Planning & Stakeholder Relations Committee

October 15, 2026

APPROVED

Committee Members
Stephanie Turman (Chair)
Tom Burgunder
Dr. Chris Brussalis
Bobbie Fan

Other Board Members
Jennifer Liptak
Tia McClenney
Laura Sohinki
Sen. Lindsey Williams

1. **Approval of Minutes**
   The minutes of the September 17, 2026, Planning & Stakeholder Relations Committee were approved.

2. **Staff presented a summary of the Bus Line Refresh public comment period and service expansion.**

   The public comment period ran from August 17 through September 30. PRT received about 1,900 comments through various sources. Comments were focused around general project praise, some areas of confusion, and other areas of continued concern. The public comment period has now closed and the Board will review the final BLR proposal prior to the November meeting. If approved, BLR will go into effect in the latter half of 2027.

   Staff also provided an update on a service expansion proposal, previously referred to as the "+20% proposal" that imagines what PRT could do with additional funding. This proposal, which is not part of the BLR final plan, would include a menu of options to:
   - Expand the frequent service network
   - Create community circulators that connect to the frequent service network
   - Lengthen service hours and/or
   - Provide more direct routes to major destination

3. **Next, staff presented the PRTX University Line Quarterly Update.**

Phase 2 of construction remains active in Oakland and Uptown. Highlights include:

- Red bus lanes were installed in Oakland in August, and police are now issuing motorists tickets for violations in those lanes.
- Most station structures are installed, and Oakland station amenities are being installed.
- Bike lane installation is underway.
- PRT anticipates some station openings by the end of 2026.
- Project completion and launch of new fare operations is planned for summer 2027.

4. **Then, staff presented an authorization to decommission and close the Wabash Tunnel.**

This resolution would allow staff to close the tunnel on or after November 30, 2026.

PRT staff originally recommended closure of the Wabash tunnel during the state funding crisis in 2025 due to ongoing maintenance costs, an anticipated $43 million capital project necessary to continue use of the Tunnel, and a lack of direct transit benefit to the agency. The Park and Ride and adjacent maintenance buildings will remain in operation.

The resolution was sent to the full board for consideration.

5. **Lastly, staff presented the August ridership update.**

- Ridership continued to trend upward, as weekday ridership improved 8.7% from July 2026 and 5.3% year over year.
- Rail weekday ridership improved 16% year over year.
- ReadyFare machines are up and running at the Monongahela Incline.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 2026, in the fifth floor Board Room at Pittsburgh Regional Transit offices.

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