

PITTSBURGH REGIONAL TRANSIT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Pittsburgh Regional Transit (PRT) was held on Friday, April 26, 2024, at PRT's Administration 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: Jeff Letwin, Chair, Jennifer Liptak, Joseph Totten, John Tague, Michelle Zmijanac. The following members participated by via TEAMS: Senator James Brewster, Ali Doyle, Stephanie Turman. 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 and asked for a moment of silence for victims of gun violence.

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

First, Ms. Kelleman asked for a moment of silence for the following retirees who have passed away since last we met operators William Michael, Donald Coultas, Leonard Simmons, Daniel Tagaloe, Frank Sudonik and Wayne Ludwick and service persons, Gary Kunkel and Kenneth Gratton.

Next, Ms. Kelleman wanted to update everyone on the rail construction projects. She stated that PRT is now on its third week since it transitioned to working in the downtown subways full time. Noting that there were some confused riders at first, but it's been pretty smooth sailing since. PRT is doing plinth work at Wood Street station, which means LRT trains run to Steel Plaza and then out to Penn Station on the North Side. They are running to Gateway, but not coming to Wood Street.

Ms. Kelleman noted that if we continue to do weekends on Wood Street and shutting down the station on weekends, it will probably take two years, or we could pull the plug and just shut down one station for several weeks and get the work done. The next phase of our project will be a grade crossing replacement in South Hills that will create delays on all three rail lines near Saint Anne for about a month.

Crews will begin the biggest part of the project with closure of the Red Line mid-June through the end of August. "Red Line trips will run over the blue line and we will be running a rail shuttle back and forth between Dormont Junction to Overbrook Junction. We'll also have two temporary bus shuttles."

Because of the construction on the Red Line, PRT is proposing to make the shuttle buses on the Red Line and the rail shuttle free for the duration of the project. "It is a good idea and we definitely heard back from the community, so we're very happy to make that recommendation to our Board today." If approved by the Board, free transfers would start about June 16th and end around August 31. Free transfers will not reduce delays, "but we do hope it reduces a little bit of the heartburn and not to mention again, it's the right thing to do. Until then, we're using wayfinding and informational signage in English and Spanish to ensure that all our riders, whether they need to transfer or not, know how to go where they're going next."

Ms. Kelleman then recognized Earth Day, which is celebrated every April 22, to demonstrate support for Environmental Protection. PRT played an important role in this by unveiling its first Climate Action

Plan, its first road map towards zero emissions and a tool for seeking new funding to complete the journey in the decades to come. “Climate change is clearly one of the biggest challenges we face today, and our region has grappled with the detrimental effects of poor air quality for decades. The actions prescribed in the Climate Action Plan will help us remain resilient regardless of the challenges we face.”

Ms. Kelleman thanked our internal and external stakeholders who have helped to develop this plan over the last year and who made this plan a reality. “Together, we can work toward a greener, more sustainable future.”

That concluded the report of the Chief Executive Officer.

Next, a recommendation was made for approval of the minutes of the March 22, 2024 Regular Meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed.

Mr. Letwin also noted that Senator Brewster had joined the meeting virtually.

The Chair announced that the procedure with public comment is that if there is a topic that the Board is going to be voting on, then any speaker who wishes to speak on that particular topic will be offered the opportunity to make their presentation before the vote. The Chair called on Ms. Laura Perkins who wanted to make comment prior to the Board taking action on waiving fares for Summer 2024 Red Line Project bus and rail shuttles.

Ms. Perkins started her remarks by saying that she knows she has been pretty critical in the past, so she was delighted to be at the meeting in a more positive light. She said that she was present to express gratitude. Ms. Perkins is the human rights organizer at Casa San Jose and works with Latino immigrants, primarily those who speak Spanish and other non-English languages. She has noticed a real shift in good relations with people that work at PRT, specifically people in meeting room. Ms. Perkins said that she has been meeting with PRT staff since January about language access on public transit and she found these meetings to be productive and full of respect.

“A community meeting was held in Beechview on March 21 and a lot of people in this room were present, and it was an amazing meeting. It was so well done and PRT really listened to the community and prioritized the community's needs.”

She stated that one thing that did come up was the fact that a lot of community members, especially immigrants, pay in cash because they do not have bank accounts so she is very much in favor of the free shuttles during the rail project this summer on the Red Line.

Lastly, Ms. Perkins commented on the Reduced Fares Program that is still in process through the DHS. “Being in human services, we continue to really be thankful for that program, but we would love to see it as free fares and not half fares.”

Next, the Chair called on Ms. Michelle Zmijanac, Chair of the Performance Oversight Committee, for a report.

Ms. Zmijanac reported that the Performance Oversight Committee met last week and she had four resolutions for the Board’s consideration.

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

The Performance Oversight Committee recommended the award of bids listed in the resolution for the total amount of approximately \$1.4 million dollars.

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 was seeking authorization to extend an agreement for professional safety consulting and security management system services.

In June 2020, an agreement was entered into with K&J Safety and Security Consulting Services, Inc., for three years in a total not-to-exceed amount of \$860,000, and then extended an additional year to June 30, 2024, with no increase to the total not-to-exceed amount.

The Performance Oversight Committee recommended extending the agreement with K&J Safety and Security Consulting Services, Inc., to June 30, 2025, with no increase to the previously authorized total not-to-exceed amount.

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 by Ms. Zmijanac was to authorize PRT to enter into Deed of Easement and Right of Way Agreements with the Pennsylvania-American Water Company, or "PAWC."

Ms. Zmijanac reported that PAWC owns, operates and maintains a waterline perpendicular to and beneath PRT's LRT tracks near the intersection of Edgebrook Avenue and Reflectorville Road in the City of Pittsburgh. The current PAWC waterline is within a permanent easement and right-of-way granted to PAWC by PRT in 1985.

PAWC is involved in a watermain replacement project and wishes to abandon the existing line and replace it with a new line to be located in an adjacent location.

The Performance Oversight Committee recommended that PRT enter into a new easement and right-of-way agreement with PAWC for the relocated line.

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 final resolution of the Performance Oversight Committee was presented. Ms. Zmijanac reported that PRT has determined that it would be beneficial to provide supplemental employee assistance program support services, including an onsite licensed and certified professional counselor.

A request for proposals was publicly advertised, and one proposal was received.

Staff followed the procedures for when a single proposal is received and it was determined that appropriate and reasonable efforts had been undertaken to solicit proposals, and that the requirements of the RFP were not restrictive.

Staff, following applicable procurement procedure, determined that UPMC Benefit Management Services, Inc., doing business as Workpartners, submitted an acceptable proposal and is qualified to perform the services.

The Performance Oversight Committee recommended entering into an agreement with Workpartners for a total not-to-exceed amount of up to \$347,733.00 for an initial term of three years with two one-year extensions to the agreement.

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.

That concluded the report of the Performance Oversight Committee.

The Chair then called on Mr. John Tague, Chair of the Planning and Stakeholder Relations Committee, for a report.

Mr. Tague reported that the Planning and Stakeholder Relations Committee met last week and that he had a few items to report.

First, Mr. Tague thanked Stephanie Turman for chairing the committee in absence.

Staff updated the committee on the Bus Line Redesign project. It was reported that the comprehensive bus network study will show how PRT can better deploy its resources. PRT gathered input from the community, operators, and stakeholders and are developing a draft proposal that will be unveiled later this year.

Mr. Tague noted that there will be at least two public reviews before the plan is implemented in 2025 or 2026.

Next, staff presented the final Homestead to McKeesport Corridor Plan. This plan aims to improve the safety, accessibility, and reliability through the corridor between Homestead and McKeesport. The plan includes several intersection redesigns, bus stop and infrastructure improvements.

Mr. Tague noted that PRT will continue to work with partner agencies to finalize the plan and fund construction.

Lastly, Mr. Tague updated the Board on the Allegheny County Transit Council and Committee for Accessible Transportation.

ACTC met on April 24 and PRT staff provided the Council with an update on Bus Line Redesign. The next scheduled ACTC meeting is May 22.

The CAT Committee did not meet in April. The next scheduled meeting is May 2.

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

The Chair called on Mr. Totten, a member of the Finance Committee, for a committee report in the absence of Committee Chair, Ann Ogoreuc.

Mr. Totten reported that the Finance Committee met on Thursday, April 18, and that he had three items to report.

The first was a resolution seeking authorization to waive fares for the Summer 2024 Red Line Project bus and rail shuttles. From approximately June 16, 2024 through approximately August 31, 2024, PRT will close a portion of the Red Line while a group of projects to repair and replace portions of the track are completed.

To ensure cash-paying riders do not have to pay an additional full cash fare when utilizing the bus and rail shuttles, the Finance Committee agreed to recommend that PRT waive the collection of fares on the two bus shuttle routes and the Red Line short rail shuttle during the duration of the project.

Mr. Totten added a final note on this item. He reported that at last week's Finance Committee meeting, the commencement date of the closure of the portion of the Red Line was incorrectly reported to be July 16, 2024, but as just mentioned, the closure is actually slated to begin on June 16, 2024.

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

Also at last week's meeting, PRT's CFO Donminika Brown, presented the preliminary fiscal year 2025 Operating and Capital Budgets which included some assumptions and uncertainties, such as anticipated additional funding PRT will receive from the Commonwealth.

Ms. Brown reiterated that these are preliminary budgets and that staff will bring the final budget to the Board for approval in May.

Finally, the following is a review of the March financial results presented at last week's meeting.

It was reported that Total Operating Income for the month of March was under budget by \$500,000 due to lower Passenger, ACCESS and Advertising revenue. Total Expenses for the month of March were below budget by \$2.4 million due to lower Wages and Benefits, Purchased Services and Materials expense.

Total Operating Income is \$6.8 million higher than last fiscal year through March due to higher Passenger Revenue and Interest Income. Total Expenses through March are \$20.2 million higher than last fiscal year due to higher expenses in every category except Utilities.

Total Subsidy is \$93.7 million higher than last fiscal year due to higher invoicing of federal stimulus and Preventative Maintenance. As of March 2024, the total remaining federal stimulus balance is \$51 million of CRRSAA funds.

Finally, it was reported that PRT ended the month of March with approximately \$376.2 million in cash reserves.

That concluded the report of the Finance Committee.

Next the Chairman called on Ms. Jennifer Liptak for a report of the Technology Committee.

Ms. Liptak reported that the Technology Committee met on April 18, and she had one resolution for the Board's consideration.

The resolution was for wide area fiber network services which connect the various agency offices and garage locations to each other and to the internet. The proposed contract includes the 12 existing connected locations and 24 defined future BRT stations.

A contract with Crown Castle Fiber LLC, is being recommended with a total not-to-exceed amount of \$4,902,291, over five years with two option years.

The Committee concluded that this service is needed and that the prices are fair and reasonable.

On behalf of the Technology Committee, Mr. 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 before the Board.

Before moving on to public comment, Mr. Letwin reminded all our speakers of the three-minute speaking limit.

The first speaker was Mr. Frank Pletz who is an avid rider had an idea for what he thinks would be an effective and affordable advertising appeal. His idea was a simple with the phrase "PRT, the best place to practice good manners." Mr. Pletz cited an example from his own personal experience. When he lived out of the country, more than not, a person getting on the bus would literally greet the entire bus with a simple good morning or good evening and the majority of the passengers would respond as well. He concluded by saying it softened hi mood and it gave him a positive attitude.

The next speaker, Mr. Andrew Hussein, started his remarks by saying that he was very happy to see the resolution approved this morning regarding the free rail and bus shuttles during the rail project.

However, moving on, he mentioned that he knows that PRT has been dealing with ongoing operator shortages resulting in reliability issues for service.

Mr. Hussein also said that we've been seeing a lot of routes having multiple trips at once out of service, especially during the AM and PM rush hour. He concluded his remarks by saying that he would continue to urge PRT to continue to aggressively try and address operator shortages, operating issues and boosting service, especially if we're trying to regain rider confidence.

The final speaker was Ms. Amy Zaiss. She stated that much like Ms. Perkins, she was here to thank the Board and noted that she knows that she has been here many times, often with critical remarks. It was important for her to speak today as a resident of Beachview. She wanted to echo Ms. Perkins' earlier remarks and thanked the leadership and the staff at PRT for the Community meeting and the

outreach and communication regarding the upcoming work that's required. She also feels that there's been a noticeable shift and appreciates the outreach to the community. She thanked the Board for passing the motion to make the rail and bus shuttles free to cash paying customers. "That's definitely an important thing for our community and for goodwill building."

Ms. Zaiss also wanted to again raise the issue of communication. She said that she knows there has been a lot of talk about what's been discussed in disruption management, communications and hopefully better real time tracking and wanted to know when this will come into fruition.

That ended the public comment period of the meeting.

The Chair announced the next Regular meeting of the Board will be Friday, May 24, 2024.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Approved