

PITTSBURGH REGIONAL TRANSIT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Pittsburgh Regional Transit (PRT) was held on Friday, October 25, 2024, at PRT's Administrative Offices, 345 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15222-2527, pursuant to due public notice given as required by law.

The following Board members were in attendance in person: Jennifer Liptak, Chair, Tom Burgunder, Bobbie Fan, Tia McClenney, Stephanie Turman, Joe Totten and Senator Jim Brewster. The following members participated via TEAMS: Ali Doyle, Lori Mizgorski and Emma Shoucair. Board Solicitor Sandy Garfinkel attended in person.

The Chair called the Regular Meeting to order and asked the audience to stand for the pledge of allegiance followed by a silent moment of private reflection.

A recommendation was made for approval of the minutes of the September 27, 2024 Regular Meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed.

The Chair called on Pittsburgh Regional Transit CEO Katharine Kelleman for a report.

CEO Kelleman asked for a moment of silence for the following employees who passed away since the Board last met: Manager of Employee Relations Joe Carello, operators Michael Gibson, John Hickey, Harold Stein, and William Kohser; automotive mechanic Charles Pickens; Accounting supervisor Donald Mazza; machinist Regis Abele; and instructor Ronald Francis.

CEO Kelleman continued reporting that PRT has had an incredibly busy October. "We launched the current phase of the Bus Line Redesign on September 30, and we've been thrilled with the response so far. In just 25 days, we've heard from more than 1,000 people at almost 30 planned and impromptu events talking to riders at bus stops, shopping centers, and other pop-up locations throughout Allegheny County, with nonprofits and community organizations, and municipal leaders and elected officials." She stated that by the end of December, PRT will have been to nearly 60 events.

The project website www.buslineredesign.com has had more than 22,000 visitors and more than 4,000 comments. CEO Kelleman advised that people should "look for us in a community near you or visit the website to learn more about the project and provide your input."

CEO Kelleman continued reporting that preliminarily, the responses have been mostly positive, "but we've definitely heard from some areas where we've missed the mark, and we'll need to go back to the drawing board to make sure we're serving the places where people are and where they want to go."

Next CEO Kelleman reported that the University Line Phase II is coming soon. "The board today will consider a construction contract for nearly \$100 million to Independence Excavating for phase two, which would extend from the edge of downtown through Uptown to Bellefield Avenue in Oakland. Phase I is about half complete, and we're super excited to get it moving."

Finally, CEO Kelleman thanked the 111 members of the Pennsylvania House who this week approved a funding bill that would increase the share of the state's sales tax revenue designated to transit funding from 4.4 percent to 6.15 percent, resulting in approximately \$282 million in new transit funding for every county in the Commonwealth without raising taxes. For PRT, the bill would mean an increase of about \$40 million a year.

She noted that, unfortunately, as of the meeting date, the Senate had not acted on this legislation. CEO Kelleman concluded her remarks by saying that "We remain optimistic that our state lawmakers will acknowledge the importance that public transit plays across Pennsylvania by prioritizing a new funding bill early in the next legislative session."

The next item of business was the report of the Performance and Oversight Committee.

Member Tia McClenney reported that the Performance Oversight Committee met last week and had four resolutions for the Board's consideration.

The Committee first reviewed six procurement items and determined the bids to be in accordance with PRT's procurement policies and procedures and the prices to be fair and reasonable.

The Performance Oversight Committee recommended authorizing the award of bids listed in the resolution for the total amount of approximately \$1.2 million dollars.

On behalf of the Performance Oversight Committee, Member McClenney 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 to extend and amend an agreement to provide hosted Interactive Voice Response Services.

Member McClenney reported that it was explained at the meeting that this service provides 24/7 phone access to next-scheduled and real time trip information 365 days a year. It was also mentioned that this service provides fare card balance information along with a Spanish language option.

In December 2017, PRT entered into a five-year contract with Enghouse Transportation LLC, to provide these services.

After two previous extensions to the contract, the Performance Oversight Committee recommended authorizing a third and final contract extension for one additional year and increasing the authorized total not-to-exceed amount by \$127,586.80.

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

The final two resolutions presented related to the Bus Rapid Transit Project.

The first resolution was seeking authorization to amend agreements with CDR Maguire, Inc. and Hill International, Inc., to provide construction management services for the project. In September 2021,

PRT entered into three-year agreements with the firms for an authorized total not-to-exceed amount of \$17 million dollars, with the option to extend the agreements up to two additional years.

The Performance Oversight Committee recommended extending both option years at this time through December 31, 2026, with no increase to the previously authorized total not-to-exceed amount.

On behalf of the Performance Oversight Committee, Member McClenney respectfully requested 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 award a construction contract for Phase II of the Bus Rapid Transit University Line project.

Member McClenney continued reporting that to perform the work for the Project, bid documents were prepared and publicly advertised and three bids were received.

The Performance Oversight Committee recommended that the board authorize the award of a contract to the low responsive bidder, Independence Excavating, Inc., in the amount of \$99,841,956, subject to completing all pre-award requirements.

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

Also, at the Performance Oversight Committee meeting staff provided updates of future Procurement opportunities with PRT, and the recent Purchasing Card Program audit. The results showed that the P-Card Program is being administered in accordance with applicable policies and procedures and that employees are complying with the guidelines established.

That concluded the report of the Performance Oversight Committee.

The next order of business was a report of the Planning and Stakeholder Relations Committee.

Member Bobbie Fan reported that the Planning and Stakeholder Relations Committee met last week and had a few items for the Board.

First, staff presented the Annual Report of the Agency Strategic Plan to the Committee. The Strategic Plan Annual Report shows progress toward improving service quality in high-equity areas identified in the Equity Index, expanding ridership by attracting new riders to mobility-oriented options, and establishing fare structures that support greater regional access to transit ridership for all income levels while minimizing negative revenue impacts.

Many goals regarding customer experience, resiliency, and accountability have been achieved, are in progress or are currently on target. More information on PRT's Strategic Plan can be found on PRT's website.

Next, staff presented the Quarterly Update for the PRTX University Line BRT project. The University Line BRT project is currently continuing with Phase I work in Downtown Pittsburgh under construction

and expected to be completed by Spring 2025, with the installation of the five new transit stations. Contractors began activating the 35 new traffic signals in Downtown and will install the updated roadway paint lines for the ultimate configuration of travel lanes on Fifth and Sixth Avenues in downtown Pittsburgh at the end of the month. "Bus Only" lane markings will be installed in Spring 2025.

The new changes include safety and accessibility improvements to 16 intersections, including ADA compliant curb ramps and crosswalks, accessible signals and lighting, and expanded sidewalks.

Phase 2 work in the Uptown and Oakland neighborhoods is advancing toward contractor selection, with construction planned to take place into 2027.

Lastly, member Fann reported on the Allegheny County Transit Council and The Committee for Accessible Transportation. ACTC met on October 23. Staff presented the rider courtesy campaign to the Council. Their next scheduled meeting is November 20.

The CAT Committee did not meet in October. Their next regularly scheduled meeting is November 7.

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

The next order of business was a report of the Finance Committee.

Member Totten reported that the Finance Committee met on Thursday, October 17, and had two items to report.

First, staff provided a review of the Public Comment period for the PRTner Pass to the Committee. It was reported that the public comment period for the PRTner Pass was held for a 60-day period from August 12 through October 11, 2024. Two informational sessions were held along with a public hearing. There were 30 total comments submitted, eight in person and 22 online. 23 of those comments were positive while three were negative and four were neutral. PRT management plans to return to the committee next month with a request to approve the PRTner Pass Program and the associated Title VI report.

Next, the September 2024 financial results were presented. It was reported that Total Operating Income for September was over budget by \$337,000, due to increased Passenger Revenue and Interest Income. Total Expenses for September were below budget by \$2.4 million due to lower Benefits, Materials and Supplies and Purchased Services.

Total Subsidies for September were \$4.9 million over budget due to increased state operating assistance and invoicing of the remaining balance of federal stimulus funding.

Total Operating Income through the first quarter is consistent with last fiscal year. Total Expenses through September were \$2.6 million higher than last fiscal year due to higher Wages & Salaries, ACCESS and Other Expenses.

Finally, it was reported that PRT has fully expended its remaining federal stimulus funds and ended September with about \$351.1 million in cash reserves.

That concluded the report for the Finance Committee.

Under new business, Chair Liptak reported that pursuant to PRT's Bylaws, as Board Chair, she would like to announce that she has made certain appointments to the Board's Standing Committees. Following are the newly appointed and Chairs and members of each Standing Committee:

Representative Nick Pisciotano was appointed to serve as Committee Chair for the Performance Oversight Committee. The other members of the Committee are board members Lori Mizgorski and Tia McClenney.

Member Stephanie Turman was appointed to serve as Committee Chair of the Planning and Stakeholder Relations Committee. The other members of the Committee are board members Ali Doyle, Tom Burgunder and Bobbie Fan.

Member Lori Mizgorski was appointed to serve as Committee Chair for the Technology Committee. The other members of the Committee are Tom Burgunder and Joseph Totten.

Member Ali Doyle was appointed to serve as Committee Chair for the Finance Committee. The other members of the Committee are board members Representative Nick Pisciotano, Joseph Totten and Emma Shoucair.

Senator Jim Brewster is the current Committee Chair of the Financial Audit Department by previous appointment and will continue to serve in that role. The other members of the Committee are board members Stephanie Turman and Lori Mizgorski

The Board's Governance Committee is composed of the chairs of all of the Standing Committees. Therefore, the Governance Committee membership is as follows:

Jennifer Liptak, Committee Chair
Representative Nick Pisciotano
Ali Doyle
Lori Mizgorski
Senator Jim Brewster
Stephanie Turman

Chair Liptak thanked all of PRT's board members for serving on these important committees. Doing so requires time and energy over and above serving as a member of PRT's board, and their committee service is greatly appreciated.

The next order of business was public comment.

The first speaker was Ralph Williams, President of the Allegheny County Transit Council. Mr. Williams wanted to formally introduce himself, especially to the new members. Those of you who are new to the board may not know him, but he is sure they will be seeing him in the future.

The next speaker, Fonda Duse, a former employee of PRT, wanted to continue with remarks from the September meeting pertaining to Information asserting that the Human Resources Department is wasteful with spending money in regard to selecting companies to provide services to PRT. The wasteful spending of money is not necessary.

The next speaker introduced herself as Tammie LaMarr, a member of the Coalition of Concerned Transit Workers. Ms. LaMarr was there as a former operator who feels she was terminated unjustly. Ms. LaMarr stated she believes her termination was due to her race.

The next speaker was Laura Wiens, executive director of Pittsburghers for Public Transit. First, she expressed her appreciation to the Bus Line Redesign team and the openness and collaboration of Amy Silbermann, chief development officers and Derek Dauphin, director for engaging with our members. She said that we do see PRT's robust efforts around public engagement, and we'll be very active in coming months to grow participation in PRT's processes, particularly in high need and highly affected communities.

Laura continued by raising several high level observations, opportunities and concerns regarding the timeline of the Busline Redesign project, bus stop consolidation and "on-demand service."

Laura concluded her remarks by saying that we need PRT to use the Busline Redesign's 20 percent service increase proposal for advocacy, to win increased state funding to begin to restore the levels of service we had just four years ago. "We need PRT leadership to have a strategy and identify a viable financial pathway to implementing restored and expanded service and talk about it. Plans like that are a tool and not meat to sit on a shelf."

The next speaker was Chaz Williams who stated he is chairman of the Coalition of Concerned Transit Workers. Chaz wanted to address and clarify some information that he received in response to last month's meeting. He learned that PRT suggested that the terminations had gone up because of the pre-screening assessment that was removed during the hiring process. He believes that PRT is conveying false information and believes the numbers were massive prior to that change.

He wanted to be clear about the issues by stating his belief that it's not just about the terminations, it's about the way the black employees are treated overall in comparison to whites.

He concluded his remarks by saying that he hopes he can come back next month and report that we are in conversation and that your black employees can be encouraged by the fact.

The final speaker, Ms. Kelda Gorman, a member of PPT, urged PRT, as well as state officials, to make meaningful and substantial changes to PRT's transportation system, as well as help PPT lobby for the funding to make these changes. "It is going to take a partnership between PPT, PRT, drivers, riders and state officials to make this happen."

The Chair announced the next Regular meeting of the Board will be November 22, 2024.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.