



SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION

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SPC
Transit Operators Committee
April 16, 2014, 10:00 A.M.
Mid-Mon Valley Transit Authority
1300 McKean Avenue
Charleroi, PA

MEETING AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of the Minutes from the February 12, 2014 TOC Meeting
Approval of Amended Minutes from the December 4, 2013 TOC Meeting
4. FTA/PennDOT Updates
 - The Transit Award Management System (TrAMS): FTA's Next Generation of TEAM
 - FFY 2014 FTA Pittsburgh Urbanized Area Urban Area Formula Allocations
 - PennDOT Office of Multi-Modal Transportation – Announcement of FY 2014 Act 89 Multi-Modal Fund Application Period (*Attachment A*)
 - PennDOT Bureau of Public Transportation – Article of Interest (*Attachment B*)
5. Member Updates

Those members present are encouraged to share news, upcoming event schedules, etc.
6. Staff Updates
 - Alliance for Transportation Working In Communities (ATWIC) Update
 - CommuteInfo Update
 - USDOT Integrated Corridor Management Workshop – April 29, 2014 (*Attachment C*)
7. Amendments & Administrative Actions to the FFY2013-2016 TIP
 - New Castle Area Transit Authority requests action to amend the current TIP. (*Attachment D*)
 - Any other requested amendments and/or administrative actions to the TIP will be acted on at this time.
8. Presentation on TRAXTER – Automated Vehicle Tracking System

9. FFY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update

- Financial Capacity Documentation for Transit TIP Submissions
- TIP Modification Procedures Work Group – Report
- Update on the Title I Process
- Update on the Schedule for the Public Participation Process

10. Mon Valley Places – Final Report

The Lower Mon Valley region of Allegheny County is an area that has seen many years of disinvestment in jobs, housing and in transportation options. Yet, today, it is also a place with potential for future community and economic development. In 2012-13, the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) undertook a project to look for potential future enhanced transit corridors—places where new or restored transit service could be a catalyst for revitalization. For this study, SPC set out to create a set of concepts that could inspire future community leaders with ideas for innovative transit service and supportive station area plans that could lead to more sustainable communities.

11. Other Business

- The next regular meeting of the TOC is scheduled for Wednesday June 18, 2014. This will be the end-of-program-year meeting and will include approval of a schedule for FY2014-2015 TOC meetings.



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MINUTES TRANSIT OPERATORS COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: April 16, 2014
Location: Mid-Mon Valley Transit Authority
1300 McKean Ave.
Charleroi, PA

Attendance:

Members: Marc Roncone, Chairman, MMVTA
Scott Vetere, PAAC
Leonard Lastoria, NCATA
John Paul, BTA
Lori Groover-Smith, FACT
Nancy Basile, City of Washington
Mary Jo Morandini, BCTA
Larry Morris, WCTA
John Kanyan, ICTA

Guests: Angela Schon, ACTS
David Richards, NCATA
Ray McDonald, FACT
Ashley Altemare, MMVTA

SPC Staff: Tom Klevan
David Totten
Kathy Stefani
Lisa Kay Schweyer
Kim Beaver
Chuck Imbrogno
Matt Pavlosky

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 February 12, 2014 Meeting Minutes/Approval of Amended December 4' 2014 Meeting Minutes**

Action: Minutes of the February 12th, 2014 meeting of SPC's Transit Operators Committee were unanimously approved on a motion by Mary Jo Morandini and a second by Larry Morris.

Action: Minutes of the December 4th, 2013 meeting of SPC's Transit Operators Committee were amended unanimously to correctly show approval of TIP actions on a motion by Mr. Morris and a second by Mary Jo Morandini.

4. FTA/PennDOT Update

- SPC Staff updated the TOC on FTA's "TrAMS" Transit Award Management System, the agency's next generation of TEAM. SPC, as an FTA grantee, is part of the beta-testing of this system. Staff reported that TrAMS features easier navigation, including less scrolling. FTA is still making changes based on user feedback, but their goal is to roll out the system on October first. All applications in TEAM will need to be entered before the end of the federal fiscal year or they won't migrate to TrAMS. Training will be made available throughout 2015.
- Staff reported that sub-recipients of the Pittsburgh Urbanized Area formula allocations met just prior to the TOC meeting. The group reviewed the draft sub-allocations for federal fiscal year 2014 and also discussed the potential use of unobligated balances and transit enhancement funds. The group agreed to the sub-allocation, which will be transmitted to FTA and PennDOT within a week.
- Staff provided for the TOC a set of guidelines for the PennDOT Multi-Modal Transportation Fund application process. Further information about this program is available through the PennDOT website. Note that the application program is currently open and will close at the end of June. A separate part of the Multi-Modal fund is administered by DCED, not PennDOT. Although eligibility for the two programs is identical, PennDOT and DCED have different schedules. It is possible to submit the same project for both programs, since PennDOT and DCED plan to coordinate the eventual awards.
- Staff also distributed an article of interest to the TOC about planned operational consolidation of Red Rose Transit (Lancaster County) with BARTA (Berks County).

5. Member Updates

- OTMA—Mavis Rainey of Oakland TMA reported, via e-mail, on the "Oakland Smart Commute" program, an educational campaign aimed at businesses in Oakland encouraging them to provide information about commuting alternatives to their employees. The project includes a TV commercial which is set to air on KDKA and The CW 100 times. The associated website is oaklandsmartcommute.org
- MMVTA—Marc Roncone updated the Committee on MMVTA's progress to implement the Connect Card system. Fifty MMVTA riders are helping to test the system. They have recently identified a software problem with the cards which is being addressed. John Paul reported that Butler Transit and the other regional participants in the ConnectCard project had negotiated an agreement with contractor S&B for five years of maintenance and service. The next agreement needed will be for the change order to establish the e-commerce website. This is expected to cost \$930,000. The TOC asked Mr. Morris to approach the PennDOT Bureau of Public Transportation for assistance to the region.
- BTA—Mr. Paul also reported that work continues on the construction of the 528 Park-and-Ride. The shelter is almost complete and paving is set to begin in May. No grand opening ceremony is planned, but BTA will let NCATA and CommuteInfo know as soon as it is ready for use.
- City of Washington—Progress continues on the new transit facility in the City of Washington, however a delay is anticipated.
- WCTA—Mr. Morris reported that WCTA has a new coordinated senior shared-ride program called "Go Westmoreland" which is now folded into WCTA's MATP and paratransit programs. Mr. Morris said WCTA is seeing efficiencies, especially through the use of PennDOT's new Eccolane software.
- PAAC—Scott Vetere reported that the Port Authority of Allegheny County has now outfitted all 700 buses with the equipment needed to implement real-time passenger information. Testing of the system is continuing. Performance has been good on the Busway, so far, but more work is needed elsewhere.

There were no other member updates.

6. Staff Updates

- ATWIC Update—SPC staff reported on the ongoing work to set up the new ATWIC project at SPC, including a kick-off meeting. The ATWIC group participated in scenario planning exercises to inform the updated Public Transit Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan. This plan will be adopted by SPC in 2015 as part of the update to the Long Range Transportation Plan. Staff reported the results of the scenario planning session and the planning for the new ATWIC and Coordinated Transportation Plan to the SPC Executive Committee on March 31st, where it was well-received.
- Commute Info—SPC Staff briefed the Committee on activities planned for May through the CommuteInfo/Commuting Options Awareness Month. CommuteInfo has hired one new staff person.
- USDOT Integrated Corridor Management Workshop—SPC Staff informed the Committee about an upcoming workshop set for April 29, 2014, at SPC's offices in Pittsburgh. The federally supported program has value for transit operators by promoting coordination between highway and transit interests at the corridor level.
- SPC Road Safety Audits—Staff reviewed SPC's Road Safety Audit program. These projects are studies of road safety along high-crash corridors and include examinations of everything along the road, including traffic configurations and transit activity, as well as bike and pedestrian safety. Staff noted that the studies can be valuable when looking for transit solutions to traffic problems.

There were no other staff updates.

7. Amendments and Administrative Actions to the FFY2013-2016 TIP

- *New Castle Area Transit Authority (NCATA) requested that the TOC amend the FFY2013-2016 TIP to add the new project "Service Vehicle" to purchase a heavy duty maintenance vehicle with winch, crane, air compressor and welder as well as addition mechanical equipment using \$120,838 in state PTAF funding and \$4,162 in local funding for FY2014. TOTAL CHANGE: \$125,000*

Action: This action was unanimously approved and the appropriate changes were made to the region's FFY2013-2016 TIP by the TOC on a motion by Mr. Paul and a second by Ms. Morandini. Staff will transmit this project information to the PennDOT Program Center within one week of this action. The TOC's recommendation on the major TIP amendment will be forwarded to the SPC for consideration.

There were no further TIP amendments.

8. Presentation on TRAXTER – Automated Vehicle Tracking System

MMVTA staff updated the committee on the implementation of the new TRAXTER real-time information system. The system connects GPS-based automatic vehicle location devices and automated passenger counters on the buses with MMVTA's dispatching software. Mr. Roncone said that the passenger data is going to be useful for planning stop locations. MMVTA is also testing a stop annunciator system for passenger information. The dispatch screen shows dispatchers exactly where buses are, including which buses are off schedule. "Bread crumb" data can show managers where buses have been, showing route deviations. This historical data has been used to fine-tune MMVTA's mid-route driver relief schedules. Mr. Roncone said the data has been welcomed by drivers, so far, as it has been used to mediate customer complaints. When it is available to the public, users will be able to access real-time bus location through a website or mobile app. MMVTA also displayed new bus stop signs with options to text, call or scan a QR code for real-time next bus information. Until the real-time data is ready for public roll-out, MMVTA will use the TRAXTER brand and technology to offer schedule-based information.

9. FFY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update

Staff reported that the draft FY2015-18 Transportation Improvement Program will be presented to SPC's commissioners at the end of July. Transit project sponsors are required to submit their federally required financial capacity documents for publication with the Programs of Projects. Staff provided a copy of the applicable FTA circular. Staff encouraged TOC members to work with FTA to get the documentation right. Also, staff reported that the TIP Modification Procedures Workgroup has met several times and produced a draft M.O.U. between SPC and PennDOT, covering changes to the procedures. Most of the changes relate to timing, such as when to hold a public hearing for changes to the TIP. SPC tentatively plans to hold public participation panel meetings of June 14th through July 16th for the public participation meetings in each county (allowing for a full 30-day comment period). Staff asked Committee Members to get in touch if they have ideas for stories or messages for the public about the regional importance of transit, whether urban or rural.

10. Mon Valley Places—Final Report

Staff gave a wrap-up presentation on the planning study "Mon Valley Places". This project looked for potential TOD opportunities in the Lower Mon Valley area of Allegheny County and tried to extrapolate ideas for prototypes that would be useful for TOD across the SPC region. The study began with a reading of previous studies as well as adopted comprehensive and zoning plans, then took further input from the public at a series of workshops around the study area. From there, planners and architects created a set of station area prototypes to show how TOD could look in places like Turtle Creek, Swissvale or Duquesne. They also drafted a prototype redevelopment plan for a place like McKeesport to show how land banking, transit investment and green space could be part of a city's revitalization. The team also created a prototype service plan for the area, focused on McKeesport (since the draft of the report was created, many of the ideas for the prototype service plan have been implemented by PAAC). Finally, the report included a discussion of Community Transit Districts as a tool for providing first-mile connections to rapid transit lines.

11. Other Business

- *The next meeting of the TOC is scheduled for Wednesday, June 18th at the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, in Pittsburgh, PA.*

12. Adjournment

Action: The meeting was adjourned on a unanimous vote of a motion by Mr. Paul and a second by Mr. Morris.