald	Chuck Imbrogno
Belachew Ayele	Lillie Gabreski
Ryan Gordon	Leann Chaney
Daniel Kukula	Matthew Fisher
Julia Ferri	Evan Schoss
Rhonda Craig	Nancy Hirsch

1. Introductions
 - The meeting was called to order by Mary Jo Morandini
2. Minutes of July 10, 2025 TTC-TOC Meeting
 - Motion: Sheila Gombita Second: Alan Blahovec Action: Approved
3. Transit Participant Updates
 - WASH – Bids have been issued for Construction of new buses and bus facilities, and they hope to make an award by early October
 - BCTA – Clarified they are not starting a new route five to Pittsburgh after unclear information was reported in a Pittsburgh news article. Instead, the route five represents a name change, with the current route one ending at the Ambridge parking lot and then becoming route five. This change reflects efforts to improve headways and create more straight runs for drivers with better transfers.
 - POGOH – Announced a new partnership with Carnegie Mellon to provide unlimited trips to faculty, staff and students. This is paid for by Carnegie Mellon's transit benefits program.
4. TIP Amendments and Administrative Actions

- a. BTA – Reprograming of \$2 million on the TIP to move the CNG 30’ bus project on the 2025-2028 TIP/STIP from FFY 2025 to FFY 2026.

Motion: David Richards

Second: Alan Blahovec

Action: Approved

5. SPC Staff Updates

a. Russell Singer and Daniel Kukula: NFL Draft Planning Update:

- i. Daniel Kukula gave a presentation on Wisconsin’s SafeRide program and how it was employed during the 2025 NFL draft in Green Bay. The SafeRide program is a Wisconsin Tavern League initiative that provides free rides home from member bars to help reduce alcohol-related driving incidents. The program is funded through member contributions and an OWI conviction surcharge. During the 2025 NFL draft, the Brown County Tavern League recruited nearly 100 drivers and ran 40 shuttles over the four-day period, proving over 9,000 rides and 2,500 trips. Rides could be obtained from 200 member locations and draft sites. For Pittsburgh, this could type of initiative could be implemented in areas such as the strip district or north shore, and could help expand transportation coverage or target clusters of hotels that are hard to reach by bus. Partnerships would likely be involved with local business owners and community groups.

1. Questions were raised regarding the funding that is required to implement this type of program. The point was also raised that PA does have bar owners associations at the state and local levels. It was also discussed how the existing tax on alcohol pertaining to transit may affect business owner’s willingness to contribute to an additional initiative.

2. The need to begin coordinating transit initiatives for the draft was also raised, with discussion continuing regarding changes to regular services, incorporation or micro-transit, critical park-and-ride identification, and encouraging work-from-home for local employers.

- ii. Russell Singer gave a presentation on local hotel clusters and how information could be distributed to guests regarding transit access. One possible concept would be to create informational flyers for each cluster displaying the routes guests would need to take to access draft-related sites and any pertinent timing or connection information regarding those routes. Other information could include reasons for taking transit over a personal-automobile, ads for local businesses that wish to sponsor this initiative, and information on how to access other local interesting destinations.

1. The question was raised of whether transit fares should and could be made free during the draft. Points were also raised regarding the need to look into Inter-city bus routes and determine the status or any closed or partially-closed streets in relation to the draft

- iii. The need for further discussion or a committee with transit operators focused on draft-related initiatives was raised, and further communication/cooperation is planned for the future.
- b. Daniel Kukula: Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan (CTP) breakout meeting scheduling:
 - i. The next Human Services CTP breakout session is planned to take place following the September 17th TOC meeting
 - ii. A survey will be sent prior to help prioritize strategies and lead discussion during the breakout
- c. Devon White: TOC Bylaws Discussion:
 - i. Devon White provided a review of the draft bylaws and its key points.
 - ii. Comments were raised asking that language could be added to the draft's "Purpose" section to emphasize the forum that the TOC provides for transit agency coordination of services and projects.
 - iii. TOC recommendation for approval by the commission with the expanded purpose section of the by-laws:
 - 1. Motion: Sheila Gombita Second: David Wohlwill Action: Approved
- d. Devon White: SPC Competitive Programs Selection Committee:
 - i. Transit Urban Selections: David Wohlwill and Ed Typanski (Alternate)
 - ii. Small Urban Agencies: Mary Jo Morandini and Alan Blahovec (Alternate)
 - iii. Rural Agencies: Dave Richards and Brenda Hill (Alternate)
 - iv. TMAs: Amy Mathieson and Mavis Rainey (Alternate)
 - v. Ryan Gordon discussed the commitment and work involved with the committee, which includes a set of three meetings and mostly focuses on overseeing and confirming the process utilized by SPC staff.
- 6. Other Business
 - a. Alternate Hosts/Venues for Future TOC Meetings:
 - i. Survey will be sent out again to collect interest in hosting future meeting.
 - 1. BCTA will host in September
 - 2. Westmoreland will host in October
 - 3. Washington will host in May
 - ii. Host agency will be asked to provide brief presentation on their agency
 - iii. Hybrid meetings will still be available

- iv. Point was raised that TMA's should also have opportunities to present
- b. Next meeting: September 17, 2025, 10:00 am at BCTA Expressway Travel Center Facility

7. Adjournment

- a. Motion: Sheila Gombita Second: Alan Blahovec Action: Approved