



Planning & Stakeholder Relations Committee

January 19, 2023

Board Committee Members

John Tague, Jr., Chair – virtual
Ann Ogoreuc – in person
Stephanie Turman – virtual

Other Board Members

Jeffrey Letwin - virtual
Michele Zmijanac - virtual
Lori Mizgorski – virtual
Gerry Delon – virtual
Jennifer Liptak – virtual

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 10, 2022, Planning & Stakeholder Relations Committee were approved.

2. Presentation of the FY 2022 Annual Service Report (Section Manager of Service Development Ellie Newman)

The report evaluated PRT's performance against previously set service standards, looking at ridership, overcrowding and on-time performance for the fiscal year between July 2021 and June 2022.

Ridership increased compared to FY21, with more than 32 million riders.

- Bus ridership increased 42%
- Light rail ridership increased 51%
- Incline ridership increased 67%
- Access paratransit ridership increased 27%.

Passengers per hour increased over 50% from FY21. Cost per rider decreased from FY21 peak, though still much higher than pre-pandemic.

Bus on-time performance showed small dips, to 71.4%, due to construction-related delays, increased ridership and traffic. Rail on-time performance dropped from 88.7% to 83.2%, mainly due to the Red Line detour that lasted for several months due to a bridge infrastructure issue.

PRT has increased coverage on service over the last 5 years, and all-day service now covers 59% of jobs and 48% of the population of Allegheny County.

Based on the service standards:

- 10 routes were out of compliance for frequency.
- 79 routes were out of compliance for on time performance.
- 97 routes were out of compliance for passengers per hour.

For FY23, on time performance continues to be a focus. Current standards are too high for post-pandemic realities, and new standards will be developed this spring to set a realistic minimum performance level for all routes.

During the Title VI evaluation it was found that minority routes and low-income routes are more likely to be crowded, which will be addressed with larger vehicles and added trips where feasible.

PRT also received a grant from the Route Restoration Planning Grant program of the Federal Transit Authority to study the transit routes post-pandemic and make adjustments to allow service to continue to be efficient, effective and equitable. That study should kick off in the summer of 2023.

3. Presentation of the February 19, 2023 Service Changes (Director of Transit Scheduling Phillip St. Pierre)

Following the updated collective bargaining agreement with Amalgamated Transit Union Local 85, PRT is changing from quarterly service changes to three service changes per year, which will be in February, June, and October.

For the February 19 service changes:

- 14 routes will see daily running time adjustments to improve on time performance and reliability (1, 6, 14, 28X, 31, 61A, 61B, 61C, 69, 77, 86, 87, 88, 93).
- 5 routes will see weekday running time adjustments (P10, P69, P76, P78, Y1).
- Weekday frequency changes are being made for two routes (1, 14).

Routing changes will be made to 6 routes:

- Due to the discontinuation of the lease agreement by the Century III Mall property owners, that park and ride location will no longer be operational. On Feb. 6 three routes (59, Y1, and Y46) will be adjusted to bypass the former park and ride at that location.
- Two routes (61A and 61B) will also return to original routing after being on an extended detour due to the closure of the Fern Hollow Bridge, which reopened to traffic in late-December.
- One route (P69) reversed a loop in Trafford to match other routing in the area.

Trip times will be adjusted for 16 routes (54, 58, 59, 61C, 61D, 64, 69, 77, 81, 83, 86, 87, 88, 91, 93, P78).

Several routes will also see the reduction of published timepoints for some paper and online schedules. While those stops may not appear on the schedules, this does not affect service and those stops continue to be in use.

4. Brief update on public comment period for BRT service changes (Chief Development Officer David Huffaker)

In November, the board authorized opening a public comment period for the proposed BRT major service changes, running from December 1 to February 1. An informational session was held in January to update the public on those changes and three public hearings were held with speakers addressing comments to PRT. To date, there have been well over 100 comments submitted through various means.

Once the public comment period is closed, a report will be drafted in February.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 16, 2023, in the fifth floor Board Room at Pittsburgh Regional Transit offices.