



SPC Transit Operators Committee

Meeting Minutes: October 15, 2025

Attendance

Members

Kathryn Simpson (PRT)

Mary Jo Morandini (BCTA)

Rick Blaker (Greene)

Alan Blahovec (WCTA)

Amy Mathieson (ACTA)

Anthony Hickton (CI)

Mavis Rainey (OTMA)

Ashley Seman (MMVTA)

Guests & Transit Staff

Mark Cassel (Bowman)

Nathan Werner (Butler County)

Ashley Cooper-Brounce (WCTA)

SPC Staff

Chris Jaros

Daniel Kukula

Matthew Fisher

Russell Singer

Chuck Imbrogno

Devon White

1. Introductions

- a. The meeting was called to order by Mary Jo Morandini

2. Minutes of September 17, 2025 TOC Meeting

- a. Motion: Alan Blahovec Second: Mavis Rainey Action: Approved

3. PennDOT and Federal Updates

- a. Devon White shared that Washington's Freedom Transit had their community meeting for their TDP also on the day of the TOC meeting.
- b. Russell Singer shared that the PA state rail plan is now available for public comment. The plan focuses on safety, passenger and freight rail, funding, policy, the environment, and economic development. It also highlights opportunities in passenger and freight rail over the next 25 years.
- c. Russell Singer also shared that PennDOT's Office of Public-Private Partnerships is accepting unsolicited proposals for transportation projects from the private sector. Proposals can be

submitted for innovative ways to delivered transportation projects or crate more efficient models to manage services and programs.

- i. The open-ended nature of this effort was discussed, and Devon encouraged anyone with ideas to reach out to the SPC.

4. TIP Amendments and Administrative Actions

- a. SPC – Travel Demand Management (MPMS# 122570): The grant for this funding was not approved within FFY25, \$600,000 of Federal CMAQ funds and \$150,000 local match must be reprogrammed from FFY25 to FFY26. No total TIP value change

Motion: Alan Blahovec Second: Ashley Seman Action: Approved

5. SPC Staff Updates

- a. Alan inquired about the current state of the FTA given the shutdown. Devon brought up that the FTA is continuing to work, however only one FTA employee is assigned to Pennsylvania. This has caused things to move slower there, and delays should be anticipated throughout different processes.
- b. Daniel Kukula: Intercity Bus Atlas (ICBA)
 - i. Daniel Kukula gave a presentation on the ICBA, which is hosted by the Borough of Transportation Statistics and was developed through the NCHRP. It sought to address a lack of resources displaying a comprehensive view of intercity bus coverage. It now has downloadable shapefiles available for routes and stops based on GTFS data. A guide was also developed describing its applicability to bus carriers, and another was developed that was targeted toward planners and local officials. Carriers were identified and targeted for outreach during development, with 49 being successfully involved (and more represented as part of Amtrak Thruways). Uses include service visualization, intercity bus travel planning, service and market analysis, and stop analysis including terminal siting. Limited carrier representation and a need to input other data for demographic analysis makes this best suited for high-level analysis or as a base upon which to build further research on a specific area. It will need to be updated and maintained BTS to stay relevant.
- c. Devon White:
 - i. TIP Public Participation Plan Meetings
 1. There are three upcoming meetings for the TIP in Indiana County on October 1st at 4:00 pm, Greene County on October 23rd at 3:00 pm, and Beaver County on the 28th at noon, Butler’s meeting was determined to take place at the Butler Township Municipal building.
 - ii. TDP Website Update

1. SPC may be reaching out to collect current TDPs in the near future

iii. Remix Software Presentation

1. Devon highlighted some of the features possible with Remix software. These include help with, planning, scheduling and on-demand services. It can calculate stats for potential route alterations, and plan fixed + microtransit together. This includes costs of services and what you'd need to accomplish certain goals. You can also input ridership data to analyze trends, predict demand, refine service after launch. Remix can help with editing GTFS, and it can make it easy to plan for and communicate disruptions thanks to its presentation suite. The Network Jane feature can help with statistical and accessibility analysis, and the presentation studio can help with producing timetables and visualizing redesigns. Remix also has public commenting software, and it can perform title VI analysis.
2. SPC is considering getting access to Remix. Agencies would be able to coordinate with us so we could perform analysis for them using the software. Westmoreland mentioned they already have Remix, but would welcome utilizing it through the SPC instead. BCTA mentioned it could be a great project for SPC to lead.

6. Other Business

- a. Alan Blahovec brought up the NFL draft. Devon White shared that we still haven't been given the actual locations that will be used for the draft. Estimates for people attending are 750,000 to 1,000,000 people. The point was raised that discussions should occur surrounding free fares. Multiple agencies voiced a desire to coordinate but stressed the need to start planning as soon as possible. It was brought up that lessons should be taken from past host-cities, and the topic of charter bus rules was also discussed and will need to be considered in regard to any plans that are developed. Coordination with the FTA may be required, which would require adequate time to complete. Development of an operations group was raised as a good starting point to encourage conversations. Encouraging remote work and figuring out how to avoid impacting non-draft riders were also discussed.
 - i. SPC will try to coordinate an initial meeting on this topic. Look out for an invite for a meeting taking place sometime around the next TOC meeting.
- b. Alan Blahovec: WCTA Host Presentation
 - i. Alan Blahovec provided a presentation on the mission, history, and current status of WCTA. Initially created in 1978, WCTA became the coordinating agency for shared-ride

in 2013 and began directly operating both fixed-route and shared-ride for Westmoreland County in 2020. He described the board, professional services, and organizational structure of WCTA. The fleet has 41 buses now, but likely won't have quite that many once its current transition is completed. 11 fixed routes are operated in Westmoreland county and into Pittsburgh. There are also 4 express commuter routes as well. There has been overall growth in fixed-route ridership with projections looking positive for this year. Blahovec also provided an overview of WCTA's separate fixed-route and shared-ride facilities, as well as a summary of their Park and Rides. The presentation then highlighted Go Westmorland's paratransit services. It operates in Westmoreland County, as well as five miles into adjacent counties, six days a week using 58 paratransit buses. There has been consistent growth since Covid. Blahovec shared that a fare increase will likely be proposed to the board soon. There is been a downward trend in MATP ridership/mileage. Blahovec shared that they utilize the My Stop app, and also summarized ongoing/upcoming capital projects for WCTA. A TDP was completed done in 2019, with work on a new one completed a year ago. The new one features three alternative networks showing improved, enhanced, and aspirational goals. Potential areas where microtransit may be beneficial were also identified. WCTA also now has a strategic business plan. Blahovec concluded his presentation by going over concerns and challenges faced by WCTA. These included state and legislative issues, ATU agreements, and personnel needs and reliability. A stand-by and reserve operator system is utilized to help with driver attendance issues.

c. Next meeting: November 12, 2025, 10:00 am at SPC's office in Pittsburgh's Strip District

7. Adjournment

a. Motion: Anthony Hickton Second: Alan Blahovec Action: Approved