

Steve Bland
Remarks
Port Authority Board of Directors
November 24, 2010 Public Meeting

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members.

I'd like to bring you up to date on a few items this morning.

Funding

- Obviously, today is a very dark day for those who benefit from public transportation.
- Before you is a proposal that would trigger the largest cut in transit service in our history, starting in March.
- Other Board members will be discussing this matter in a few minutes.
- The bottom line is simple: state funding of all transportation programs fell short this year. Port Authority has no choice but to cut service.
- Quality public transportation is among the core attributes of nearly every thriving, modern city in America.
- This region happens to be blessed with a better system than most comparable regions.
- It's one of the assets that makes this area great.
- The Pittsburgh region is ranked among the best places to live and work virtually every year.
- Our local leaders have worked hard for years to show the world that Pittsburgh has been reinvented and today is a leader in technology and medicine – a modern city with modern amenities.
- The action we're forced to take today certainly won't help those efforts.
- Those who rely on public transportation are in a tough spot today.

Bike Grant

- Finally, I'm happy to report that thanks to a \$32,500 Richard King Mellon Foundation grant, we now can put nearly 200 more bike racks on buses.

- We already have 600 bike racks on vehicles and this will complete the fleet.
- The project also benefited from a state grant and federal CMAQ grants.
- This is the result of working closely with community partners, including Bike Pittsburgh.
- It's a significant enhancement to our fleet and, for the bicycling community, this will make service far more reliable.

Mr. Chairman, unless there are any questions, that concludes my report.