



SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION

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MINUTES TRANSIT OPERATORS COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: February 16, 2022
Location: **Meeting was held by online video/teleconference**

Attendance:

Members: Sheila Gombita, WASH (Chairperson)
Ed Typanski, PAAC
Anthony Hickton, CommuteInfo
Alan Blahovec, WCTA
Lynn Manion, ACTA
Mavis Rainey, OTMA
John Paul, BTA
Mary Jo Morandini, BCTA
Nancy Basile, MMVTA

Guests/Staff: David Wohlwill, PAAC
Seth Davis, PAAC
Donny Hamilton, PAAC
Lynda Conway, Delta Development
Sam Plocinski, PennDOT
Matt Crea, PennDOT
Brandon Leach, PennDOT
Danielle Spila, PennDOT
Kevin McCullough, PennDOT
Lucinda Beattie, WPPR
Nugent Laing, HDR
Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County
David White, Pittsburgh Bikeshare
Cody Slater, ACTS

SPC Staff: Tom Klevan
Ronda Craig
Chuck Imbrogno
Stephanie Kambic
David Totten
Dan Bernazzoli
Andy Waple
Dom D'Andrea

This meeting of the TOC was called to order at 10:00 A.M.

- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Public Comment –**
 - a. *There was no public comment.*
- **Approval of Meeting Minutes for previous Transit Operators Committee meeting**
 - ***ACTION:** The Committee unanimously approved the minutes for the December 8, 2021 meeting on a motion from Mary Jo Morandini and a second by Alan Blahovec.*
- **Amendments and Administrative Actions to the FFY 2021-2024 TIP**
 - *Beaver County Transit Authority (BCTA) requested three administrative adjustments to the FFY2021-2024 TIP: to project “Bus Replacement – Fixed Rt” (MPMS# 65590) to move funding from FFY2024 to FFY2022 to replace two Route 11 buses that have reached the end of their useful life, moving \$300,000 in federal 5307, \$72,581 in state 339 and \$2,419 in local funding. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$0***
 - *And to project “Support Equipment” (MPMS# 70708) to add funding in FFY2022 to purchase additional equipment, including a pressure washer and floor scrubber, bus stop lighting, benches and solar panels, and bike racks for buses, adding \$141,600 in federal 5307, \$34,259 in state 339 and \$1,141 in local funding. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$177,000***
 - *And to project “ADP Hardware and Software” (MPMS# 83817) to add funding in FFY2022 to upgrade financial system software and telephone system to a cloud-based system, adding \$59,200 in federal 5307, \$14,323 in state 339 and \$477 in local funding. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$74,000***
 - ***ACTION:** These actions were unanimously approved and the appropriate changes were made to the region’s FFY2021-2024 TIP by the TOC on a motion by Alan Blahovec and a second by Nancy Basile. Staff will transmit this project information to the PennDOT Program Center within one week of this action.*
 - *Butler Transit Authority (BTA) Requested an amendment to the FFY2021-2024 TIP to add the project “Preventive Maintenance (MPMS# 118097) to provide funding for preventive maintenance activities for BTA’s assets, adding \$95,870 in federal 5307 and \$23,945 in state 338 funding in FFY2022. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$119,815***
 - ***ACTION:** This amendment was unanimously approved and the appropriate changes were made to the region’s FFY2021-2024 TIP by the TOC on a motion by Mary Jo Morandini and a second by Alan Blahovec. Staff will transmit this project information to the PennDOT Program Center within one week of this action.*

There were no TIP adjustments requested.
- **Discussion: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act**
- **FTA/PennDOT Updates**
 - *Danielle Spila from the PennDOT Bureau of Public Transportation told the TOC that the Bureau is working with rural agencies to process their grants. Rural operators are encouraged to send their project lists to Andy Batson at the Bureau ASAP.*
 - *Staff asked the grantees to update the committee on lapsing funds. Sheila Gombita reported that Freedom Transit had no lapsing funds and planned to submit a grant application for 2017 and most of 2018 for buses and security. Mary Jo Morandini said nothing was expected from BCTA. Alan Blahovec said that WCTA’s grant was in progress. Tom Klevan reported that SPC’s grant for CommuteInfo was expected to be approved later in the week.*
- **Transit Participant Updates**

- WASH—Sheila Gombita reported that the state’s new report on MATP broker options had been released. One recommendation was to improve communications between the providers, PennDOT and DHS.
- BCTA—Mary Jo Morandini reported that BCTA had kicked off the project to integrate a new fare collection system using technology from Masabi. Morandini also shared BCTA’s new marketing video with the committee.
- CommuteInfo—Anthony Hickton reported that CommuteInfo was in the process of securing new ride-match software, with the contract expected to be in-place by the end of the week.
- PAAC—David Wohlwill reported on route detours that were necessary following the collapse of a bridge in Pittsburgh.

There were no other meeting participant updates.

- **SPC Evolution**

- SPC’s Andy Waple reported on the recent reorganization of staff at SPC, reviewing the new org chart with the committee and introducing Dom D’Andrea in his new role as Director of Transportation. Waple noted that a newly created office will focus on grant-writing initiatives, setting a high priority for regional projects.

- **Port Authority Chief Strategy Officer**

- Port Authority introduced Donny Hamilton, the new Chief Strategy Officer. Hamilton reviewed his upcoming priorities in the position, including pursuing regional partnerships and looking for smart regional projects to utilize new federal transit funding sources.

- **Discussion of various transit topics**

- SPC’s Tom Klevan led a conversation about several upcoming topics in front of the region’s transit operators in the upcoming fiscal year.
 - Regional fare collection (Masabi): When asked what the barriers were to implementing a regional system through Masabi, the committee discussed the situation. Sheila Gombita said that Freedom Transit had already chosen a vender based on need and cost. Mary Jo Morandini noted that these projects are always a lot harder than expected. She said that Masabi had to build new validators for BCTA, delaying the project. While BCTA has not yet reached their goals of integrating with PAAC at Ambridge, both agencies and the vender are continuing to work on it. BCTA asked if SPC could start small on fare regionalization by asking what the reasonable regional fare might be.
 - Operational collaboration: Klevan raised the question of formalizing collaboration activities, such as transit routes in and out of downtown Pittsburgh. Gombita said that Freedom Transit was trying to do some of this with the metro shopper route to South Hills Village, but the challenge is that riders face a time penalty if the bus and the PAAC light rail do not coordinate, and they face a double fare. Morandini discussed looking at the costs of regional projects and operations, such as looking into regional snow-plowing or landscaping, or looking into a joint construction project. She also suggested that Port Authority’s planning and facility operation skills are very strong. David White from Pittsburgh Bikeshare said that he was a strong advocate for transit and regional fares, and that his organization was looking at integration of bikeshare with other modes. As an example, Austin, TX has a micromobility project that is part of the transit agency.
 - Gombita suggested that SPC should schedule a special meeting to discuss the future of commuter transit and Downtown Pittsburgh.

- **SPC Staff Updates**

- Staff told TOC members to expect a data request soon as part of the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership downtown mobility study.

- SPC staff reported on progress on the New Castle Transit Development Plan project. A workshop had been held with the NCATA board and service planning research was ongoing.
- SPC's Ronda Craig reported that although she had changed position in the SPC Evolution, she was still conducting the Transit One on One program.

- **Other Business**

- *The next meeting of the TOC is scheduled for 10 a.m. **Wednesday, April 13, 2022.** Participation details will be made available at www.spcregion.org*

***Action:** The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mary Jo Morandini and a second by Alan Blahovec.*