



SPC Transit Operators Committee

Meeting Minutes: May 15, 2024

Attendance

Members

Sheila Gombita (WASH)	Mavis Rainey (OTMA)
Ed Typanski (PRT)	Tiffany Chaffee (TACT)
Tosh Chambers (PDP)	Ashley Cooper-Brounce (WCTA)
John Paul (BTA)	Anthony Hickton (CI)
Rudy Dutko (FACT)	Lisa Kosanovich (BCTA)

Guests & Transit Staff

David Totten	Oscar Medina
Mark Cassel	Jaclyn Karolski
Lynda Conway	Besty Zang
Ann Ogoreuc	David White
Susan Leinenbach	

SPC Staff

Dominic D'Andria	Tom Klevan
Chuck Imbrogno	Russell Singer
Greg Shermeto	Ronda Craig
Julia Ferri	

1. Introductions

- a. Chairperson Sheila Gombita called meeting to order.

2. Minutes

- a. The minutes from the previous meeting of the TOC on April 17, 2024, were **approved** on a motion by John Paul and second by Mavis Rainey

3. Transit Participant Updates

- a. OTMA (Mavis Rainey): Raised a question about bike share usage and how much usage is from individuals versus corporate sponsorships, David White from POGOHO was available to provide following clarification:
 - i. Ridership is 2x what it was in 2023, and 3x what it was in 2022, large increases have resulted from corporate partnerships such as with University of Pittsburgh
 - ii. POGOHO versus HealthyRide; POGOHO appears to be used more for commuting Monday-Friday whereas HealthyRide was always weekend heavy
 - iii. E-bikes make up 65% of current fleet but trips and account for 70% of all trips, indicating that a large portion of ridership increase is from sources other than addition of e-bikes

- b. BTA (John Paul): Two service lift projects are moving along, many month wait for equipment so projects won't be completed for approximately a year. Land survey for new bus wash started this week, and transition to new fareboxes with Modeshift has begun (with thanks to Sheila)
- c. WASH (Sheila Gombita): New fixed-route fare structure will be starting July 1, simplifying four different rate categories down to two. Rates will be \$2 for in-county, \$4 for out-of-county.
Updates from PPTA meeting, continued push for funding increase and mixed levels of support in the legislature. Currently, the bill is in front of the House and will likely be part of budget negotiations. More resistance might be likely in the Senate. Local match requirements in the bill at %15 would be a difficult task for many of our operators

4. PennDOT and FTA Updates

- a. PennDOT (Tom Klevan filling in): Transportation Alternative Set-Aside announced awards to four projects within our SPC region, more details on the awards can be found here: [Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside \(pa.gov\)](#)
 - i. Bike Pittsburgh received \$38,500 for education and distribution of safety items
 - ii. City of Pittsburgh received \$1,071,661 for ped-bike safety improvements at various locations
 - iii. Ross Township received \$301,984 for sidewalk improvements on McKnight Rd
 - iv. Indiana County received \$578,672 for rehab of Kintersburg covered bridge
- b. PennDOT: National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure round 1b funding opportunity is open until July 10, 2024. Funding is competitively available for planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of EV infrastructure equipment. Full information about the funding opportunity is available here: [PennDOT NEVI Funding Opportunity Round 1B with Exhibits.pdf \(pa.gov\)](#)
Video recording of NEVI Round 1b informational webinar:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GqZgyFVZQhM>
- c. PennDOT: 2023 state traffic fatality data is now available. Overall 1,209 people were killed in vehicle crashes in PA, an increase over 1,179 the previous year. Detailed crash data and information is available here: [Pennsylvania Crash Information Tool \(pa.gov\)](#)

5. TIP Amendments and Administrative Actions

- a. WASH: Maintenance Facility Construction, money for the acquisition of property and construction of a maintenance and storage facility. **Approved on a motion by John Paul and second by Ed Typanki**
- b. MMVTA: Security camera upgrades for bus maintenance facility. **Approved on a motion by John Paul and second by Ed Typanki**
- c. FACT: Requesting transfer of lapsing federal funds for farebox implementation. **Approved on a motion by John Paul and second by Mavis Rainey**

6. SPC Staff Updates

- a. Tom Klevan: Surveys and informational mailers were sent out for SPC's Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan. Consultant team and staff are still developing the document, data from the survey will be combined with most recent Census data to update existing conditions.
- b. Russell Singer: SPC is planning to capture photos of people, places, and things related the Coordinated Plan, and possible interviews with users of various types of transportation that falls within the Coordinated Plan purview. We are requesting any insight or scouting ideas you have for locations, events, or specific contacts that might help. Additionally, if you already have a database of photography, quotations, or other PR material that might be useful within the plan, please let us know.
- c. Russell Singer: Potential for future class at CMU focused on transit and transportation planning. Expecting to pilot the class in Spring of 2025, ideally working on real-world projects. Will continue to update the committee intermittently and to solicit feedback on projects/curriculum as it approaches

7. Other Business

- a. Mark Cassel from Bowman discussed the Building Better Bus Stops Resource Guide and his work with PennDOT in generating that document as part of the Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG). Timeline for complete draft of new document is 9/1, with final draft on 11/1.
Mark requested input from TOC on any related issues they encounter relating to accessibility and bus stops or other infrastructure, and made his contact information and presentation slides available to the committee (to be included in follow-up email)
- b. The next scheduled TOC meeting is June 12, 2024

8. Adjournment

- a. **The meeting was adjourned on a motion by John Paul and second by Sheila Gombita**