



# 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

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PA Dept. of Transportation  
James D. Ritzman

Executive Director  
James R. Hassinger

**SPC**  
**Transit Operators Committee**  
**June 18, 2014, 10:00 A.M.**  
**Two Chatham Center**  
**112 Washington Place**  
**Pittsburgh, PA**

## MEETING AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of the Minutes from the April 16, 2014 TOC Meeting
4. FTA/PennDOT Updates
5. Member Updates  
*Those members present are encouraged to share news, upcoming event schedules, etc.*
6. Staff Updates
  - TOD Corridor Plan – Transit Signal Priority Micro-simulation - Update
  - CommuteInfo Update
  - ATWIC Update
  - NT&AQ Summit – August 19-20, 2014 (*Attachment A*)
7. Amendments & Administrative Actions to the FFY2013-2016 TIP
  - Beaver County Transit Authority requests action to amend the current TIP. (*Attachment B*)
  - Mid-Mon Valley Transit Authority requests action to amend the current TIP. (*Attachment C*)
  - New Castle Area Transit Authority requests action to amend the current TIP. (*Attachment D*)
  - Westmoreland County Transit Authority requests action to amend the current TIP. (*Attachment E*)
  - Any other requested amendments and/or administrative actions to the TIP will be acted on at this time.
8. FFY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update
  - Draft Final TIP Update Programs of Projects – For Review (*Attachment F*)
  - Update on the Title I Process
  - Update on the Schedule for the Public Participation Process

9. Regional Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) - Update

*Staff will provide an update on the project selection process for the Transportation Alternatives Program. (Attachment G)*

10. SPC FY2014-2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – Transit Planning Initiatives – TOC Discussion

*Staff will present elements of the FY2014-2016 Two-Year UPWP. Staff will solicit inputs from TOC members on potential regional transit planning initiatives for the next two years. (Attachment H)*

11. SPC GIS Interactive Regional Transit Map Tool – Demonstration

12. Downtown Pittsburgh Pedestrian Way Finding Project – SPC Staff Technical Support – Presentation of Data Collection Results

*Staff will present results from technical assistance provided to a group of partners engaged in a new way finding project.*

13. TOC Action on FY2014-2015 Meeting Schedule (Attachment I)

14. Other Business



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## MINUTES TRANSIT OPERATORS COMMITTEE MEETING

### Officers:

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Executive Director  
James R. Hassinger

**Date:** June 18, 2014  
**Location:** Two Chatham Center  
112 Washington Place  
Pittsburgh, PA

### Attendance:

**Members:** Lynn Manion, ACTA  
John Paul, BTA  
Ray McDonald, FACT  
Marc Roncone, Chairman, MMVTA  
David Richards, NCATA  
Mavis Rainey, OTMA  
Scott Vetere, PAAC  
Joe Thomas, City of Washington  
Sheila Gombita, Washington Rides  
Larry Morris, WCTA

**Guests:** Ed Typanski, PAAC  
David Wohlwill, PAAC  
Cathy Williams, ACCESS  
Jon Smith, ACTC  
Angela Schon, ACTS  
Sarah Morgan, Delta Development, Inc.

**SPC Staff:** Tom Klevan  
David Totten  
Kathy Stefani  
Lisa Kay Schweyer  
Chuck Imbrogno  
Chuck DiPietro  
Cort McCombs

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 April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Meeting Minutes

**Action:** Minutes of the February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting of SPC's Transit Operators Committee were unanimously approved on a motion by John Paul and a second by Larry Morris.

### 4. FTA/PennDOT Update

*There were no updates*

## 5. Member Updates

- BTA—Mr. Paul reported that the new park-and-ride lot at Rt. 528 is now open. The facility includes 335 parking spaces with a shelter. It is being used by CommuteInfo vans and also by NCATA. It is less than one-third full, so far. Lisa Kay Schweyer said that the van pool groups in that area are excited to use the new facility. Mr. Paul said that improved signage to support the van pool service is needed. Mr. Paul also reported that BTA is submitting an application for a federal Clean Fuels grant through FTA to construct a CNG fueling facility and purchase four CNG buses to be used to offer commuter service from the new park-and-ride to Pittsburgh. Mr. Paul also reported that BTA is holding public hearings on proposed service changes, including the elimination of Sunday service and cutting one evening run in Butler.
- MMVTA—Marc Roncone reported that MMVTA is looking at minor service changes, including the elimination of three non-peak commuter trips and the possibility of parking buses in Pittsburgh's Strip District for staging purposes, and a potential fare increase. Mr. Roncone also said that MMVTA is starting Phase II of construction of the Donora facility, including adding a CNG fueling capability, and is preparing to order CNG buses. Mr. Roncone also reported that MMVTA, BCTA and WCTA had awarded joint fuel purchase contracts with two vendors. Pricing varies, but is around \$3.03/gallon for Diesel fuel over the next 18 months. The deal also includes fuel for gasoline vehicles.
- PAAC—Scott Vetere reported that Port Authority has added the P3 route to the Real Time program. PAAC staff plan to add three to five additional routes every week, as long as no problems are encountered. Mr. Vetere reported that Saturday and Sunday service around the system saw slight increases. More increases in service are expected in September, mostly by increasing service to existing routes. Mr. Vetere also reported that PAAC is preparing to take delivery of 60 new buses in the fall. Most of those will replace retiring buses, but some older buses may be retained as reserves. Mr. Vetere also reported that a TRID Transit Oriented Development study of the Homewood neighborhood of Pittsburgh is set to kick-off in July. This study is focused on the area around the Homewood Station of the East Busway.
- City of Washington—Joe Thomas reported that progress continues on the new transit facility in the City of Washington with construction expected to be completed in September. Mr. Thomas also reported that the over 30-year contract with GG&C will end June 30<sup>th</sup>, with the new operations contract being awarded to MV Transit.
- PPTA—Sheila Gombita reported that the Pennsylvania Public Transportation Association's summer conference will be held at Seven Springs Resort in July. This will include the annual bus rodeo, featuring 19 fixed-route drivers and 15 paratransit drivers signed up to participate.
- WCT—Ms. Gombita reported that the three transit providers in Washington County—MMVTA, City of Washington and Washington Rides—had met to discuss issues relating to potential consolidation and had held stakeholder meetings with each of their governing bodies. Ms. Gombita reported that Washington Rides has now had the Ecolane shared ride scheduling software running for two weeks and on-time performance is at 91%.
- FACT—Ray MacDonald reported that a group in Fayette County received a grant to study the possibility of a shuttle service to tourism employment areas in the Laurel Highlands. This study is expected to be completed in the fall.
- PDP—The Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership released a study of the economic benefits of expanding intercity rail service between Pittsburgh and New York City.

## 6. Staff Updates

- TOD Corridor Plan—Transit Signal Priority Micro Simulation—SPC Staff updated the Committee on the project to simulate the effects of implementing a hypothetical Transit Signal Priority system in the Rt. 51 Corridor of Allegheny County. The finished project will include both a short report on TSP and a series of computer animated movies demonstrating the system in action. Staff hope the simulation will show that TSP is an effective technology for use in the SPC region. Committee members watched an example movie, showing the existing conditions in the corridor. In addition, it was noted that the Port Authority plans to use CMAQ funding to implement TSP in the Downtown Pittsburgh to Oakland corridor. The SPC project will wrap-up in June and the finished product will be shared with the TOC.

- CommuteInfo Update—Staff thanked the Committee for supporting CommuteInfo month in May. Staff reported that seven people registered with CommuteInfo and changed their commute mode away from single occupied vehicle. The next CommuteInfo meeting will be held August 14<sup>th</sup> and will include discussions with transit operators, the TMAs, and other issues.
- ATWIC Update—SPC staff reported on the update to the Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan (last updated in 2011). This plan is included as part of the region's Long Range Transportation Plan. Staff has been meeting with human service directors and other agencies in each county to brainstorm and gather input for the update. Committee members said they wanted to be part of the meetings, as well.
- NT&AQ Summit—Staff announced that the Northern Transportation and Air Quality Summit—a national event—would be held at SPC's offices in Pittsburgh August 19-20<sup>th</sup>. This conference will draw transportation planners from all Northeastern states. At least 100 people are expected to attend. Topics will focus on transportation and air quality issues. The agenda has not yet been finalized, but will include 30 speakers, including a presentation of SPC's CMAQ process as a national best practice. Registration is \$75 for the two days.

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

- *Beaver County Transit Authority (BCTA) requested that the TOC amend the FFY2013-2016 TIP to add the following new projects "Renovate Park-Ride Lots" to repair the park & ride lots at the Rochester and Expressway transit centers using \$128,000 in federal 5307 funds and \$30,969 in state 340 funds and \$1,031 in local funding for FY2014. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$160,000;** "Shelter Replacement" to purchase replacement shelters throughout the service area using \$156,704 in federal 5307 funds and \$39,176 in state 340 funds for FY2014. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$195,880;** "Fare Collection Equipment" to replace existing fare collection systems on fixed route vehicles using \$532,000 in federal 5307 funds and \$128,808 in state 340 funds and \$4,192 in local funding for FY2014. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$665,000;** "Mobile Camera System" to replace mobile camera surveillance/security systems in vehicles using \$232,000 in federal 5307 funds and \$56,130 in state 340 funds and \$1,870 in local funding for FY2014. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$290,000***
- *BCTA also requested that the TOC perform an administrative action the FFY2013-2016 TIP project "Support Equipment" (MPMS# 70708) to add \$111,200 in federal 5307 funding and \$26,680 in state 340 funding and \$1,120 in local funding for FY2014 to purchase various pieces of shop equipment. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$139,000***  
*Action: These actions were unanimously approved and the appropriate changes were made to the region's FFY2013-2016 TIP by the TOC on a motion by Ms. Gombita and a second by Mr. Thomas. Staff will transmit this project information to the PennDOT Program Center within one week of this action.*
- *Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority (MMVTA) requested that the TOC perform the following administrative actions the FFY2013-2016 TIP project "Operating Assistance" (MPMS# 65428) to add \$572,000 in federal 5307 funding and \$572,000 in state 338 funding for FY2014 to fund the daily operations of the authority. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$1,144,000;** "Computers & Equipment" (MPMS# 77635) to reduce funding in FY2014 by \$200,000 in federal 5307 and \$35,675 in state 340 and \$8,225 in local to reflect a change in the project's scope. **TOTAL CHANGE: (\$244,000)***  
*Action: These actions were 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 Mr. Morris. Staff will transmit this project information to the PennDOT Program Center within one week of this action.*
- *New Castle Area Transit Authority (NCATA) requested that the TOC amend the FFY2013-2016 TIP to add the new project "Bus Video Equipment" to upgrade and update video and surveillance equipment on 29 buses using \$174,411 in federal 5307 funds and \$43,603 in state 340 funding for FY2014. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$218,014***

**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 Ms. Gombita and a second by Mr. Vetere. Staff will transmit this project information to the PennDOT Program Center within one week of this action.

- Westmoreland County Transit Authority (WCTA) requested that the TOC perform an administrative action the FFY2013-2016 TIP project "Capital Cost Contracting" (MPMS# 65570) to add \$676,000 in federal 5307 funds and \$169,000 in state 338 funds in FY2014 and to add \$676,000 in federal 5307 funds and \$169,000 in state 338 funds in FY2015 to fund capital costs provided by private firms under contract to WCTA. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$1,690,000**

**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 Mr. Thomas. Staff will transmit this project information to the PennDOT Program Center within one week of this action.

- WCTA, Butler Transit Authority (BTA), City of Washington (WASH), Fayette Area Coordinated Transit (FACT) and MMVTA requested that the TOC amend the FFY2013-2016 TIP to add new projects "Connect Card Web Portal" to construct web portals for access to the full features of the regional ConnectCard system utilizing the following funds:

	State 339	Local	Total
MMVTA	\$ 233,960	\$ 7,797	\$ 241,757
FACT	\$ 116,980	\$ 3,898	\$ 120,878
WASH	\$ 116,980	\$ 3,898	\$ 120,878
WCTA	\$ 233,960	\$ 7,797	\$ 241,757
BTA	\$ 204,715	\$ 6,822	\$ 211,537
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 906,595</b>	<b>\$ 30,212</b>	<b>\$ 936,807</b>

**TOTAL CHANGE: \$936,807**

**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 Mr. Thomas. Staff will transmit this project information to the PennDOT Program Center within one week of this action.

#### 8. FFY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update

Staff distributed tables with lists of projects for the Draft FFY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Public comment on the Draft TIP begins June 18 and concludes July 18. A vote to adopt the TIP will be taken by the SPC in July. The TOC and Transit Technical Committee will consider whether to recommend SPC action at their July meetings. SPC staff will hold public meetings over the coming month in each county. Members are encouraged to contact SPC if they have any particular messages about the Draft TIP that they would like included in the public meeting presentations.

#### 9. Regional Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) – Update

Staff discussed the new Regional Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), which replaces the previous Transportation Enhancements program under the federal MAP-21 law. The SPC region will see about \$3.4 million. An regional TAP Committee will make recommendations for the funding of projects through both the regional allocation and from a statewide pool. The SPC TIP will show the TAP as a line-item, and will be adjusted after the individual projects are selected and approved.

#### 10. SPC FY2014-16 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – Transit Planning Initiatives

Staff and Committee members discussed potential new projects that could be included in the upcoming two-year UPWP contract with PennDOT. These include many of the activities that

*SPC staff perform on behalf of the region's transit operators, and could also include research and planning studies. Mr. Morris suggested that a comprehensive regional study of Park-and-Ride needs, locations and opportunities—covering the “where” and the “how” of Park-and-Ride—could be useful work, for example.*

**11. SPC GIS Interactive Regional Transit Map Tool Demonstration**

*Staff demonstrated SPC's proprietary GIS mapping tool and its potential to aid in transit planning. The web-based system shows considerable information about the region's transit operations, including routes and stops.*

**12. Downtown Pittsburgh Pedestrian Wayfinding Project—SPC Staff Technical Support; Presentation of Data Collection Results**

*Staff used the SPC GIS mapping system to display data collected on Downtown Pittsburgh signage. The goal of SPC's part of the project was to create a database inventory of all wayfinding signs in Downtown. SPC used temporary staff to take pictures and GPS locations of signs. Portions of the North Side and Oakland were also included. Data was collected on 4,300 pole with 8,300 signs.*

**13. FY2014-15 TOC Meeting Schedule**

*Committee members considered options for scheduling TOC meetings over the coming fiscal year.*

*Action: Mr. Paul proposed adopting the following schedule for TOC meetings in FY2014-15:*

- July 16, 2014*
- September 17, 2014*
- December 10, 2014*
- February 18, 2015*
- April 15, 2015*
- June 17, 2015*

*This motion was seconded by Mr. Thomas and approved unanimously by the TOC.*

**14. Other Business**

- The next meeting of the TOC is scheduled for Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, in Pittsburgh, PA.*

**15. Adjournment**

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

