

PITTSBURGH REGIONAL TRANSIT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Port Authority of Allegheny County d/b/a Pittsburgh Regional Transit (PRT) was held on Friday, September 29, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. at PRT'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, John Tague; Lori Mizgorski, Ann Ogoreuc, Stephanie Turman and Joseph Totten. The following members were in attendance virtually: Senator Jim Brewster, Representative Nick Pisciotto, Ali Doyle and Michelle Zmijanac. Board Solicitor Sandy Garfinkel attended in person.

Before calling the meeting to order, the Chair noted that the ALS interpreter in attendance at the meeting was provided in response to a specific request for accommodation.

The Chair called the September 29, 2023 Regular Meeting to order and asked the audience to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and for a moment of silence for those affected by gun violence.

A recommendation was made for approval of the minutes of the July 28, 2023 Regular Meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed.

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

Ms. Kelleman first asked for a moment of silence for the following active and retired employees who passed away since we last met:

Operators John Hay, Earl Rogers, Eileen Morris, Kevin Flannery, and Ronald Trbovich; Road Operations Supervisor Frank Ganazzo; Garage Foreman Timothy Petrak; Electronic Maintainer Carl Wurm; Auto Mechanic Carlo Giovannini; Manager of Real Estate Arthur Hussey; Serviceperson James Dandridge; and Janitor Charles Dixon.

Next, Ms. Kelleman recognized 17 operators who received the most commendations in 2021 and 2022. She stated that the operators here today represent the best of us; they're empathetic, caring, kind, and patient. "So many of our employees do an amazing job, and it's a privilege to be able to recognize them publicly." She called the following operators up to receive a certification of appreciation.

From the Ross Division: Kevin Joa, Carlyle Stokes, James Bonner, Omar Ingram, William Scott, Suzanne Scanlon, Billie Jo Stephans, and William Vallecorsa. From the Collier Division: Amy Jackson and Todd Cardillo; from the West Mifflin Division: Steven Ehrin, Amanda Dalton, and Mark Prunty; from The East Liberty Division: Adam Jackson, Monica Lampkin, and Leslie Johnson; and from South Hills Village: Gerald Greer.

Ms. Kelleman congratulated the operators and thanked them for their service. She commented that, while they may make it look easy, what they do is not.

Ms. Kelleman next addressed the riders in attendance to oppose the upcoming October service changes. Ms. Kelleman noted that by reducing the number of buses going into and out of downtown, PRT has an opportunity to improve the entire network by saving resources that can be redeployed elsewhere.

Ms. Kelleman also said that construction has already begun for the University Line and will continue for at least two years. She said shortening the four routes is a proactive step to try to stave off systemwide effects. Kelleman said the service changes have been planned since 2018 and agency held many public meetings, with residents largely approving of adjustments made. There are about 12,300 riders in the corridor of the 61 and 71 bus routes, and 97 percent of those riders will keep access to bus rides without transferring. Ms. Kelleman added that the agency data shows that the changes mean 1% of riders will have to transfer and about 1% will have to walk to a different bus stop or take a different route than before. Kelleman acknowledged that having to transfer will be a burden for the 1% who will have to do so, but she said that most of the complaints the agency receives are about reliability of buses and that is the top service priority. "This is our best chance to get our routes the most reliable."

That concluded the report of the Chief Executive Officer.

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

Ms. Zmijanac reported that the Performance Oversight Committee met the week prior and had four resolutions for the Board's consideration.

Ms. Zmijanac reported that the Committee first reviewed four procurement items and determined the bids to be in accordance with PRT's procurement policies and procedures and the prices fair and reasonable.

The Performance Oversight Committee recommended the award of bids listed in the resolution for the total amount of \$1,113,036.44.

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

The second resolution was to authorize PRT to convey real property to B&D Amick Properties, LLC.

It was reported at the meeting that in November 1996, PRT acquired vacant property along the West Busway in Carnegie during the construction of the busway. After identifying the property as excess, PRT publicly issued a request for bids for the purchase of the property.

A minimum asking price of \$22,000 was based upon appraisals of the property by state certified appraisers. B&D Amick Properties LLC submitted a timely bid for the purchase of the property.

The Performance Oversight Committee recommended authorizing PRT to convey the property to B&D Amick Properties LLC, for the sale price of \$27,500, subject to FTA concurrence due to the federal funds utilized by PRT to acquire the property.

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

The next resolution presented was seeking authorization for PRT to purchase a parcel of land near the intersection of Forbes Avenue and McAnulty Drive that is owned by Duquesne University.

It was reported at the meeting that as the BRT project has advanced and construction activities have begun for the project, this parcel of land will be used for a BRT bus station. PRT made an offer, which was supported by an appraisal report prepared by state certified appraisers, to Duquesne University to purchase the parcel.

The Performance Oversight Committee recommended authorizing PRT to enter into an agreement in lieu of condemnation for PRT to acquire the property for the purchase price of \$44,250.

On behalf of the Performance Oversight Committee, Ms. Zmijanac respectfully requested 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 Adopt a Collective Bargaining Agreement with Port Authority Transit Police Association covering sergeants and lieutenants.

In an attempt to attract and retain officers, representatives from PRT and the Port Authority Transit Police Association engaged in good faith bargaining to reach a new collective bargaining agreement. Recently, and subject to ratification by both parties, PRT and the Police Association agreed on proposed terms and conditions for an amended agreement to be effective August 1, 2024 through July 31, 2025.

Ms. Zmijanac noted that the Police Association has ratified the proposed terms and conditions of the amended agreement.

The Performance Oversight Committee recommended the approval and ratification of the proposed terms and conditions of the amended collective bargaining agreement as summarized in Exhibit "A" attached to the resolution.

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

Finally, Ms. Zmijanac reported that also at the meeting, staff presented the FY 2023 Physical Inventory Audit Report. It was reported that the FY 2023 Inventory was conducted in a manner that provides reasonable assurance that inventory items were accurately counted, adjustments to on-hand quantities were recorded correctly, the cut-off process was properly followed for requisitions and receipts issued and significant variances were resolved and recorded.

That concluded the report of the Performance Oversight Committee.

The Chair called on Mr. Tague for a report of the Stakeholder Relations Committee.

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

First, staff presented a recap of the October 2023 BRT Major Service Changes. It was reported that in advance of the BRT Project construction Downtown and Uptown, beginning October 1, Routes 61D, 71A, 71C, 71D will terminate at the western end of Oakland and no longer serve Uptown and Downtown Pittsburgh. Those routes will now be designated with the “short” head signs. Staff will be in the field to assist riders with information through October 5 along with print, audio, and online messaging designed to assist riders.

A public information session was held on September 12, and concerns regarding transfers were identified. According to the Title VI analysis, 97.7 percent of riders of these routes are directly served by a downtown-bound, one-seat ride at their same bus stop, while 99 percent of riders still have a one-seat ride within a five-minute walk. Three percent of riders were identified as paying fares via cash. It was reported that public meetings on these changes began in 2017 and continued into 2018, and a formal public comment period began November 2022, which received about 700 responses, overwhelmingly opposing changes to the P3 route, which PRT has deferred a decision on while additional analysis is completed.

The board adopted these service changes, except the P3, in March 2023.

Next Mr. Tague gave an update on the Allegheny County Transit Council and Committee for Accessible Transportation. ACTC met on September 27. At the meeting, staff presented the Title VI report for the P17 service changes. President Ralph Williams presented proposed Code of Conduct Bylaw amendments. The next scheduled meeting is October 25.

The CAT Committee did not meet in September. The next scheduled meeting is November 2.

There is one resolution that Mr. Tague intended to present for the Board’s consideration after public comment has concluded. Ms. Kelleman at this time explained that the resolution that Mr. Tague will be presenting seeks approval of the Title VI Analysis for October 2023 Major Service Change to Route P17 Lincoln Flyer does not pertain to the BRT service changes. She explained that the Board will not be voting at this meeting on the changes beginning October 1 on routes 61D, 71A, 71C, 71D.

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

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

Ms. Ogoreuc reported that the Finance Committee met the prior week and she had one resolution for consideration which authorizes PRT to enter into an agreement for Chief Investment Officer Services.

It was reported that in July 2023, an RFP was issued to obtain a contractor to provide oversight of the Defined Benefit Consolidated Pension Plan, Deferred Compensation Plan and Money Purchased Plan. Ms. Ogoreuc noted that the Consolidated Pension Plan is a closed pension plan representing the Non-Represented IBEW and Police active employees and retirees.

The RFP was publicly advertised, and three proposals were received. It was determined that the proposal of Marquette Associates, Inc. was the highest rated proposal. Marquette will utilize the services of Financial Integrity Resources Management as a certified DBE sub-contractor.

The Finance Committee recommends entering into an agreement with Marquette Associates, Inc., for an initial term of three years, with an option to extend up to two additional years, at PRT's sole discretion, for the total not-to-exceed amount of \$718,000.

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

The July and August financial results were also presented at last week's meeting.

It was reported that Total Operating Income for the month of July was over budget by \$700,000 due to higher Passenger Revenue and Investment Income. Total Expenses for the month of July were below budget by \$5.9 million due to lower Wages and Benefits and All Other Expense.

Total Operating Income for the month of August exceeded budget by \$100,000 primarily due to higher Investment Income. Total Expenses for the month of August were \$4.3 million below budget due to lower Salary & Wages, Materials, and All Other Expense.

Total Operating Income is \$2.5 million higher than last fiscal year through August due to higher Passenger Revenues and Investment Income. Total Expenses through August are \$2.6 million higher than last fiscal year due to higher Wages & Benefits, Materials and ACCESS expense.

Finally, it was reported that PRT invoiced \$7.1 million against the ARPA and CRRSAA Federal Stimulus Programs and ended the month of August with approximately \$265.8 million in cash reserves.

That concluded the report of the Finance Committee.

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

Ms. Liptak reported that the Technology Committee met on September 21, and she had one action item for consideration.

The Committee reviewed a bid for renewal of OKTA multi-factor authentication software licenses in the total estimated amount of \$593,286.00. The Committee determined the bid to be in accordance with PRT's procurement policies and procedures and the prices fair and reasonable.

On behalf of the Technology, Ms. Liptak respectfully requested 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.

There was no new business to report.

Under public comment, there were nearly 30 people who addressed the board about the time and financial costs of requiring people to transfer buses to get to their final destination. These changes will take effect Oct. 1 and riders who want to continue Downtown along the 61D, 71A, 71C, and 71D routes will instead have to transfer beginning on Sunday. The route they traveled will become the BRT route from Downtown through Uptown to Oakland and beyond. Construction of the BRT began earlier this month.

Some speakers stressed the cuts will reduce direct access to employment centers like Mercy Hospital and Duquesne University, as well as the city's East End. That part of the city includes Shadyside, which multiple speakers mentioned for its many grocery stores and the Hillman Cancer Center, as well as Highland Park, Homewood, Larimer, and Wilksburg. Mr. Nicotero, President of ATU, Local 85, said that PRT is alienating whole communities by eliminating bus service just as Allegheny County tries to emerge from the pandemic. Some speakers also stressed the added burden this will cause on our disabled community.

Ms. Kathleen Lynch who works at Duquesne University, stated that students have university bus passes which helps students and faculty get discounted bus fare, but they will now have to pay for transfers. There are a lot of Duquesne University students who use the 71 buses who are now going to have to transfer and walk further although the route used to be a direct route.

The speakers who made the foregoing comments collectively included: Amy Zaiss; Bernadette Mosey; Kathleen Lynch; Alisa Grishman; James Larsen; Ross Nicotero; Lorita Gillespie; Joy Dore; Deb Goycochea; Verna Johnson; Mel Packer; Gina Anderson; Gabriel McMorland; Fred Mergner; Laura Chu-Wiens; Seth Bush; Morgan Cikowski; Nicole Gallagher; Morgan Boyer; Andrew Hussein; Bridget Hughes; Karen Smith; and Lynda VanBueren.

There were also a few speakers who spoke about other issues like Mr. Ramesh Bhambwani who requested a bus stop shelter at Cedar Blvd. in Mt Lebanon and bathroom facilities at Gateway Center. Ms. Laura Perkins, Human Rights Organizer at Casa San Jose, requested better printed and audible signage on the Red Line where there is a lot of Spanish speaking patrons. Ms. Perkins also volunteered her voice in Spanish to record the messages on the T. Mr. Ralph Williams, President of ACTC, thanked the Board for lifting the vaccine mandate and bringing back the experience drivers. And finally, Mr. Joe Janosik, Bethel Park Councilman, addressed the Board on the future of the Silver Line. Councilman Janosik said that he was there today to stay informed and as an observer and looked forward to developing a partnership with PRT*.

After the close of Public Comment, the Chair called on Mr. Tague for presentation of the resolution requesting the approval of the Title VI Analysis for October 2023 Major Service Change to Route P17 Lincoln Flyer. This resolution would adopt the report and authorize PRT staff to proceed with implementation of the P17 major service changes in October, which include a reverse commute service following the same route as the current weekday commute service, as well as a new variant that will extend to Wilksburg Station via East Hills during AM and PM peak. This will give East Hills (Route 79) riders a direct ride to and from Downtown.

The Title VI analysis found the changes to be positive with no adverse impacts to low-income or minority populations.

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

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

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Approved

*Full testimonies can be found on PRT's website at www.ridePRT.org.