

PORT AUTHORITY OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Port Authority of Allegheny County was held on Thursday, November 17, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., at the Authority's Administration Offices, 345 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15222-2527, pursuant to due public notice given as required by law.

The following members were in attendance in person: Jeffrey Letwin, Chair, Jennifer Liptak, Ann Ogoreuc, Representative Austin Davis, Stephanie Turman and Michelle Zmijanac. The following members were in attendance virtually: Senator Jim Brewster, Gerry Delon, Representative Lori Mizgorski, John L. Tague Jr. and Ali Doyle. Board Solicitor Sandy Garfinkel attended in-person.

The Chair called the November 17, 2022 Regular Meeting to order and requested everyone stand for the pledge of allegiance and observe a moment of silence for all victims of gun violence.

A recommendation was made for approval of the minutes of the October 28, 2022 Regular Meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed.

Mr. Letwin congratulated Representative Austin Davis for becoming Pennsylvania's Lt. Governor Elect on November 8 and acknowledged that, unfortunately, this will be Representative Davis' last meeting as a PRT Board member. Mr. Letwin thanked Representative Davis for being such a great advocate for public transportation for not only his district but throughout the County. Representative Davis thanked the Chair and other members of the Board and said how much he enjoyed working with them. He stated that he will continue to be a strong advocate for public transportation in his new role of Lt. Governor in Pennsylvania.

The Chair also congratulated Ms. Inez Colon who was honored last week at the Pittsburgh Business Times C-Suite Awards 2022 event for Human Resources at the Westin Convention Center.

Mr. Letwin then called on Pittsburgh Regional Transit CEO Katharine Kelleman for a report.

Ms. Kelleman first asked for a moment of silence for the following retired employees who passed away since we last met: Operators Frank Bacco, Herman Martin, Carl Patrick Jr., Leon Harvard, James Curl, Russell Pugh Jr., and Wayne Wilson; Assistant Manager of Maintenance and Service Nancy Smith; Director of Shop Maintenance, Support and Training David Hillenbrand; Trainman Melvin Gibson; and Building Maintainer John Phillips.

Ms. Kelleman continued reporting that the prior week a ceremonial groundbreaking event for Phase 1 of our upcoming Bus Rapid Transit project was held. "The BRT project will enhance safety in the corridor by improving crosswalks, sidewalks, adding protected bike lanes, and eliminating the issue in Oakland where buses travel against four lanes of traffic. It will help improve reliability to keep buses from stacking up behind one another. It will bolster service efficiency, allowing us to save hours and redistribute that service throughout the county. It will bring more amenities to riders throughout the corridor; and it will help lay the foundation for investment and development opportunities close to reliable public transit in Uptown."

She said that today, the Board would be asked to take the next step in the project by approving the opening of a public comment period on the transitional BRT service plan.

Next Ms. Kelleman discussed transportation service. She said that PRT is exploring every avenue to increase hiring since there's a direct correlation between the number of operators PRT has and the number of operator hours reduced over the last three years.

Ms. Kelleman next stated that also today, the Board would be asked to consider a resolution to approve a new collective bargaining agreement with the union, which is a step to retain employees and ensure long-term stability in our system. "The new CBA will increase wages 12.75% over four years, increasing the starting wage to nearly \$25 an hour, and the max rate \$38 an hour, keeping our employees among the highest paid transit workers in the nation."

"Once the agreement is finalized, we plan to continue discussing additional opportunities to attract new employees that will help make a tough job more attractive to prospective employees."

That concluded the report of the Chief Executive Officer.

The Chair called on Michelle Zmijanac for a report of the Performance Oversight Committee.

Ms. Zmijanac reported that the Performance Oversight Committee met last week and she had four resolutions for consideration.

The Committee first reviewed six procurement items and determined the bids to be in accordance with PRT's procurement policies and procedures, the prices fair and reasonable, the bidders to be responsible and the bids responsive.

The Performance Oversight Committee recommended the award of bids listed in the resolution for the total amount of approximately \$1.8 million dollars.

On behalf of the Performance Oversight Committee, Ms. Zmijanac respectfully requested the Board's approval of the resolution. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the resolution be approved as presented.

The second resolution sought authorization for PRT to enter into an agreement with Commercial Consulting, which submitted the highest rated proposal to provide Drug and Alcohol Compliance Program services. This resolution is for a three-year period with up to an additional two years at the sole discretion of PRT.

The Performance Oversight Committee recommended entering into an agreement with Commercial Consulting for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$1,331,001.68.

On behalf of the Performance Oversight Committee, Ms. Zmijanac respectfully requested the Board's approval of the resolution. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the resolution be approved as presented.

The next resolution was seeking authorization for PRT to enter into an agreement with The Segal Company, Inc., which submitted the highest rated proposal to provide compensation market study services. This resolution is for a three-year period with up to an additional two years at the sole discretion of PRT.

The Performance Oversight Committee recommended entering into an agreement with The Segal Company, Inc., for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$270,000.

On behalf of the Performance Oversight Committee, Ms. Zmijanac respectfully requested the Board's approval of the resolution. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the resolution be approved as presented.

Ms. Zmijanac presented the final resolution authorizing PRT to enter into construction contracts with contractors that submitted the highest rated proposals for the South Hills Village Maintenance Building Paint Booth Upgrades project.

The Performance Oversight Committee recommended entering into contracts with Mosites Construction Company in the amount of \$4,455,555.00 for the general construction contract, Hranec Sheet Metal, Inc., in the amount of \$910,000.00 for the mechanical construction contract, Wheels Mechanical Contracting & Supplier, Inc., in the amount of \$293,500.00 for the plumbing construction contract, and Merit Electrical Group, Inc., in the amount of \$372,363.00 for the electrical contract, subject to completing all pre-award requirements.

On behalf of the Performance Oversight Committee, Ms. Zmijanac respectfully requested the Board's approval of the resolution. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the resolution be approved as presented.

Ms. Zmijanac concluded her report by stating that the Committee had received a detailed update of the 2022 efforts, highlights and current initiatives of the Rail Transit Safety Review Program.

That concluded the report of the Performance Oversight Committee.

The Chair called on John Tague for a report of the Planning and Stakeholder Relations Committee.

Mr. Tague reported that the Planning and Stakeholder Relations Committee met last week and he had a few items for the Board.

First, the Committee received a presentation of the Draft Title VI Analysis for proposed BRT major service changes. It was reported that construction on the downtown loop is expected to begin as early as spring 2023 before moving into the Uptown and Oakland portions of the project. Routes 61D, 71A, 71C and 71D will end in Oakland to improve reliability and keep these routes from entering downtown traffic affected by downtown loop construction. The P3 route will terminate in Wilkinsburg but will also be extended to downtown and will have Saturday and Sunday service.

It was also reported at the meeting that PRT conducted a Title VI study to determine if these changes would negatively affect low income or minority residents. Most of the changes were found to have negative impacts to those communities. The extension of the P3 and addition of weekend service will be a positive change. The next step for the project is to enter a public comment period and award construction contracts before construction begins.

Mr. Tague presented a resolution requesting the authorization to proceed to a public comment period for the Downtown-Uptown-Oakland BRT project related to the proposed major service changes. This resolution would authorize PRT to begin a public comment period from December 15 until February 1, 2023 for the changes detailed in his report. Included will be an online-only information session currently planned for January 10 from 6-7 p.m. and three public hearings currently planned for January 18. Two of the hearings will be both in-person and online from 10 a.m. to noon and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., and there will be a single online-only session from 6 to 8 p.m.

On behalf of the Planning and Stakeholder Relations Committee, Mr. Tague requested the Board's approval of the resolution. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the resolution be approved as presented.

Mr. Tague concluded his report by updating the Board on the Allegheny County Transit Council and the Committee for Accessible Transportation.

ACTC met on November 16 and the group received an update on the BRT project service changes and Title VI overview. The next regularly scheduled meeting is expected to be held January 25.

The CAT Committee met on November 3. First, the Committee approved the application for a new member, Christine Hunsinger. Planning and Service Development Department staff presented the final bus stop sign design and braille plate. Transit Scheduling Department staff then discussed the November service changes.

Ms. Karen Hoesch of ACCESS introduced new staff, provided an update on the Same Day Pilot Program, gave an update on ridership and driver recruitment and retention, and discussed the new rider survey results. The next regularly scheduled meeting is expected to be held on February 2, 2023.

That concluded the report of the Planning and Stakeholder Relations Committee.

The Chair called on Ms. Ann Ogoreuc, Chair of the Finance Committee, for a report.

Ms. Ogoreuc reported that the Finance Committee met last week and she had one item to report.

The single agenda item at the meeting was presentation of the October 2022 financial results.

Ms. Ogoreuc reported that Total Operating Income for the month of October was \$228,360 below budget primarily due to lower Passenger Revenue and ACCESS Shared-ride revenue. Interest Income was \$169,042 above budget which offset a portion of the Passenger Revenue shortfall.

Total Operating Income for the fiscal year was \$1.7 million below budget due to lower Monthly, Annual and Stored Value sales in Passenger Revenue as well as lower ACCESS Shared Ride Revenue.

Ms. Ogoreuc noted that while PRT's Total Operating Income is below budget, it is \$1.65 million higher than last fiscal year. Total Expenses for month of October, and year-to-date, were below budget by \$1.6 million and \$17.6 million respectively.

It was reported at the meeting that every expense category, other than ACCESS Expense, was below budget for the fiscal year. Salary & Wages, Employee Benefits and Purchased Services are \$5.4 million, \$3.1 million, and \$3.4 million below budget respectively.

Total Subsidy for the month was \$938,291 below budget primarily due to lower State Operating Assistance, but for the fiscal year, Total Subsidy is \$126,480 above budget.

Finally, Ms. Ogoreuc reported that PRT ended the month of October with approximately \$136.4 million in cash reserves.

That concluded the report of the Finance Committee.

The Chair called on Ms. Liptak for a report of the Technology Committee.

Ms. Liptak reported that the Technology Committee met on Thursday, November 10, and she had two resolutions for the Board's consideration.

The Committee first reviewed a bid for purchase of CISCO Wifi and Switching network equipment. The Committee determined the bid to be in accordance with PRT's procurement policies and procedures, and the prices fair and reasonable.

The Technology Committee recommended the award of this contract to Presidio Networked Solutions, LLC, in the amount of \$179,902.61 for a three-year period.

On behalf of the Technology Committee, Ms. Liptak respectfully requested the Board's approval of the resolution. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the resolution be approved as presented.

Ms. Liptak presented the second resolution seeking authorization for PRT to extend and amend the agreement with Enghouse Transportation for hosted voice interactive response system, which is used for phone support within the Customer Service area.

This resolution is to authorize the exercise of the first option year of this contract, extending the contract to December of 2023, and to authorize an increase in the total not-to-exceed amount of the Enghouse agreement by \$115,988.

The Technology Committee recommended approval of the resolution as presented with a total not-to-exceed amount on this contract of \$1,269,567.

On behalf of the Technology Committee, Ms. Liptak respectfully requested the Board's approval of the resolution. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the resolution be approved as presented.

That concluded the report of the Technology Committee.

The Chair had two items under new business. First, he presented a resolution to approve and ratify the terms of the collective bargaining agreements with ATU Local 85. Mr. Letwin reported that PRT's previous agreements with Local 85's rank-and-file members and first level supervisors both expired on June 30, 2022. PRT and Local 85 engaged in negotiations concerning terms and conditions of the

new collective bargaining agreements. As a result of those efforts, the parties have reached proposed terms and conditions of two new agreements.

This resolution is to approve and ratify the terms and conditions of the two collective bargaining agreements and to authorize staff to finalize and execute the agreements on behalf of PRT.

The Chair noted that the terms and conditions were recently approved and ratified by Local 85's members.

The proposed terms and conditions include a four-year agreement with annual wage increases and changes to certain work and disciplinary rules as more fully detailed in the Exhibits A for rank-and-file employees and Exhibit B for first level supervisors and are attached to the resolution.

Mr. Letwin respectfully requested the Board's approval of the resolution. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the resolution be approved as presented.

The other item under new business pertained to the appointment of the Nominating Committee for Board Officers.

Each year, pursuant to PRT's bylaws, the Board elects its officers at its Annual Meeting in January. To conduct that election, a Nominating Committee is first appointed to propose candidates for each Board office.

The Chair appointed Stephanie Turman as Committee Chair and appointed Ms. Michelle Zmijanac and Ms. Ann Ogoreuc to serve on the Committee.

The Committee is requested to provide candidate recommendations to the Board for each Board Officer position, to be presented at our Annual Meeting to be held on Friday, January 27, 2023 at which time we will hold the officer election.

As there was no further new business, the Chair said that we will move onto the public comment period. He noted that there were a lot of speakers and stressed that the three minute limitation to address the Board would be strictly enforced.

A total of 11 speakers addressed the Board at the meeting. There were a number of speakers who spoke regarding service reliability and scheduling issues. A number of speakers, including Ralph Williams, President of Allegheny County Transit, urged PRT to rehire the operators that were fired due to the vaccine mandate.

The former Mayor of the City of Duquesne gave three examples of individuals experiencing difficulty with the PRT system. She stated that studies have found that commute time is the biggest indicator as to whether or not a person can escape poverty. "The longer your commute, the more likely you are to be late to important things, and you have less time with your family. Increasing public transit's efficiency and reach can make a big impact. Getting to work or receiving property healthcare is easier with good public transportation. PRT should continue to discover more ways to make safe, affordable public transit possible for people with low incomes."

A number of speakers spoke about public transit accessibility for immigrants and requested Spanish interpretation on signage, schedules and audio announcements.

There were two speakers who addressed the Board in Spanish. They included Ms. Laura Perkins from Casa San Jose and Ms. Araceli Medrano. Ms. Perkins was there to petition for accessibility to public transportation for our Latino community. Ms. Perkins also urged the Board to provide interpretation in Spanish for the entire content of PRT's Board meetings and not just for the public comments. Ms. Araceli's remarks described the problems she has been experiencing with service. She takes the 77 bus and sometimes it shows and sometimes it does not and that is why she and her fellow riders are having a hard time getting to work in downtown. She also urged PRT to provide announcements in Spanish, in particular the welcome.

That concluded the public comment period. All comments can be heard in their entirety on PRT's website and where the comments were made in Spanish, an English translation will be posted on PRT's website.

The Chair announced the next Regular meeting of the Board will be Friday, January 27, 2023.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.