



## Planning & Stakeholder Relations Committee

June 20, 2024

### Committee Members

John Tague – in person  
Stephanie Turman – virtual

### Other Board Members

Joe Totten – in person  
Jennifer Liptak – virtual  
Tia McClenney – in person  
Nick Pisciotano – in person  
Lori Mizgorski - virtual

#### 1. **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the May 16, 2024, Planning & Stakeholder Relations Committee were approved.

#### 2. **Quarterly update: PRTX University Line Bus Rapid Transit Project (Amy Silbermann)**

Construction Progress

- PHASE 1 – Downtown Pittsburgh
  - Began construction in September 2023
  - Set to conclude in spring 2025
  - Most station elements should be in by the end of CY2024, but the bus lanes will likely go in in spring 2025
  - Current construction is at seven locations downtown
- PHASE 2 – Uptown and Oakland neighborhood
  - Out for advertising in summer 2024, with construction to begin in earnest in spring 2025
  - Set to conclude in 2027, approximately
  - 24 months of construction

Project cost: \$291 million from several federal, local, and state agencies.

Adjacent Project Components

- Branch stations up to Highland Park (71B) and through Squirrel Hill to Greenfield (61C) moved to a future phase
  - The Squirrel Hill branch from Forbes/Bellefield to Forbes/Murray has been granted funding to advance.

- Electrification of bus fleet moved to a parallel project – they began arriving at PRT in spring 2024
- Smart Signals project will begin after BRT construction activities conclude (optimized traffic signals)

### 3. **ACCESS Overview Presentation (Darcy Cleaver and Karen Hoesch)**

- Sponsored by Pittsburgh Regional Transit
- ACCESS is a decentralized brokerage – PRT contracts out the management of the services to a 3rd party, and different 3rd parties operate the service
- 4 companies operate the service (non-profit and for profit)
- 300 vehicles
- 145 sponsoring agencies; requires high level of coordination and prioritization of sponsors
- Exceeds ADA minimums
- 93% on time performance

#### PRT's ADA Program

- Exceeds ADA minimums for
  - Service area
  - Days of service
  - Hours of service
  - Fares
  - Door to door
  - Hand to hand
- No capacity constraints – 100% trips
- 100% in person eligibility with functional assessments
- Conditional trip eligibility enforced (Enables fixed route and paratransit to work together)

#### Program Distribution

- ADA paratransit
- 65 plus program (Pennsylvania Lottery funded)
- County programs – Area Agency on Aging
- Medical Assistance Transportation
- Churches
- Nursing/Personal care homes
- Home and Community based waivers
- Community based human service agencies
- Protective and emergency services, District Attorney victim services

#### Ridership

- 2023 is 79% of pre-pandemic ridership

- 5% increase 2024 over 2023 YTD
- Slowest category to bounce back has been waiver programs for persons with intellectual disabilities

#### 2024 updates

- Performance
  - OTP 93% YTD
  - Trip denials <2%
- Challenges
  - Driver recruitment and retention
  - Ridership return - changing travel patterns
  - Vehicle availability and price
  - Improving productivity/reducing cost per trip
  - Performance
- Opportunities
  - Area Agency on Aging
  - Access to healthy food -20% of senior ridership
  - Same Day Service – 50% of requests provided
  - Service area adjustments - contracts ending

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 18, 2024, in the fifth floor Board Room at Pittsburgh Regional Transit offices.