

PORT AUTHORITY OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Port Authority of Allegheny County was held on Friday, October 28, 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: Jeff Letwin, Chair, Jennifer Liptak, Ann Ogoreuc and Ali Doyle. The following members were in attendance virtually: Senator Jim Brewster, Representative Lori Mizgorski, John L. Tague Jr., Stephanie Turman, and Michelle Zmijanac. Board Solicitor Sandy Garfinkel attended in-person.

The Chair called the October 28, 2022 Regular Meeting to order and requested everyone stand for the pledge of allegiance and observe a moment of silence for gun violence on the anniversary of the loss of 11 souls from the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting.

A recommendation was made for approval of the minutes of the September 23, 2022 Regular Meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed.

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 the last public board meeting: operators Michael Govanucci, Richard Procacina, Eugene Simeone, Emory Papuga and Frank Kuszajewski; security guard William Borkorski; incline repairperson William Goldbach; and customer service representative Brandi Pierce.

Ms. Kelleman reported that the pandemic hit public transit agencies hard, especially with decreases in ridership and large service cuts, and Pittsburgh Regional Transit has not avoided those issues. Starting on Nov. 20, PRT will reduce service hours by nearly two percent, stating that persistent worker shortages in the transit operator and maintenance departments are the main reason for these reductions.

Ms. Kelleman said that PRT has been cutting service incrementally over the past several months in response to its worker shortage problems. Overall, PRT service hours are down close to eight percent compared to normal. She noted that PRT is not alone in dealing with worker shortages, noting that 71% of transit agencies across the United States have cut service.

Ms. Kelleman continued reporting that PRT doesn't want to reduce service hours but said staffing issues and worker retention has put the agency in the tough position to avoid having route frequency decreases. Until the cuts are instituted in November, PRT is about 46 positions short to keep up with its service requirements.

She commended current PRT operators who have been working overtime and on tough schedules to try to keep service satisfactory but understands that riders are struggling. PRT operators have stepped up and they have answered this challenge, but people can only work so much.

PRT is working diligently to accommodate operators and attract and retain staff. She said in addition to being short on operators, it's been difficult to retain staff and accommodate all the vacation time requests that have stacked up.

She said PRT is working with ATU Local 85 on benefit negotiations and are looking at benefits to help retain and attract workers.

Next Ms. Kelleman addressed language accessibility. She stated that federal guidelines require public transit agencies like ours take certain steps to ensure language is not a barrier from using public transit when the non-English speaking population in the community reaches a certain percentage of the population. Although no language currently meets those thresholds in Allegheny County, PRT is committed to ensuring all of the neighbors it serves can access the services PRT provides.

Ms. Kelleman mentioned that PRT's website and social media channels can be translated into more than 100 different languages, and PRT's Customer Service team has access to a service that can translate the help they provide into more than 250 languages and dialects both in-person and over the phone. This service is advertised in every schedule PRT prints and we are already in the process of adding similar signage to all of PRT's vehicles.

Ms. Kelleman concluded her remarks by stating that the topic of language accessibility is important. "It does not happen overnight and we want any changes we do make to be meaningful and thoughtful."

That concluded the report of the Chief Executive Officer.

Chair Letwin gave the report for the Performance Oversight Committee. The Committee met last week and he presented three resolutions for the Board's consideration.

He reported that the Committee first reviewed seven 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 \$1.9 million dollars.

On behalf of the Performance Oversight Committee, 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 second resolution was seeking authorization to enter into agreements for the purchase of electricity and natural gas with pre-qualified suppliers.

Mr. Letwin explained that as the purchase of electricity and natural gas differs from most other purchases due to the volatility of the marketplace, Pennsylvania law permits customers to purchase electricity and natural gas from either local utilities or private suppliers.

In order to determine which firms may be interested in providing electricity and/or natural gas to PRT, public notices to pre-qualify interested suppliers were issued on May 12, 2022.

This resolution allows PRT to have the flexibility to purchase electricity and/or natural gas from any one of the approved pre-qualified suppliers based the lowest price solicited and received from suppliers at a particular time and relevant pricing lock-in period.

The Performance Oversight Committee recommended authorizing PRT to enter into agreements with pre-qualified suppliers listed in the resolution for the purchase of electricity and natural gas during a five-year pre-qualification period beginning on November 1, 2022 and ending on October 31, 2027.

On behalf of the Performance Oversight Committee, 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.

Mr. Letwin presented the final resolution seeking authorization to award a construction contract for the replacement of light rail track and the rehabilitation of grade crossings along PRT's Red Line. Bid documents were prepared and publicly advertised and two bids were received.

After review of the responsive bids, it was determined that the bid of Delta Railroad Construction, Inc. is the lowest responsive bid from a responsible bidder meeting PRT's requirements for the contract.

The Performance Oversight Committee recommended awarding the contract to Delta Railroad Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$14,483,347.00, subject to completing all pre-award requirements.

On behalf of the Performance Oversight Committee, 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.

Mr. Letwin concluded the report by mentioning that the Committee received a presentation of the FY 2022 Annual Physical Inventory Audit Report and was happy to report that the audit determined that internal controls are effective and the processes are generally adequate.

That concluded the report of the Performance Oversight Committee.

The Chair called on Mr. 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.

The Committee first received an update on the November service changes. As Ms. Kelleman mentioned, beginning November 20, a 1.78 percent reduction in service hours, including changes in frequency, reduced trips, routing, and timing adjustments, will occur. Noting that with these changes, the "extra board" percentage is projected to be 20 percent. He explained that the "extra board" is drivers held in reserve to cover call offs or vacations to try and minimize PRT having any "out of service" hours for scheduled service.

Mr. Tague continued reporting that several routes will see minor frequency changes and timing adjustments. Eleven bus routes will have reduced trips. Blue Line service will also have reduced trips

and will now begin at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Routing changes are being made on four bus routes due to the long-term detour related to the Washington Avenue Bridge closure.

Next Mr. Tague reported on the Allegheny County Transit Council and Committee on Accessible Transportation. ACTC held a virtual meeting on October 26. The group received updates on PRT's November service changes and an overview of PRT's Customer Service Center, including the technology they use.

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting is expected to be held on November 16.

The CAT Committee did not meet in October. The next regularly scheduled meeting is expected to be held on November 3.

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 resolution for the Board's consideration.

The resolution was seeking authorization to extend an agreement with Marquette Associates, Inc., for Chief Investment Officer Services for the Consolidated Pension Plan. The Consolidated Pension Plan is a closed plan that represents eligible Non-Union, IBEW and Police personnel.

Ms. Ogoreuc reported that in September 2018, PRT's Board of Directors approved a three-year agreement with Marquette Associates Inc., for the services at a not-to-exceed amount of \$643,930, with two additional option years at the sole discretion of PRT. In September 2021, the Board authorized PRT to exercise the first option year and increase the not-to-exceed amount to \$867,780.

Ms. Ogoreuc stated that to date, the services performed by Marquette Associates Inc., have been satisfactory and in compliance with the contractual terms.

The Finance Committee recommended exercising the second option year of the agreement to extend the term to November 30, 2023 and increasing the not-to-exceed amount to \$1,110,448.

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

Ms. Ogoreuc then summarized the September 2022 financial results that were reported at the meeting.

It was reported that Total Operating Income for the month of September was \$245,175 below budget, primarily due to lower ACCESS shared-ride revenue. Total Operating Income for the first quarter was \$1.47 million below budget, due to lower passenger revenue.

It was also reported that Total Expenses for month of September and year-to-date were below budget by \$3.6 million and \$15.9 million dollars respectively, noting that every expense category was below budget for both the month and the fiscal year.

Total Subsidy for both the month and the fiscal year was ahead of budget due to higher State Operating Assistance which will normalize by the end of the fiscal year.

Finally, PRT ended the month of September with approximately \$151.9 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, October 20, and she had one resolution for the Board's consideration.

The resolution sought authorization to enter into an agreement with a vendor to supply and install a hybrid Automatic Trip Stop System, or ATS, on the Silver Line to Library. This project will improve signal and speed enforcement on the Silver Line. As ATS already fully exists on the Red and Blue Lines, the proposed project would extend the safety capabilities of ATS to the Silver Line.

The Technology Committee recommended entering into an agreement with Hitachi Rail STS USA, Inc., for the services at a total not-to-exceed amount on this contract of \$1,524,439.00 and a term of one year from the Notice to Proceed date with the option to extend the agreement up to one additional year at PRT's sole and exclusive discretion.

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.

As there was no 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.

There were a total 16 speakers who addressed the Board at the October meeting concerning various topics such as service reductions, service reliability, language accessibility and the Fair Fares Pilot Program.

Ms. Sherai Richardson, who is currently living in a homeless shelter, said there have been times when buses are not showing up and she has been left waiting for over an hour. To get to the doctor's appointment and get to the grocery store, "it's scary to think that I can be stranded somewhere."

Mr. Ricardo Villarreal said he takes the Red Line light-rail twice a day. The shuttle that has been put in place while crews work on the red line has been unreliable. He stated that there is "this feeling of hopelessness when our transit doesn't arrive on time or doesn't arrive at all."

Mr. Jordi Gonzalez, a student at Carnegie Mellon University, said that if predictability were improved for PRT vehicles, then maybe the service cuts wouldn't hurt riders as much.

Ms. Laura Chu Wiens, director of Pittsburghers for Public Transit, said the cuts have put service in Allegheny County into the lowest levels in decades. She criticized PRT for not addressing the service cuts more seriously, and said the firing of 80 workers because of PRT's vaccine mandate for employees hurt. Ms. Wiens stated that PPT demands that PRT create a plan and requested that PPT's recommendations for that plan be distributed to the Board.

Cheryl Stephens, also of Pittsburghers for Public Transit, disagreed that worker shortages were leading to service cuts. Instead, she blamed poor management and scheduling. She said bus operators are on schedules that are too tight and, as a result, are consistently behind and forced to skip breaks. She added that she is not surprised that no one wants this job, because how can you sustain this workforce.

A few of the speakers, including Mr. Andrew Hussein, Ms. Joy Dore and Ms. Kelly King, applauded PRT for the Fair Fares Pilot Program. Ms. King also addressed her concerns with the communities such as Millvale, Allison Park and Bellevue, where public transportation is not accessible or reliable for many of its residents. She said that accessible public transportation allows dignity and quality of life for people who need it most.

There were two speakers, Ms. Krystle Knight from the Thomas Merton Center and Mr. Edgar Andino from Casa San Jose who addressed the Board in Spanish and later provided the Board their remarks in English. Both speakers requested PRT's help in language accessibility by providing signage in the Spanish for their community, particularly in the Beechview area. Both speakers said that their community doesn't only provide a labor force but also contribute monetarily to our community.

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 Thursday, November 17, 2022.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.