



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

March 16, 2016, 10:00 A.M.

Two Chatham Center

112 Washington Place

Pittsburgh, PA

MEETING AGENDA

Officers:

Westmoreland County
Charles W. Anderson
Chairman

Washington County
Larry Maggi
Vice-Chairman

Allegheny County
Rich Fitzgerald
Secretary-Treasurer

Executive Committee:

Allegheny County
Rich Fitzgerald

Armstrong County
George Skamai

Beaver County
Tony Amadio

Butler County
Leslie A. Osche

City of Pittsburgh
William Peduto

Fayette County
Vincent A. Vicites

Greene County
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Westmoreland County
Charles W. Anderson

At-Large
Ricky V. Burgess
Gina Cerilli
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 October 14th and December 9th TOC Meetings
4. FTA/PennDOT Updates
 - PennDOT Bureau of Public Transportation rural performance reviews
 - Federal Transportation Legislation – FAST Act Update
5. Member Project Updates
Those members present are encouraged to share project schedule updates, news upcoming events, etc.
6. Staff Updates
 - ATWIC: Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan implementation update.
 - Active Transportation Plan Update
 - Regional Freight Plan Update
7. Amendments & Administrative Actions to the FFY2015-2018 TIP
No proposed adjustments to the FFY2015-2018 TIP were submitted to SPC staff in time to be included in this month's agenda.
8. FY2017-2020 TIP Update
 - Title III (Transit) Draft Programs of Projects
 - Financial Capacity documentation
 - TOC role in TIP modification procedures
 - Public Participation process update
9. Remix Software Demo:
 - Representatives from the Remix company will demonstrate their new transit service planning software.
10. Port Authority of Allegheny County Station Improvement Program
 - Staff from PAAC will present plans to systematically improve stations in the fixed guide-way network
11. Other Business
 - The next meeting of the TOC is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13, 2016





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MINUTES TRANSIT OPERATORS COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: March 16, 2016
Location: Two Chatham Center
112 Washington Place
Pittsburgh, PA

Attendance:

Members: John Paul, BTA (Chairman)
Ed Typanski, PAAC
Alan Blahovec, WCTA
Lori Groover-Smith, FACT
Lynn Manion, ACTA
Donna Weckoski, MMVTA
Sheila Gombita, WASH
Mary Jo Morandini, BCTA
Lisa Kay Schweyer, CommuteInfo
Mavis Rainey, OTMA
Lucinda Beattie, PDP

Guests:

Angela Schon, ACTS
Cathy Williams, ACCESS
Joe Thomas, WASH
Ashley Couper, WCTA
Ann Ogoreuc, ACED
Jina O'Neill, OTMA
Jon Smith, ACTC
David Wohlwill, PAAC

SPC Staff:

Tom Klevan
Doug Smith
Chuck Imbrogno
David Totten
Leann Chaney
Andy Waple
Matt Pavlosky
Kathy Stefani
Sara Walfort

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 October 14th, 2015 and December 9th, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Due to lack of quorum at the July 15th TOC meeting, the Committee considered the minutes from both the October and December meetings.

Action: Minutes of the October 14th, 2015 and December 9th, 2015 meetings of SPC's Transit Operators Committee was unanimously approved on a motion by Sheila Gombita and a second by Alan Blahovec.

4. FTA/PennDOT Update

- PennDOT Bureau of Public Transportation Rural Performance Reviews: PennDOT has completed the most recent round of rural transit performance reviews. John Paul reported that the review of Butler Transit Authority found a small number of issues and that BTA plans to work with SPC to address them. Bureau staff plan to attend the April TOC meeting to talk about the performance review process and how it has changed.
- Federal FAST Act: Lucinda Beattie reviewed elements of the new federal surface transportation law to promote passenger rail. SPC staff has worked with the group Western Pennsylvanians for Passenger Rail to interpret provisions of the FAST Act that could be used to increase passenger rail service to Southwestern Pennsylvania.

5. Member Project Updates

- Beaver County Transit Authority—Mary Jo Morandini reported that BCTA now has a stable AVL system. The project's real-time bus information system is scheduled to go live April 4th. Work on marketing for the new information will continue over the next few months. BCTA now has decals on bus stops with ID codes so passengers can check real-time information. Also, BCTA's vehicle surveillance system is being installed on all fixed-route and shared-ride vehicles. Morandini also reported that BCTA has ordered their first three CNG buses. BCTA also plans to order six more CNG buses through the "Red Rose Piggyback" procurement. The agency still will need PennDOT to complete the CNG facility project before delivery, scheduled for fall of 2017. BCTA is installing a number of new bus shelters and is making improvements to parking and park-and-ride facilities at the Rochester Travel Center and the Expressway Travel Center.
- Washington County Transportation Authority—Sheila Gombita reported that an RFP has been issued for operation of Freedom Transit's fixed-route service. The new contract will cover all fixed-route service and be effective July 1st. Freedom Transit also has taken delivery on two new Freightliner buses. Gombita said WASH has contracted with Michael Baker to conduct a route analysis to look for system efficiencies. The agency has a new website: <http://www.freedom-transit.org>
- Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority—Donna Weckoski reported that MMVTA currently has eight CNG buses in service. MMVTA is fueling through the company Ultimate CNG, which brings a "fuel mule" out to MMVTA's facility to fuel the vehicles. Weckowski also noted that MMVTA has put out for bid phase two of the project to renovate the Donora facility.
- CommuteInfo—Lisa Kay Schweyer reported that CommuteInfo had created St. Patrick's Day-themed marketing materials to promote the value of transit. She also reminded the Committee that May is "Commute Options Awareness Month." This year, CommuteInfo will promote commuting options (vanpool, transit, etc.) on social media through a "Don't drive by your selfie" campaign. The next CommuteInfo Partners meeting is scheduled for May 5th at 10am.
- Butler Transit Authority—John Paul reported that BTA has issued an RFP for call-center service for ADA transportation. The scope of the RFP calls for service six days per-week that will allow for scheduling of ADA service one day in advance. Paul also reported that BTA will purchase three used vehicles from Port Authority of Allegheny County to replace existing vehicles. BTA also plans to order its first CNG bus and has obtained options to purchase five others. Paul said that BTA is moving forward with a full roll-out of the ConnectCard fare system.

There were no other member updates.

6. Staff Updates

- ATWIC/Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan Update—SPC Staff updated the Committee on the progress made by the Alliance on implementing the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan, approved by SPC last June. The group has been working on strategies to address the barriers of policies and regulations. ATWIC is conducting a second round of outreach, with eight counties contacted, so far, as well as talking to transportation and human services providers and looking at the top-ten policies to “tweak.” The goal is for ATWIC to create a set of talking points to help advocate for improved policies.
- Strategic Plan: Mid County Transit Authority—SPC Staff reported on the progress on a strategic plan for Mid County Transit Authority in Armstrong County. This is the latest SPC-sponsored transit strategic plan. The project team is working from the recommendations of Mid County’s recent Act 44 Performance Review. A public outreach session was held in Kittanning, recently, including considerable feedback from customers. The existing conditions report is now complete. The next goal is to craft a set of short-term changes—over a one-year timeline—with long-range thinking in the next phase.
- SPC Active Transportation Plan—SPC Staff plan to launch the development of an Active Transportation Plan starting July 1st. To prepare for this project, staff and consultants are working to look at best-practices for Active Transportation Plans and will engage an intern over the summer to inventory the region’s bike and pedestrian infrastructure. Staff will also review municipal and county bicycle and pedestrian policies. In addition to incorporating elements from the Active Allegheny plan, SPC’s Active Transportation Plan will also seek to connect with Allegheny County’s new public health planning. Lynn Manion suggested that SPC make special efforts to connect with work being done at the municipal level throughout the region, and to encourage other municipalities to adopt their own active plans. Mavis Rainey also suggested involving CONNECT.
- Regional Freight Plan Update—SPC Staff updated the Committee on the ongoing Regional Freight Plan project. The project is taking a four-state, 37-county look at the movement of freight in the region. This includes a basic inventory of the highway, rail, waterway, air and intermodal movement of goods. The project aims to be completed in June.

There were no other staff updates.

7. Remix Software Demonstration

- Representatives from Remix demonstrated their new transit service planning software. This online service could be useful for planning or changing transit service or for presenting proposed changes to stakeholders, due to its ease-of-use and the way it can incorporate metrics like the cost of service or demographics. More information is available at the company’s website: www.getremix.com

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

- *No amendments or administrative actions were presented for consideration.*

9. FY2017-20 TIP Update

SPC Staff updated the Committee on progress on the FY2017-20 TIP update process:

- Title III (Transit) Draft Programs of Projects (Attachment D)—SPC has submitted the Draft Program of Projects (Transit) to the PennDOT Program Center for their review. SPC staff facilitated communication between the Program Center and the Bureau of Public Transportation.
- Financial Capacity Documentation—So far, only three agencies have submitted the required Financial Capacity Documentation. Transit operators are asked submit these documents to SPC Staff for inclusion in materials to be presented at public meetings on the TIP. Staff distributed templates to help create these documents.

- TOC Role in TIP modification procedures—As part of the TIP update process SPC and PennDOT are considering changes in the agreement governing TIP modification procedures. One possible change could be to move formal voting on amendments and administrative actions on the transit TIP to SPC's Transit Technical Committee. Paul offered to confer with TOC members via e-mail in the coming weeks to gather input on the proposal.
- PPP Process Update—SPC Staff are beginning the process of setting up sites and dates for public participation panel meetings to review the Draft TIP Update. Staff last met with the PPPs in November and December. Staff will keep Committee members aware of the dates for the meetings, if they want to be available to take part. Plans call for the meetings to include both a presentation and an open house.

10. Port Authority of Allegheny County Station Improvement Program

Andrea Elcock from PAAC presented details of the agency's strategic plan to systematically improve stations along the fixed guideway network. Elcock toured all 75 stations in Port Authority's network, assessing each for factors such as transit—is the station visible? Is there a place to sit?—orientation—what does the neighborhood look like?—and development—what is happening in the market? The result was a data-driven approach to determine how to prioritize station improvements for the best return on investment.

11. Other Business

- *The next meeting of the TOC is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13th, 2016 at the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, in Pittsburgh, PA.*

12. Adjournment

Action: The Meeting was adjourned by a unanimous vote on a motion by Morandini and a second by Blahovec.