



Planning & Stakeholder Relations Committee

June 18, 2025

Committee Members

Stephanie Turman (Chair)
Tom Burgunder
Ali Doyle
Bobbie Fan

Other Board Members

Jennifer Liptak
Joe Totten
Chris Brussalis
Lindsey Williams
Emma Shoucair
Tia McClenney

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 15, 2025, Planning & Stakeholder Relations Committee were approved.

2. Summary of public comment period for service reductions related to the funding crisis. (Amy Silbermann)

- The public comment period for bus, rail, incline, and ACCESS fare increases and service reductions ran from March 31, 2025 through 5 p.m. on June 18, 2025.
- PRT received public comment by many different media, and as of the end of 6/12/25 received:
 - Online – 3,544
 - Hearings – 303
 - Phone calls – 123
 - Printed form - 75
 - Letter – 20
 - Other - 2
- The highest response rate for online surveys came from Beechview, Bethel Park, North Side and Wilkinsburg.
- Overall, online responses came in from:
 - Pittsburgh (2,786)
 - Other Allegheny County municipalities (896)
 - Surrounding counties (161)
 - Other areas within PA or out of state (117)

Survey Response Totals:

- Bus & rail – 2,922 (78%) oppose service cuts; 1,708 (60%) oppose fare increase
- Opposition to a rise in fares increased as income levels decreased - those making less than \$25,000 annually registered a 76% opposition rate
- Access – 620 (98%) oppose service cuts; 444 (80%) oppose fare increase

Bus & rail survey results for service change impacts to respondents:

- Lose flexibility (64%)
- Increased travel time (59%)
- Switch travel mode (48%)
- Lose access (44%)
- Impact on community (41%)
- Job issues (40%)
- Medical care (25%)
- Need to move (18%)
- School/daycare/childcare (15%)
- Need to take ACCESS (5%)
- Other (5%)
- None applies (1%)

Bus & rail survey results for fare increase impacts to respondents:

- Impact on community/loved ones (64%)
- Fewer trips (43%)
- Choose between travel or essentials (34%)
- Can't afford (26%)
- Switch travel mode (25%)
- Other (4%)

ACCESS survey results for service change impacts to respondents:

- Impact on community (67%)
- No guaranteed ride (33%)
- Medical care (31%)
- Lose access (28%)
- Lose flexibility (25%)
- Increased travel time (23%)
- Switch travel mode (22%)
- Job issues (16%)
- Need to move (13%)
- School/daycare/childcare (10%)
- Other (5%)
- None of these apply to me (3%)

ACCESS survey results for fare impacts to respondents:

- Impact on community/loved ones (77%)
- Choose between travel or essentials (25%)
- Can't afford (24%)
- Fewer trips (22%)

- Switch travel mode (19%)
- Other (4%)

Support for fare changes by income:

- Less than \$25,000 – 76%
- \$25,000 to \$49,999 – 65%
- \$50,000 to \$74,999 – 62%
- \$75,000 to \$99,999 – 54%
- \$100,000 or more – 52%
- Overall – 60%

Top 10 survey responses by route and by rider:

- Silver Line – 266 comments
- 28X Airport – 240 comments
- Red Line – 210 comments
- 39 – 169 comments
- 38 – 162 comments
- 41 – 155 comments
- 29 – 144 comments
- 36 – 136 comments
- 40 – 134 comments
- 54 – 132 comments

Top 10 survey rate of responses by route and by rider:

- 18 – 222%
- O5 – 154%
- 71 – 150%
- Y45 – 126%
- 7 – 121%
- P13 – 98%
- P67 – 96%
- 65 – 84%
- Y1 – 71%
- P71 – 66%

Next steps:

- Staff will finalize and create a report for PRT's Title VI program. Any changes in final content (if any) will be presented at the July Board Committee meeting.
- Staff will continue to look for ways to optimize changes to service to minimize negative impacts to riders.
- PRT will provide as much advance notice for its final service plan as possible.
- In the meantime, we continue to ask riders to contact their elected officials to voice their support for these essential services.

3. Staff presented a resolution to enter into agreements with a pool of firms for general planning services, R24-06.

In summary, the current general planning services contract is in its first extension year, with one remaining. PRT is authorized to use up to \$22 million over three years from grants and approved budgets for various projects, with the option to extend the contract for two additional one-year terms. Most upcoming projects will utilize existing grant funds and support ongoing efforts to secure future grants for planning initiatives.

The resolution would allow PRT to contract multiple consultants under six categories as follows:

- General Planning Services: HDR, WSP, Gensler
- Transit Oriented Development Support: Gensler, Hatch
- Equity Support: MBI, WSP
- Sustainability Support: Hatch, EvolveEA
- Public Art Implementation and Conservation: EvolveEA
- Service and Infrastructure Planning: WSP, MBI

This resolution was sent to the full board for consideration.

With no further business, the Planning & Stakeholder Relations Committee meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 17, 2025, in the fifth floor Board Room at Pittsburgh Regional Transit offices.