



SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION

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

412-391-5590 phone / 412-391-9160 fax / www.spc.org

SPC

Transit Operators Committee

December 9, 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 October 14th TOC Meeting

4. FTA/PennDOT Updates

- NPRM – FTA - 49 CFR Part 622 (FR V. 80, No. 224, Nov. 20, 2015)
Environmental Impact and Related Procedures
- FFY2015 TIGER Projects: www.transportation.gov/tiger
- Federal Transportation Legislation – FAST Act Update (*Attachment A*)
<http://transportation.house.gov/fast-act/#top2>

5. Member Project Updates

Those members present are encouraged to share project schedule updates, news upcoming events, etc.

6. Staff Updates

- ~~TRANSPORTATION~~
- Washington County Transit Authority Cooperative Planning Agreement
 - ATWIC/Coordinated Plan Update
 - Active Transportation Advisory Group Meeting – November 5, 2015

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

- Fayette Area Coordinated Transportation has requested the TOC take administrative action to adjust the current TIP (*Attachment B*)
- Butler Transit Authority has requested the TOC take administrative action to adjust the current TIP (*Attachment C*)

8. FY2017-2020 TIP Update

- Title III (Transit) Draft Programs of Projects (*Attachment D*)
- CMAQ and TAP Process Updates
- PPP Process Update

9. Mid-Mon Valley Transit Authority Short Range Transit Plan

- *Staff from MMVTA will present the results of their recent short-range planning efforts.*

10. Other Business

- *The next meeting of the TOC is scheduled for Wednesday, March 16, 2015*



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George Skamai

Beaver County
Tony Amadio

Butler County
Leslie A. Osche

City of Pittsburgh
William Peduto

Fayette County
Vincent A. Vicites

Greene County
Dave Coder

Indiana County
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MINUTES TRANSIT OPERATORS COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: December 9, 2015
Location: Two Chatham Center
112 Washington Place
Pittsburgh, PA

Attendance:

Members: John Paul, BTA (Chairman)
Ed Typanski, PAAC
Alan Blahovec, WCTA
Ray McDonald, FACT
Lynn Manion, ACTA
Donna Weckoski, MMVTA
Sheila Gombita, WASH

Guests: Angela Schon, ACTS
Cathy Williams, ACCESS
Ashley Altemare, MMVTA

SPC Staff: Tom Klevan
Doug Smith
Chuck Imbrogno
David Totten
Leann Chaney
Darin Alviano
Lisa Kay Schweyer

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 Meeting Minutes

- *Due to lack of quorum, minutes were not considered.*

4. FTA/PennDOT Update

- *NPRM-FTA 49 CFR Part 622 (FR V.80, No. 224, Nov. 20, 2015) Environmental Impact and Related Procedures:* Staff presented a link to information about a new FTA Notice of Proposed Rule Making regarding Environmental Impact Statements. The proposed rule follows a similar effort at FHWA to reduce delays in project delivery and streamline the NEPA process.
- *FFY2015 TIGER Projects:* Only one project in Pennsylvania was awarded a grant through the 2015 TIGER program. The project in Philadelphia does include some transit elements. www.transportation.gov/tiger
- *FAST Act update:* Staff presented a synopsis of the new five-year federal transportation law, the “Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act.” Staff distributed a summary prepared by APTA. The act includes modest increases in

funding for transit. Some other changes to note include changes to the capital investment programs that further define Bus Rapid Transit. Another provision supports the use of existing planning to apply for new funding. Rules for TIFIA and Buy America changed and the act also encourages more joint bus purchasing. The act also includes additional emphasis on safety. <http://transportation.house.gov/fast-act>

5. Member Project Updates

- Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority—Donna Weckoski reported that MMVTA has taken delivery of eight new compressed natural gas buses. The agency is negotiating with a company for a fueling contract, but could also use the gas station in Pittsburgh’s Strip District.
- Washington County—Sheila Gombita reported that Washington County Transportation Authority (WASH) staff is working on marketing the new company under its brand of “Freedom Transit.” The agency’s paratransit buses have now been painted black with gold lettering and the new logo. They are also preparing other marketing materials to help customers understand the transition to the new brand. Gombita also reported that the company has put out an RFP for legal services, as their solicitor is retiring. WASH staff is also working to bring accounting work “in house.”
- Butler Transit Authority—John Paul reported that three new County Commissioners have taken office in Butler County. Paul said that he has met with two of the three and will meet with the third in the next week. All three of the commissioners will be appointed to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission. Paul said he has heard support for revisiting previous studies for the potential for transit in Cranberry Township, including both commuter and local service.
- Mid-County Transit Authority—SPC staff reported on the progress on the Mid-County Transit Authority strategic plan project. The study, conducted by SPC through the on-call consultant process, will focus on the PennDOT performance review of the agency and will include service planning and strategic planning. Data collection for the conditions report is ongoing.
- Airport Corridor Transportation Assn.—Lynn Manion reported that the RideACTA Shuttle is now collecting fares. The fare to ride the service is 25 cents, cash only. Manion says the agency is talking with Port Authority about the potential to use the Connect Cards for fares. So far, fares have been collected for almost all riders, according to Manion. Ridership did drop slightly after the fare was implemented. Only once incident has been reported, so far, of a rider refusing to pay the fare—Robinson police were called. Manion also reported on the Moon Development Group, which recently formed a transportation committee with an interest in supporting public transit solutions for area business.
- Port Authority of Allegheny County—Ed Typanski reported that PAAC successfully completed work on the Mon Incline in time for Light Up Night, downtown. He also reported that the Port Authority board took public comments on 40 requests for new or adjusted service. He said PAAC staff will analyze the requests based on the recently-adopted service guidelines and will recommend possible service adjustments for the following year’s budget. PAAC staff plan to talk to the PennDOT Deputy Secretary for Multimodal Transportation on December 22nd about changes to transit service. Typanski also reported that plans were underway for a number of capital improvements around the PAAC service area in the coming year, including reconstruction of Broadway Avenue in Beachview and a number of bridges. Plans also include improvements to the interiors of 11 facilities. The coming year will also see improvements to the West Mifflin Garage that will accommodate the larger 60’ articulated buses. SPC Staff also noted that small capital improvements had been made to many fixed guideway stations around the region, including the Washington Junction park-and-ride facility, which resulted in the addition of 60 parking spaces.

There were no other member updates.

6. Staff Updates

- WASH Cooperative Planning Agreement—SPC Staff reported that at the upcoming SPC Commission meeting, on Monday, December 14th, the Commission will consider official action to designate the new Washington County Transportation Authority as the cooperative planning

partner, following the merger between City of Washington transit and Washington County Transportation Authority.

- City of Pittsburgh TOD Planning Grant—SPC will also consider amending the Unified Planning Work Program to include the recently-awarded FTA Transit Oriented Development Planning grant for the City of Pittsburgh. The \$1.5 million grant will be included as part of the City's EcoInnovation District planning project for the Uptown neighborhood.
- ATWIC/Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan Update—SPC Staff reported on plans to implement recommendations in the SPC Coordinated Human Transportation Plan. Staff is currently contacting all ten stakeholder counties for assistance in implementing the plan. Staff plan to present the plan and implementation options to the public in the near future, starting with the SPC on Monday. ATWIC stakeholders chose to focus on policy barriers first for implementation. Many of the top issues reported at these outreach meetings deal with MATP issues.
- SPC Active Transportation Plan—SPC Staff reported that the Ped-Bike Committee would now be called the Active Transportation Advisory Group. Plans still call for holding quarterly meeting. The new name reflects the connection between healthy lifestyles and transportation choices. At the November meeting, the Group heard from the Allegheny County Health Department to talk about the county's Healthier Allegheny planning project. They also heard from the company "Plath View" to talk about new tools for measuring sidewalks and other walkability issues. Also, SPC staff presented the latest analysis of data from the City of Pittsburgh's Healthy Ride bike share program. Updates were also heard on the Montour Trail and from the state DCNR about an upcoming grant opportunity.

There were no other staff updates.

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

- *No amendments or administrative actions were considered due to lack of quorum.*

8. 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)—Staff distributed a pre-draft TIP list of transit projects. The list is still able to be edited, if there are errors or corrections. The endorsement of the Draft TIP by the TOC will take place at a meeting before the start of the public comment period. The next document needed to complete the TIP is the required Financial Capacity document. Details on this requirement will be posted to the TIP Update SharePoint site. Staff has already shared the pre-draft projects list with the PennDOT Bureau of Public Transportation. Bureau staff emphasized the importance of the new Capital Planning Tool as a way to plan for future capital projects. As with the previous TIP, the Bureau plans to make state funding decisions about individual projects as they evaluate state capital planning grant applications. To reflect this process, most state funding is being shown on the TIP as "Non-Federal/Other" except for formula sources, such as operating assistance.
- CMAQ and TAP Process Update—The Transportation Alternatives Program (which replaces the previous "Transportation Enhancements") process at SPC was conducted in the Fall to collect candidate projects. Ten applications were received and will be recommended to the Transportation Technical Committee. The state's TAP application process will continue to be open through January 8th. SPC staff distributed a handout with details of the CMAQ process. The Evaluation Committee has reviewed all of the candidate projects and arranged them by priority. Staff noted that there are still some carryover projects that need to be delivered or moved.
- PPP Process Update—SPC Staff have presented information relating to the Draft TIP at meetings at five counties, to date. This first round of Public Participation Panel meetings is to familiarize new members with the TIP update process. A second round of public meetings focusing on the program of TIP projects will take place in the spring. Staff reported that turnout at these meetings has been good.

9. Mid-Mon Valley Transit Authority Short Range Transit Plan

MMVTA Staff presented some of the results of the agency's recently-completed short-range transit plan. The plan's team consisted of MMVTA and SPC staff and consultants from URS Corporation. Some of the inputs came from driver and public interviews, community input, a rider survey, MMVTA staff and in-house data, such as ridership. Some of the comments asked for service to new areas, improved on-time performance, more ticket sales locations and better operations on steep hills and narrow streets. The study recommended express service from California University to Belle Vernon. Another recommendation was to improve transfer points at the transit center in Charleroi and at the Belle Vernon Wal Mart. The study suggests adding direct trip between cities and a demand response service in the hilly areas near Charleroi, however MMVTA's Donna Weckoski said that the agency was likely to eliminate the existing service to this area, due to low ridership. Another recommendation was to maintain the routing and service levels of the express service to Pittsburgh, but add service on the Cal U Commuter that would allow connections with the Port Authority's "T" light rail service, possibly at the Library station. General recommendations were to make more direct and simpler routes with more descriptive routes names. MMVTA's board is considering the proposals.

10. Other Business

- *The next meeting of the TOC is scheduled for Wednesday, March 16th, 2016 at the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, in Pittsburgh, PA.*

11. Adjournment