



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

MINUTES TRANSIT OPERATORS COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: April 19, 2017
Location: Two Chatham Center
112 Washington Place
Pittsburgh, PA

Attendance:

Members: John Paul, BTA (Chairperson)
Alan Blahovec, WCTA (Vice-Chairperson)
Ed Typanski, PAAC
Michael Johnston, TACT
Lisa Kay Schweyer, CommuteInfo
Lucinda Beattie, PDP
Sheila Gombita, WASH (phone)
Kathy Clark, BCTA (phone)
Mavis Rainey, OTMA
Amy Mathieson, ACTA

Guests: Ann Ogoreuc, ACED
Vanessa Cousins, ACTS
Tiffany Chaffee, TACT
Jon Smith, Allegheny Co. Transit Council
Amy Silbermann, PAAC
David Wohlwill, PAAC
Cathy Williams, ACCESS
Sean Luther, Envision Downtown

SPC Staff: Tom Klevan
Doug Smith
Chuck Imbrogno
David Totten
Kathy Stefani
Ronda Craig
Kim Beaver

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 February 15th, 2017 Transit Operators Committee**
 - *The Committee considered the minutes from the February 15th, 2017 TOC meeting.*

Action: Minutes of the February 15th, 2017 meeting of SPC's Transit Operators was unanimously approved on a motion by Alan Blahovec and a second by Lisa Kay Schweyer.

4. FTA/PennDOT Update

- MPO Planning Certification Review—The USDOT MPO Certification Review site visit is scheduled for June 13-15. Officials from FTA, FHWA and PennDOT will attend meetings at SPC, including the TOC and TTC meetings. SPC staff encouraged TOC members to use this opportunity to give member and project updates that will be of interest to these federal and state officials.
- National Transit Map Participation Process—SPC Staff distributed a draft Memorandum of Understanding between SPC and any TOC members that wish to enter into a data hosting agreement that would allow for participation in USDOT's National Transit Map project. Interested TOC members will be asked to sign the agreement at the June 14th TOC meeting.

5. Meeting Participant Updates

- Port Authority of Allegheny County (PAAC)/City of Pittsburgh—Amy Silbermann from PAAC updated the TOC on planning progress for a proposed Bus Rapid Transit corridor from Downtown Pittsburgh to Oakland, including two BRT extensions to East Liberty/Highland Park and Squirrel Hill. Silbermann said the public comment period on two proposed alignments and three potential service configurations had ended, following a series of public meetings in affected neighborhoods as well as an extensive online survey effort. The project consortium—including PAAC, Allegheny County, the City of Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Urban Redevelopment Authority—plans to issue a Locally Preferred Alternative in May. The consortium plans to give a detailed presentation on the LPA at the June TOC meeting. The summer will see more planning work, including station design workshops. Responding to a question, Silbermann said coordination issues with regional transit operators—such as using the ConnectCard or coordinating routes and schedules—would be examined in greater detail over the summer.
- CommuteInfo—Lisa Kay Schweyer reported that SPC and CommuteInfo had sponsored a recent Transportation Demand Management workshop through FHWA. Staff who attended the training were impressed with the quality of expert instructors and the diversity of participants, including the SEA and the Pittsburgh Parking Authority. SPC staff plan to incorporate a regional TDP plan into the next update of the Long Range Transportation Plan. Schweyer also reported that May is CommuteInfo Month. CommuteInfo plans to launch a television and digital media advertising campaign for May to increase the public's awareness of commuting options.
- Oakland TMA (OTMA)—Mavis Rainey reported that OTMA and other organizations planned to take part in Earth Day activities at the Allegheny County Courthouse in Pittsburgh to promote commuting alternatives, such as walking, biking and public transit.
- Butler Transit Authority (BTA)—BTA has ordered five coach buses for use on planned commuter service from Butler to Pittsburgh. These will be CNG-fueled buses. Service is planned to begin in July 2018. PennDOT consultants are working on a business/operations plan for the service. John Paul also reported that drivers have recently received TSA training and will conduct a full system-wide analysis in the fall. An RFP has been issued for a contractor to operate BTA's service, including the commuter service. The commuter service is designed to complement, not compete with, existing service from NCATA and Myers Coach. It will go from the City of Butler to the Rt. 68/I-79 park-and-ride lot and end near the T station at Heinz Field on Pittsburgh's North Shore.

- FTA Region III Grants—Staff asked TOC members to report on current status of FTA grants. David Wohlwill reported that PAAC has been holding regular coordination calls with FTA about BRT project planning. PAAC’s Ed Typanski reported that PAAC has submitted a FY17 grant, but has not received feedback on the submission. John Paul said that BTA’s grants are being affected by a federal hiring freeze.

There were no further member updates.

6. Staff Updates

- Alliance for Transportation Working in Communities (ATWIC)—Staff said that ATWIC’s quarterly meeting is set for May 3rd with the theme of “Changing the Human Services Transportation Paradigm”. ATWIC staff and staff from Maya Design will facilitate a brainstorming session.
- Active Transportation Planning Update—SPC Staff said that consultants from Toole Design Group had completed a draft report on best practices for active transportation planning. The next task will be for SPC staff to develop a set of goals and objectives, derived from “Mapping the Future”, the regional Long Range Plan. This will include gathering information at the planned Public Participation Panel meetings in May. Also, consultants from Gannett Fleming will develop a county-by-county analysis of active transportation activities. Staff have also launched a Safe Routes to School survey, sent to every school superintendent in the region—121, in all.
- Regional Freight Conference Update—Staff updated the TOC on the upcoming Regional Freight Conference, scheduled for May 11th at Cranberry Woods. The event will include off-site activities, including demonstrations of traffic control technology. The theme of the conference is “Emerging Technologies in Freight”.
- Route 51 Corridor Guidelines—Staff reported that PennDOT and Carnegie Mellon University had completed recent work on corridor guidelines for Rt. 51 in Allegheny County, developed in coordination with local community groups. The final report is available at: <http://repository.cmu.edu/rci/18/>
- Indiana County Sustainable Economy Summit—Staff previewed the upcoming Sustainable Economy Summit, set to take place Friday, April 21 in Indiana. Several of the topics being discussed at the event could be of interest to transit operators.

There were no other staff updates.

7. Amendments and Administrative Actions to the FFY2017-2020 TIP

- Allied Coordinated Transportation Services (ACTS) requested administrative action to adjust the project “Small Transit Vehicles” (MPMS# 105447) on the FFY2017-2020 TIP to purchase nine small transit buses for shared ride service with \$605,000 in state Community Transportation (160) funding in FY2017. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$605,000**
Action: This action was unanimously approved and the appropriate changes were made to the region’s FFY2017-2020 TIP by the TOC on a motion by Alan Blahovec and a second by Lisa Kay Schweyer. Staff will transmit this project information to the PennDOT Program Center within one week of this action.
- Washington County Transportation Authority (WASH) requested that TOC perform an administrative adjustment to the FFY2017-2020 TIP project “Heavy Duty Bus Replacement” (MPMS# 100645), changing the title and increasing funding in FY2017 to replace two buses for fixed route service in 2017 and one bus in 2019 adding \$40,000 in federal 5307, and \$10,000 in non-federal funding in FY2017. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$50,000**

***Action:** This action was unanimously approved and the appropriate changes were made to the region's FFY2017-2020 TIP by the TOC on a motion by Blahovec and a second by Ed Typanski. Staff will transmit this project information to the PennDOT Program Center within one week of this action.*

- WASH also requested that TOC perform an administrative adjustment to the FFY2017-2020 TIP project "Maintenance Facility Construction" (MPMS# 102353), shifting the project into future years. The adjustment removes all funding (\$480,000 in federal 5307 funding and \$120,000 in non-federal funding) from FY2017 and all funding (\$2,000,000 in federal 5307 and \$600,000 in non-federal funding) from FY 2018 and adding \$2,480,000 in 5307 and \$720,038 in non-federal funding to FY2019.. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$0**

***Action:** This action was unanimously approved and the appropriate changes were made to the region's FFY2017-2020 TIP by the TOC on a motion by Kathy Clark and a second by Typanski. Staff will transmit this project information to the PennDOT Program Center within one week of this action.*

There were no other TIP actions requested.

8. Envision Downtown – Life on Liberty Update

- Sean Luther from Envision Downtown updated the Committee on the "Life on Liberty" project. He showed some of the concepts for Liberty Ave. in downtown Pittsburgh that could include better integration of pedestrian, traffic and transit. Currently, over 14,000 Port Authority transit riders use Liberty for part of their trip each day and over 70% of pedestrian activity on Liberty is people waiting for transit. Envision Downtown is looking at three potential concepts for Liberty to focus on: 1) pedestrians, 2) pedestrian safety, 3) prioritize transit riders/movements. More information on the project is available at <http://www.envisiondowntown.com/liberty-concept>

9. SPC Butler Transit Development Plan Update

- SPC staff reviewed the final report for the Butler Transit Development Plan project. This project looked at service and strategic options for Butler Transit Authority and Butler County. Service scenarios analyzed included commuter service from Butler to downtown Pittsburgh, with stops at park-and-ride facilities along Rt. 68; improved local routes in the City of Butler; and potential for a multimodal transit hub in Cranberry. Strategic planning focused on a range of performance measures that BTA could consider adopting as well as a recommended service planning guidelines document. Other elements included revised RFP documents and other items requested by the Bureau of Public Transportation as part of BTA's Act44 performance review. The report is available at: <http://www.spcregion.org/butlertdp.shtml>

10. Other Business

- *The next meeting of the TOC is scheduled for Wednesday, June 14th, 2017 at the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, in Pittsburgh, PA.*

11. Adjournment

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