



SPC Transit Operators Committee

Meeting Minutes: Nov. 8, 2023

Attendance

Members:

Alan Blahovec, WCTA
Amy Mathieson, ACTA
Anthony Hickton, CommuteInfo
Ashley Seman, MMVTA
David Richards, NCATA
David Wohlwill, PRT
John Paul, BTA
Mary Jo Morandini, BCTA
Mavis Rainey, OTMA
Sheila Gombita, WTA (Chairperson)
Tosh Chambers, PDP

Guests & Transit Staff:

Ashley Cooper-Brounce, WCTA
Brandon Leach, PennDOT
Derek Dauphin, PRT
Ed Typanski, PRT
Emily Gwash, ACCESS
Ian Ramsey, WTA
Jeffrey Devlin, PRT
Karen Hoesch, ACCESS
Melissa Girty, PRT
Nancy Basile, MMVTA
Nugent Laing, HDR

SPC Staff:

Catherine Tulley
Chuck Imbrogno
Dan Bernazzoli
David Totten
Domenic D'Andrea
Josh Spano
Julia Ferri
Lillie Gabreski
David Totten
Dom D'Andrea
Tom Klevan
Zach Hollingshad

1. Introductions
2. Minutes
 - a. The minutes of the October 10, 2023, TOC meeting were **approved** on a motion by John Paul and a second by Alan Blahovec.
3. Transit Participant Updates
 - a. There were no participant updates.
4. PennDOT and FTA Updates
 - a. PennDOT's Brandon Leach reported that the Transportation Alternatives Set Aside (TASA) and Safe Routes to School application round had ended September 15th. In total, 133 eligible applications were submitted and reviewed. An award announcement will come in early 2024. More resources about TASA can be found at:
<https://www.penndot.pa.gov/ProjectAndPrograms/Planning/Pages/Transportation%20Alternatives%20Set-Aside%20-%20Surface%20Trans.%20Block%20Grant%20Program.aspx>
 - b. Brandon Leach also reported on the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) community engagement sessions being scheduled around the state, including at SPC's offices on October 10th. More info about the NEVI program, including engagement opportunities, is at:
<https://www.penndot.pa.gov/ProjectAndPrograms/Planning/EVs/Pages/Learn-NEVI.aspx>
 - c. The deadline for applications for the PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund is November 13th. Information about the application round can be found at:
<https://www.penndot.pa.gov/ProjectAndPrograms/MultimodalProgram/Pages/default.aspx>
 - d. There were no further PennDOT or FTA updates.
5. TIP Amendments and Administrative Actions
 - a. Indiana County Transit Authority (ICTA)
 - i. CTC Mini Van Addition: MPMS# 114533. ICTA requested an administrative adjustment to add funding for two additional accessible, rear-entry mini-vans for community transit service with state funding in FFY2024. Total TIP change: \$126,000.
 - ii. **This action was approved unanimously on a motion by John Paul and a second by Alan Blahovec**
 - b. Westmoreland County Transit Authority (WCTA)
 - i. Fixed Route Bus Replacement: MPMS# 118177. WCTA requested an administrative adjustment to add funding in FFY2024 that had previously been programmed on the TIP for FFY2022, but had been delayed. This adds \$4,320,000 in federal 5307, \$1,045,152 in state 339, and \$34,848 in local funding. Total TIP change: \$5,400,000.

- ii. Facility Security Project: MPMS# 120837. WCTA requested an amendment to the TIP to add the new project, “Facility Security Project” to install a standard security system and cameras at three WCTA facilities with \$120,000 in federal 5307; \$29,032 in state; and \$968 in local funding in FFY2024.
 - iii. Driver Safety Project: MPMS# 120838 WCTA requested an amendment to the TIP to add the project “Driver Safety Project” to purchase and install driver barriers in WCTA’s MCI commuter and Gillig transit buses with \$240,000 in federal 5307; \$58,065 in state; and \$1,935 in local funding in FFY2024. Total TIP change: \$300,000
 - iv. **These actions were approved unanimously on a motion by John Paul and a second by Mary Jo Morandini.**
 - c. There were no further TIP actions requested. These actions will be forwarded to the PennDOT program center within one week of this meeting.
- 6. Transit Funding in the General Assembly
 - a. Melissa Girty from Pittsburgh Regional Transit gave a report to the TOC updating about several current transit funding measures being considered in the Pennsylvania General Assembly. She reported that some legislators first attempted to increase the share to transit from the state’s transportation trust fund from 4.4% to 6.4% in the annual budget, but this measure was not included. Later, the idea was added to a wide-ranging tax code bill that is being considered. The additional funding to transit would be between \$270-311 million. Transit will continue to be a topic for the legislature during the final days of the session, which concludes December 13th. There are two other pieces of legislation in the House that would provide some counties, including Allegheny, the ability to invest in public transit through a menu of taxes at specified rates. More information is available through the state’s website, PA.gov and choosing the link to the House of Representatives.
- 7. Regional Climate Pollution Reduction Plan Call for Projects
 - a. Catherine Tulley of SPC briefed the Committee on the call for projects to apply for the \$4.3 billion federal funding availability through the EPA for projects that reduce climate pollution. There are several tiers of available amounts, including a top tier of \$500 million. SPC plans to continue the discussion with interested potential applicants over the coming weeks. SPC is asking for projects to be submitted to SPC by December 15th, and will host an applicant workshop in mid-January. The application deadline for funding is April 1, 2024. The committee asked that SPC staff organize a workshop on November 27th to review options and consider further strategies.
- 8. Public Transit-Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan Update
 - a. SPC is kicking off the project to update the region’s Public Transit-Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan. A consultant team led by McCormick

Taylor has been contracted for the project. Work is to begin immediately and will continue into 2024.

9. SPC Staff Updates

- a. TIP Update Process: Staff noted the excellent response from transit operators to the request for a draft list of projects to be included on the FFY2025-28 TIP. A draft list will be shared with the TOC in December.
- b. Mobile Fare Collection: SPC staff presented details from the Mobile Fare Collection Feasibility Study project to the SPC Regional Policy Advisory Committee in October. The Committee is interested in working toward a regional fare policy statement that would set down guidance for future investments in this technology.

10. Other Business

- a. The next meeting of the TOC will be December 6th, 2023.

11. Adjournment

- a. The meeting was **adjourned** on a motion by Mary Jo Morandini and a second by David Wohlwill.