



SPC Transit Operators Committee

Meeting Minutes: December 6, 2023

Attendance

Members:

Amy Mathieson, ACTA
Anthony Hickton, CommuteInfo
Ashley Cooper-Brounce, WCTA
Ashley Seman, MMVTA
David Richards, NCATA
David Wohlwill, PRT
Ian Ramsey, WTA
John Paul, BTA
Mavis Rainey, OTMA
Tosh Chambers, PDP

Guests & Transit Staff:

Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny Co.
Brandon Leach, PennDOT
Brandon Wilson, Pgh. URA
David White, Pgh. Bikeshare
Derek Dauphin, PRT
Ed Typanski, PRT
Jaclyn Karolski, Allegheny Co.
Julia Cornell, PennDOT
Lynda Conway, CCS Pro
Matt Crea, PennDOT
Oscar Medina, Pgh. URA

SPC Staff:

Chuck Imbrogno
David Totten
Domenic D'Andrea
Julia Ferri
Ronda Craig
Russell Singer
Tom Klevan

1. Introductions
2. Minutes

- a. Due to lack of quorum, the minutes of the November TOC meeting were tabled until the next meeting.

3. Transit Participant Updates
 - a. There were no participant updates.
4. PennDOT and FTA Updates
 - a. PennDOT's Brandon Leach reported on PennDOT's Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment, which was officially published November 21st. Locations in the SPC region were referenced in the report.
 - b. The federal "All Stations Accessibility Program" is now open. David Wohlwill from PRT noted that the program allows for improvements to rail stations and that PRT had been successful in requesting funding during the previous round. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/11/30/2023-26346/fiscal-year-2024-competitive-funding-opportunity-all-stations-accessibility-program>
 - c. There were no further PennDOT or FTA updates.
5. TIP Amendments and Administrative Actions
 - a. TIP actions were tabled until the next meeting, due to lack of quorum.
6. Regional Climate Pollution Reduction Plan Call for Projects Update
 - a. SPC staff updated the Committee on follow-up activities for the upcoming federal funding availability through the Climate Pollution Reduction program. Interested transit stakeholders engaged in a workshop on November 27th to further discuss possible projects to submit for the grant. Any interested projects sponsors are asked to get in touch with SPC staff in early December and to plan to attend a regional workshop being organized for mid-January. This program has \$4.3 billion available nationwide for projects that will reduce carbon pollution.
7. Transit Equity and Demographic Analysis
 - a. SPC's Russell Singer, Transit Planner, briefed the TOC on recent use of data analysis tools for transit planning, including the recently-completed Butler County Microtransit Concept of Operations report. Singer noted that data tools and sources are becoming more common and important for funding availability decisions. In Butler, Singer used building footprint views to validate Census data and get information that was more usable to transit service planners. Singer and SPC also used weighted characteristics to identify areas of the county with mobility challenges. This approach will be applied region-wide as part of the update to the Public Transit-Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan. Singer notes that data helps to tell the story, but it is not the whole story.
8. SPC Competitive Programs Update and Selection Summary
 - a. Transportation Director Domenic D'Andrea updated the TOC on the status of the process to award funding through SPC's competitive programs, including CMAQ, TASA and Carbon Reduction. Project sponsors had been asked to submit a single application to all three programs so that technical staff and the selection committee could allocate projects to the best fit. D'Andrea reviewed some of the

projects that were recommended, however the selections will not be finalized until the adoption of the next TIP update, on July 1, 2024.

9. SPC Staff Updates

- a. UPWP Update: Domenic D’Andrea updated the TOC on the current process of updating SPC’s Unified Planning and Work Program, a federally required document that details the agency’s planning projects. The current update will be for one year, starting July 1, 2024. Activities include plans & programs; transit, and freight planning; TDM; operations & safety; Data & modeling; Strategic initiatives & environment; and outreach & coordination. Highlights of the coming year’s program include:
 - i. Implementation of SPC organization assessment recommendations
 - ii. Continued implementation of *SmartMoves for a Changing Region* and *SmartMoves Connections—A Regional Vision for Public Transit*
 - iii. Securing federal discretionary funding for high-priority infrastructure projects
 - iv. Connectivity Improvement Program implementation
 - v. Regional Collaboration, and local government assistance.
- b. TIP Update Process: Staff thanked transit grantees for submitting their draft project lists to SPC. A draft list will be prepared and presented next to the PennDOT Bureau of Public Transportation for review with the goal of having a full draft list available for TOC/TTC recommendation votes at the March meetings.
- c. Public Transit-Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan Update: SPC staff updated the TOC on the status of the CTP update. The consultant team has been selected but is not yet under contract. A full presentation/workshop will be brought to the TOC at the January meeting.

10. Other Business

- a. The next meeting of the TOC will be January 17, 2024.

11. Adjournment

- a. The meeting was **closed**.