



SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION

Two Chatham Center · Suite 500 · 112 Washington Place · Pittsburgh, PA 15219-3451

412-391-5590 phone · 412-391-9160 fax · www.spcregion.org

SPC

Transit Operators Committee

October 14, 2015, 10:00 A.M.

Two Chatham Center
112 Washington Place
Pittsburgh, PA

MEETING AGENDA

Officers:

Lawrence County
Steve Craig
Chairman

Westmoreland County
Charles W. Anderson
Vice-Chairman

Washington County
Larry Maggi
Secretary-Treasurer

Executive Committee:

Allegheny County
Rich Fitzgerald

Armstrong County
David Battaglia

Beaver County
Joseph Spanik

Butler County
A. Dale Pinkerton

City of Pittsburgh
William Peduto

Fayette County
Alfred Ambrosini

Greene County
Chuck Morris

Indiana County
Rodney Ruddock

Lawrence County
Steve Craig

Washington County
Larry Maggi

Westmoreland County
Charles W. Anderson

At-Large
Ricky V. Burgess
Tyler Courtney
Lynn Heckman

Governor's Office
Erin Molchany

PA Dept. of Community &
Economic Development
Johnna A. Pro

PA Dept. of Transportation
James D. Ritzman

Executive Director
James R. Hassinger

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of the Minutes from the June 17th and July 15th TOC Meetings
4. FTA/PennDOT Updates
 - Upcoming FTA Webinars on NPRM for Transit Asset Maintenance
 - State Rail Plan
5. Member Project Updates
 - Washington: New Facility and Consolidation Update
 - MMVTA: Transit Development Plan

Those members present are encouraged to share project schedule updates, news upcoming events, etc.
6. Staff Updates
 - Town and Country Transit Technical Assistance
 - ATWIC/Coordinated Plan Update
 - Freight Plan Update
 - Active Transportation Plan Update
7. Amendments & Administrative Actions to the FFY2015-2018 TIP
 - Port Authority of Allegheny County has requested the TOC take administrative action to adjust the current TIP (*Attachment A*).
 - The TOC will consider action to endorse the Final FFY2015 Sub-Allocation of FTA Urban Area Formula (Section 5307) Funds for the Pittsburgh, Monessen and Uniontown Urbanized Areas. (*Attachment B*)
8. FY2017-2020 TIP Update
 - Staff will provide information on the process and schedule for the FY2017-2020 TIP Update:
 - Financial Guidance
 - Workgroup Schedule
 - CMAQ, TAP, Multi-Modal Fund Application Periods

9. GIS in Transit

- Staff will present the latest information on the use of GIS in transit planning including accessibility analysis, asset management and safety and security planning applications.

10. Operations and Safety Assessments

- Staff will update the TOC on the current status of the update of the Regional Operations Plan.
- Staff will present a final report on the Route 68 Operations and Safety Assessment in Butler County and a progress report on the recent RSA in Oakland.

11. Other Business

- The next meeting of the TOC is scheduled for Wednesday, December 9, 2015



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MINUTES TRANSIT OPERATORS COMMITTEE MEETING

Officers:

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Date: October 14, 2015
Location: Two Chatham Center
112 Washington Place
Pittsburgh, PA

Attendance:

Members: John Paul, BTA (Chairman)
Ed Typanski, PAAC
Patti Lynn Baker, TACT
Alan Blahovec, WCTA
Ray McDonald, FACT
Mavis Rainey, OTMA
Lucinda Beattie, PDP
Mary Jo Morandini, BCTA
Joe Thomas, WASH
Lynn Manion, ACTA

Guests: Gerry Miller, TACT
Angela Schon, ACTS
Ann Ogoreuc, ACED
Jina O'Neill, OTMA
Andrea Elcock, PAAC
Breen Masciotra, PAAC
Amy Silbermann, PAAC
Ann Ogoreuc, ACED

SPC Staff: Tom Klevan
Andy Waple
Doug Smith
Kathy Stefani
Josh Spano
Josh Grimm
Chris Jaros
Chuck Imbrogno
David Totten
Sara Walfoort
Leann Chaney

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

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Public Comment –**
There was no public comment.
3. **Approval of June 17th, 2015 and July 15th, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Action: Minutes of the June 17th, 2015 and July 15th, 2015 meetings of SPC's Transit Operators Committee was unanimously approved on a motion by Patti Lynn Baker and a second by Alan Blahovec.

4. FTA/PennDOT Updates

- FTA ADA Circular: Staff presented a link to information from the FTA about new Americans with Disabilities Act guidance (C 4710.1). The press release announcing the circular is at: http://www.fta.dot.gov/newsroom/news_releases/12286_16594.html and the document itself is available at: http://www.fta.dot.gov/legislation_law/12349_16591.html
- FTA Webinars: Staff presented links to the Committee for a series of webinars on transit asset maintenance.
- State Rail Plan: The State Rail Plan has been released for a short public comment period. Staff presented a link to the plan: <http://www.planthekeystone.com/staterailplan.html> Lucinda Beattie reported that she attended the event announcing the release of the plan. She said attendees were invited to record comments on cards. She said the plan does not call for concrete investments in passenger rail west of Harrisburg. She noted that several groups—including one from Harrisburg—as well as the Mayor of Pittsburgh submitted comments calling for more investment. She said the group Western Pennsylvanians for Passenger Rail was advocating for two additional trains per-day to and from Pittsburgh, which Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership estimated would greatly increase ridership and service quality and would likely cost the state an additional \$10-12.9 million per year. Increasing service to three trains per day would make it possible for Pittsburgh travelers to visit Harrisburg and return on the same day.

5. Member Project Updates

- Washington County—Joe Thomas reported that the new Washington County Transit Authority (WASH) held an event September 25th to commemorate the official merging of City of Washington transit with the county agency, Washington Rides. The event was also a ribbon-cutting for the new multimodal transit center in Washington. He said passengers seem to like the new facility, which will also serve as headquarters of the new agency. In addition, the event featured the unveiling of new branding and livery, under the theme of “Freedom Transit” (assuming that this name is not considered too similar to any other nearby agencies). Thomas also related that a number of adjustments have been made to local and commuters service, recently, and have received positive responses from passengers. He said he hopes that further service improvements will expand the system’s span and frequency.
- Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority—SPC staff reported that the MMVTA Transit Development Plan has been completed and was endorsed by the MMVTA board. This project included input from customers, drivers, staff and affected communities. The report seeks to answer operations problems and explored the potential of exploring a switch to a hybrid demand-response system.
- Beaver County Transit Authority—Morandini reported that BCTA has completed Phase One of the adoption of CAD AVL: Computer Aided Dispatch Automatic Vehicle Location—project. The system allows dispatchers to use computers to assign/reassign work to drivers, communicate in real-time with drivers and manage incidents and events. The system is also integrated with the buses’ Automatic Passenger Counters, and passenger announcement equipment. Morandini said Phase Two is now fifty-percent complete. This phase will implement a real-time passenger information system, which will be deployed initially through a website. She said there will be more information on this phase at the next TOC meeting.
- Oakland Transportation Management Assn.—Mavis Rainey discussed OTMA’s “Oakland for All” initiative, which is seeking to generate a positive conversation about access to the curb and to alleviate conflicts between cars, bike lanes, wheelchair users and accessible vans. She said this will be part of the City of Pittsburgh’s “Envision Downtown” project.
- Fayette Area Coordinated Transit—Ray McDonald reported that FACT recently testified to the state Senate Transportation Committee.

There were no other member updates.

6. Staff Updates

- Town & Country Transit Technical Assistance—Staff reported that the strategic plan/transit development plan project to provide technical assistance to TACT is set to officially kick-off. This project is a follow-up to the agency’s PennDOT performance review. The project will be completed by June 30th, 2016.

- *ATWIC Update*—SPC Staff reported on plans to implement recommendations in the SPC Coordinated Human Transportation Plan. The Alliance (ATWIC) met in September to discuss the five major transportation barriers identified in the plan and selected one barrier to focus on over the coming year: “Program policies and regulations.” The goal is to develop two strategies to address the barrier along with a list of action items that will be assigned to Alliance participants. Also, staff shared the plan with a state legislator.
- *Regional Freight Plan*—SPC Staff reported that consulting firm WR&A has been engaged in the project to produce a regional freight plan. The strategy for the plan starts with recognizing that freight movement drives the local economy. Other major themes for the plan will be safety and resiliency. The first task will be to map the intermodal and multimodal freight network of the region. A survey was sent out broadly with the next presentation to stakeholders set for November 10th.
- *SPC Active Transportation Plan*—SPC Staff reported that they are collecting background data in advance of the expected launch of a major bike counting effort in the spring. The major project to write the plan will start after July 1, 2016.

There were no other staff updates.

7. Amendments and Administrative Actions to the FFY2015-2018 TIP

- *The Port Authority of Allegheny County (PAAC) requested that the TOC perform administrative action to the FFY 2013-2016 TIP to remove the programmed funding for the project “Associated Capital Maint.” (MPMS# 65439) for FFY2015, removing \$2,000,000 in federal 5307 funding, \$483,875 in state capital bond funding and \$16125 in local funding, and adding that funding to the project “Bus Procurement” (MPMS# 71148) for FFY 2015, as PAAC no longer plans to undertake the Associated Capital Maint. Project and will, instead, purchase six additional buses. TOTAL CHANGE: \$0*

Action: This action was unanimously approved and the appropriate changes were made to the region’s FFY2015-2018 TIP by the TOC on a motion by Morandini and a second by Beattie. Staff will transmit this project information to the PennDOT Program Center within one week of this action.

8. FFY2015 Sub Allocation of FTA Urban Area Formula (section 5307) Funds for the Pittsburgh, Monessen and Uniontown Urbanized Areas

Participants in the regional sub-allocation of FTA Urban Area Formula (section 5307) Funds for the Pittsburgh, Monessen and Uniontown Urbanized Areas considered the final FFY 2015 sub-allocation. The Airport Corridor Transportation Association (ACTA) requested that ACTA receive a share of 5307 funding based on service currently being provided through the RideACTA shuttle program, in advance of future qualification to become an FTA direct grantee in FY2017. Lynn Manion from ACTA noted that on a previous occasion, the participants had funded a new operator prior to qualification for urban formula funding. The participants reviewed two potential distributions, one which included ACTA and one which did not.

Action: The sub-allocation participants reached unanimous consensus on a motion by Thomas and a second by Blahovec that the calculations presented in the sub-allocation tables and accompanying documentation, which did not include ACTA funding, accurately represented the sub-allocation of FFY2015 Urban Area Formula (5307) funds for the Pittsburgh, Uniontown and Monessen UZAs. Staff will transmit his action was unanimously approved and the appropriate changes were made to the region’s FFY2015-2018 TIP by the TOC on a motion by Morandini and a second by Beattie. Staff will transmit these tables to FTA Region III, the PennDOT Bureau of Public Transportation and the SPC Transit Operators Committee.

9. FY2017-20 TIP Update

SPC Staff updated the Committee on progress on the FY2017-20 TIP update process, reporting that a scheduled planning partners meeting to finalize financial guidance from PennDOT had been cancelled, however draft guidance was distributed to the TOC, with the anticipation that the transit numbers will not change prior to a conference call with the department. Meetings

with the District Workgroups were held in September with a second round of workgroup meetings set for October and November. A draft project list will be ready for TOC review, TTC recommendation and SPC Commission endorsement at the December meetings. After that, the Draft TIP will go through agency review through the winter and spring before being released for a 30-day public comment period in May. The document will then return to the committees for final endorsement in June, 2016. The draft fiscal guidance was posted to the transit TIP SharePoint site for download. Staff also updated the committee on the CMAQ funding process. The CMAQ Evaluation Committee received 34 applications for CMAQ projects, including one bike/pedestrian; three Travel Demand Management and 30 traffic flow projects. All submitted projects were determined to be eligible for CMAQ funding. The updated TIP will include \$37.4 million in carryover projects. The new candidate projects total \$96.3 million for a total CMAQ request of \$133.7 million, for an available \$68 million in funding. The CMAQ Evaluation Committee will meet later in October to review and score the projects to determine the recommended prioritization. Staff also discussed the process to recommend projects for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). The application period for TAP closes October 19th. The SPC TTC serves as the review committee and will review projects at the November meeting. In addition, a statewide TAP process is set to open in early November. The PennDOT Multimodal fund is also open and is set to close December 18th. This program has about \$40 million, statewide.

10. GIS in Transit

SPC Multimodal and GIS staff as well as staff from Port Authority demonstrated several new techniques for mapping and analyzing transit service. These include potential research projects looking at transit supportive land use and transit accessibility scoring, as well as new ways to present service information to the public. Port Authority's new interactive transit map includes route information that can be used in connection with the agency's recently-adopted service guidelines to look at system performance. This map is accessible at <http://www.portauthority.org/paac/SchedulesMaps/Maps.aspx> In another example, SPC showed an "Interactive Route Map" for Town and Country Transit (Armstrong County) that was custom formatted to fit with the TACT website, including links to Google Street View images of stop locations: <http://www.tandctransit.com/>

11. Operations and Safety Assessments

SPC staff updated the TOC on the current status of the update to the Regional Operations Plan. The plan will focus on making traffic operations work better for customers and also improving sustainability and environmental benefits. The goal is to mitigate recurring congestion, maintain mobility during planned events, improving reliability during unplanned events, providing a multimodal system that is effective and reliable and measuring results. The ROP is part of the regional Long Range Plan. Also, SPC staff recently completed two Operations and Safety Assessment/Road Safety Audit studies, in Butler and Allegheny Counties. The first was along Bellfield Ave. in Pittsburgh, near the University of Pittsburgh. This Road Safety Audit looked at safety issues from Forbes Ave. to Centre Ave., especially the area around the Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children. The second study was an Operations and Safety Assessment study of Rt. 68 in Butler County. This corridor-long look at safety issues ran from Butler to S.R. 528. The holistic approach involved traffic, transit and bike and pedestrian safety as well as potential maintenance issues.

12. Other Business

- *The next meeting of the TOC is scheduled for Wednesday, December 9th, 2015 at the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, in Pittsburgh, PA.*

13. Adjournment

Action: The meeting was adjourned on a unanimous vote of a motion by Thomas and a second by Mary Jo Morandini.