



SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION

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MINUTES TRANSIT OPERATORS COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: September 14, 2016
Location: Two Chatham Center
112 Washington Place
Pittsburgh, PA

Attendance:

Members: Alan Blahovec, WCTA (Vice-Chairman)
Ed Typanski, PAAC
Lisa Kay Schweyer, CommuteInfo
Gerry Miller, MDCO
Len Lastoria, NCATA
Amy Mathiesson, ACTA
Lucinda Beattie, PDP
Kathy Clark, BCTA
Donna Weckoski, MMVTA (phone)

Guests: Amy Silbermann, PAAC
Darcy Cleaver, PAAC
David Richards, NCATA
Cathy Williams, ACCESS
Justin Miller, City of Pittsburgh

SPC Staff: Tom Klevan
Doug Smith
Chuck Imbrogno
David Totten
Leann Chaney
Kathy Stefani
Chris Jaros

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 Meeting Minutes for the July 14th Joint Transit Operators/Transportation Technical Committees

- *The Committee considered the minutes from the July 14th, 2016 joint TOC/TTC meeting.*

***Action:** Minutes of the July 14th, 2016 joint meeting of SPC's Transit Operators and Transportation Technical Committees was unanimously approved on a motion by Gerry Miller and a second by Lisa Kay Schweyer.*

4. FTA/PennDOT Update

- Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform—SPC Staff reported on a proposed FTA/FHWA rule (<http://federalregister.gov/a/2016-14854>) that would affect metropolitan areas served by more than one MPO, requiring the MPOs to develop formal relationships to complete federal planning requirements. Staff attached a formal response to the proposal submitted by PennDOT—SPC contributed to this response.
- FTA Transit Asset Maintenance Final Rule—SPC staff noted that FTA’s final rule on how agencies were to report transit asset maintenance to the National Transit Database was released on July 26, 2016 (FR V.81, No.143).
- FY2017-20 TIP Adopted—Staff requested that TOC members communicate with Bureau of Public Transportation staff and with SPC about any adjustments that need to be made to the new TIP. If any grants require MPMS numbers, check with SPC and the Bureau so action can be taken.

5. Meeting Participant Updates

- CommuteInfo—Lisa Kay Schwyer reported on the recent “Transportation 101” workshops held with Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority. CommuteInfo staff are working with Mid County Transit Authority to hold a workshop in Armstrong County. Also, CommuteInfo is sponsoring an employer meeting in Downtown Pittsburgh to talk about how the Transportation Fringe Benefits and Commuter Choice Benefits programs in improve employee retention and recruitment.
- Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership—Lucinda Beattie reported on recent efforts to advocate for improved commuter rail service between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg. This includes a PA House Transportation Committee hearing held on the topic in Pittsburgh in August. Legislators had the opportunity to question officials from Amtrak and Norfolk Southern. Beattie also reported that Amtrak plans to “de-staff” the Johnstown and Altoona stations, setting a potential barrier to increased service.
- Airport Corridor Transportation Association—Staff reported that ACTA has recently started a study of potential service opportunities that would take advantage of the relationship between ACTA’s member communities. The goal is to make new multi-modal connections.

There were no other member updates.

6. Staff Updates

- ATWIC/Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan Update—SPC Staff updated the Committee on the August ATWIC meeting, which included a presentation by John Taylor from the PennDOT Bureau of Public Transportation, who is the acting chief of the special transportation division. Taylor discussed new and pilot initiatives in shared ride service. Staff also noted recent changes to the Medical Assistance Transportation Program that align with recommendations from ATWIC for implementing SCP’s Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan. Staff also noted that PennDOT was recently awarded a federal “Rides to Wellness” grant to incorporate ride matching and scheduling innovations into PA’s existing Shared Ride pilot project.
- SPC Active Transportation Plan—SPC Staff reported that a pilot bike count project conducted around the region over the summer is wrapping up. Seven sites were studied with the help of an intern at SPC. The next Active Transportation Forum is set for December 7th. The next phase of the Active Transportation Plan project will get underway in December.

- Transportation Technical Committee—SPC Staff previewed the upcoming TTC meeting. The meeting includes a presentation on the Hulton Bridge project, as well as progress to implement action items identified in the regional freight plan. The TTC will look at performance measures from the Mapping the Future long range transportation plan. Staff will discuss the usefulness of the new INVEST evaluation tool developed by USDOT.
- October 3rd Commissioners Workshop—The morning session for the one-day workshop for SPC Commissioners will include a community and county planning discussion with transportation and project deliver addressed in the afternoon, including a presentation by Alan Blahovec from WCTA.
- Congestion Pricing Workshop—FHWA will hold a one-day training workshop on implementing tolling and congestion pricing strategies on state highways. This event will be held at SPC in October.

There were no other staff updates.

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

There were no TIP actions requested.

8. Port Authority of Allegheny County Wayfinding Project Update

- Port Authority staff demonstrated innovative wayfinding technology currently being deployed and tested in Allegheny County. This includes new bus stop signs in Downtown Pittsburgh and new electronic signs displaying real time arrival information at T stations.

9. Mid-County Transit Authority Transit Vision and Master Plan

- SPC staff reported on the recently completed planning project for Mid-County Transit Authority in Armstrong County. This is the most recent in a series of planned Transit Development Plans SPC is producing in conjunction with PennDOT and the regions' transit agencies.

10. Butler Transit TDP Update

- SPC Staff announced that the Butler Transit TDP project was underway, with a project team assembled and working to develop strategies for improved transit operations in Butler County. This includes two public workshops and the use of innovative planning software.

11. Transit Accessibility Mapping Platform

- SPC staff demonstrated a new approach to mapping transit service. A demonstration project uses a transit route in Westmoreland County to determine if residents live within walking distance of a bus that will deliver them to a key destination (in this example, a library) within 30 minutes. Staff will continue working on this approach to analyzing transit service effectiveness and report back to the TOC with results.

12. Other Business

- *The next meeting of the TOC is scheduled for Wednesday, December 7th, 2016 at the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, in Pittsburgh, PA.*

13. Adjournment

Action: *The Meeting was adjourned by a unanimous vote on a motion by Miller and a second by Ed Typanski.*

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