

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD  
PORT AUTHORITY OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY  
9:30 A.M., JANUARY 22, 2010

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Port Authority of Allegheny County was held at 9:30 a.m., Friday, January 22, 2010 at the Authority's Administration Offices, 345 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222-2527, pursuant to due public notice given as required by law.

**Board Members:**

John A. Brooks, Chairman  
Guy Mattola, Vice Chairman  
James Dodaro (via phone)  
Joan Ellenbogen  
Richard Taylor  
Eddie Edwards  
Mavis Rainey  
Joel L. Lennen, General Counsel

**Media:**

Matthew Santoni – Tribune Review  
Jim Lokay – KDKA

**Port Authority Staff:**

Stephen Bland, chief executive officer; Claudia Allen, chief financial officer; Bill Miller, Bus Operations officer; Winston Simmonds, Rail Operations/engineering officer; Judi McNeil, communications officer; Tawnya Moore-McGee, assistant general management Human Resources; Wendy Stern, assistant general manager Planning and Development; Jim Ritchie, director Public Relations; Mike Cetra, Legal counsel; Tony Trona, director Purchasing and Materials Management; Heather Pharo, Public Relations representative; Tom Noll, director Technical Support & Capital Programs; Brenda Fink, director Internal Audit; David Gramc, controller; Jeff Woodrow, chief technology officer; Fred Mergner, assistant manager Scheduling;  
Dan DeBone, director Government and Civic Affairs; Deborah Skillings, Community Outreach coordinator; Mark Ferrari, manager Contract Administration; and Diane Williamson, executive assistant

**Others:**

Randall Herman, County Controller's Office; John Wojtyna, GAI Consultants; Carmen Cupelli, County Controller's Office; Joe Catanese, County Council; Annette Kroll, Speaker; Jon Smith, ACTC; Glenn Walsh, Duquesne Incline; Joe Bianco, MEC; and Jonathan Robison, ACTC

The Chairman called the meeting to order and recommendation was made for approval of the minutes of the November 25, 2009 Regular Board Meeting. The motion was moved, seconded and passed.

The Chairman called on Mr. Bland for a report. Mr. Bland reported that our riders will soon be seeing a number of the improvements that we've been planning over the past few years. First, over the next several months our new fare collection equipment will be making its way onto our buses and railcars. He noted that as we go to new processes and new passes and fare products, there will be a transition period both for our customers and for our employees. We will work through any transition issues as they come up and will provide the maximum amount of information.

Mr. Bland then reported that we'll be kicking off in the next couple of months the first round of changes as part of the Transit Development Plan that was adopted by the Board back in October. Mr. Bland explained that we want to make sure that riders are as aware as we can possibly make them before the changes go into effect. He noted that between now and the next meeting, the Board will begin to see the massive infusion of information [such as printings, public outreach, and information on the web] to the public. He noted that there will also be a lot of employees assisting customers on the street and passing out information before and after the changes [this will be brought up in more detail under the Stakeholder Relations Committee report].

Mr. Bland then reported on the Rapid Bus element of the plan. At the end of last year, it was widely reported that Port Authority, in conjunction with quite a few community partners, have applied under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for just over \$80 million in stimulus funding to jump-start this program. The U.S. Department of Transportation has not made those grant awards yet. They've indicated that those announcements should be coming either very late this month or at the latest by the middle of February. Mr. Bland stated that we, including our project partners, believe that it's an extremely strong proposal, and certainly meets all of the goals of that program, but noted that it's a highly competitive program. Mr. Bland stated that whether we're successful or not [or partially successful], the Rapid Bus element of the transit plan is something that we will try to do incrementally as funds become available.

Mr. Bland continued reporting that February is traditionally the period of time where we begin to kick off with the Board our next fiscal year budget process, so Mr. Mattola's committee will be busy with that. He noted that each year the budget is getting more and more difficult to balance, and we anticipate that FY 2011 will be no exception. Over the last few weeks, staff has begun putting that document together. Mr. Bland reiterated the challenges we will encounter balancing next year's budget and years after that as we're seeing literally no increases in state and local funding which makes up about 60 percent [or a little bit more than 60 percent] of our operating budget. That is assuming that Interstate 80 tolling or some equivalent funding mechanism for Act 44 is accomplished.

Mr. Bland then reported that Port Authority has introduced 20 new hybrid electric buses into service over the past month or two. He noted that not only is there an environmental benefit, but we also see about a 30 percent improvement in fuel economy.

Mr. Bland then congratulated all of our employees who donated to this year's United Way campaign. Total money pledged this year was \$161,477 [\$25,000 more than last year]. He stated that, "with the current economy the way it is, this is truly an accomplishment."

Although the next item will be reported in the Stakeholder Relations Committee report in more detail, Mr. Bland ended his report by acknowledging Port Authority's part in the rescue effort of the Haitian orphans. We were called on very short notice to provide transportation and we were happy to do so. This is just another example that we are here to serve the community and help wherever we can.

This ended Mr. Bland's report.

In Mr. Letwin's absence, Ms. Mavis Rainey gave the report of the Performance Oversight Committee. Ms. Rainey reported that the committee met on Wednesday, January 20, 2010 and the notes from the November 18, 2009 were approved.

The operating budget results for the month of December were presented. Total revenues were unfavorable primarily due to passenger revenues. Total expenses for December and year-to-date were unfavorable primarily due to an adjustment in pension expense within employee benefits.

There were seven resolutions discussed and recommended by the Performance Oversight Committee.

The committee reviewed procurement actions for items outlined in the board packet. The committee found these bids to have been submitted in accordance with the Authority's procurement policies and procedures, prices to be fair and reasonable, and the bidders to be responsive and responsible. The Performance Oversight Committee recommends these items for award for a total cost of \$4,983,206.61.

On behalf of the Performance Oversight Committee, Ms. Rainey requested approval of the resolution as presented.

It was moved by Mr. Mattola, seconded by Ms. Ellenbogen and unanimously agreed that the resolution be approved as presented.

The next resolution authorizes the Authority to apply for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Alternative Fuels Incentive Program grant for FY 2011 budget. This grant will offset the differential costs to the Authority of bio-diesel fuel used in its bus fleet. The Authority currently has a bio-diesel grant covering FY 2010, but has no grant funding for the FY 2011 budget. The Authority currently anticipates replacing 482,709 gallons of traditional fuel with environmentally sound bio-diesel fuel in FY 2011.

On behalf of the Performance Oversight Committee, Ms. Rainey requested approval of the resolution as presented.

It was moved by Ms. Ellenbogen, seconded by Mr. Taylor and unanimously agreed that the resolution be approved as presented.

The next resolution authorizes the Authority to file grant applications and enter into agreements for Federal FY 2010. During FY 2010, the Authority expects to receive allocations of Section 5309 Fixed Guideway Modernization Program funding; Section 5309 New Start funding; Section 5309 Bus and Bus Facility Program funding; Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program funding; and Section 5307 Flex Program funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Ms. Rainey explained that Federal funding is provided in the amount of 80 percent of total project costs, requiring a 20 percent non-federal match. This resolution authorizes filing the grant applications and entering into agreements with the FTA, PENNDOT, and Allegheny County to fund their respective portions of the Authority's FY 2010 capital improvement program.

On behalf of the Performance Oversight Committee, Ms. Rainey requested approval of the resolution as presented.

It was moved by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Ms. Ellenbogen and unanimously agreed that the resolution be approved as presented.

The next resolution authorizes the Authority to update bank account signatories. The Authority wishes to update the bank account signatories for all of its bank accounts to account for changes in its organizational structure.

On behalf of the Performance Oversight Committee, Ms. Rainey requested approval of the resolution as presented.

It was moved by Mr. Dodaro, seconded by Mr. Mattola and unanimously agreed that the resolution be approved as presented.

The next resolution authorizes the Authority to adopt an updated travel and expense reimbursement policy for Port Authority Board members and staff. This resolution will update our current policy to reflect current regulations and practices. These policies were last updated by resolution on April 19, 1996.

On behalf of the Performance Oversight Committee, Ms. Rainey requested approval of the resolution as presented.

It was moved by Ms. Ellenbogen, seconded by Mr. Mattola and unanimously agreed that the resolution be approved as presented.

The next resolution authorizes the Authority to enter into an agreement with the Department of Homeland Security for FY 2010 Transit Security Grant funding. The FY 2010 Transit Security Grant Program is providing funding for transit projects which meet the national goals to strengthen the security of the nation's transit systems. Federal funding is provided in the amount of 100 percent of total project costs requiring no state or local match.

On behalf of the Performance Oversight Committee, Ms. Rainey requested approval of the resolution as presented.

It was moved by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Ms. Ellenbogen and unanimously agreed that the resolution be approved as presented.

The final resolution authorizes the Authority to amend and consolidate Port Authority's Equal Employment Opportunity Policy, Policy against Sexual Harassment and Notice Avenue of Appeals/Complaints. All three of these policies have been updated and consolidated into one Equal Employment Opportunity Policy in order to be in compliance with the current goals and objectives of the Authority.

On behalf of the Performance Oversight Committee, Ms. Rainey requested approval of the resolution as presented.

It was moved by Ms. Ellenbogen, seconded by Mr. Mattola and unanimously agreed that the resolution be approved as presented.

Ms. Rainey reported that the committee then received an update from Winston Simmonds on the North Shore Connector project. He reported that the Gateway Station contract is 58 percent complete and on schedule. A total of \$30 million has been paid to date with change orders totaling a credit of \$71,000. The tunnel and North Side Station structure is complete. A total of \$153 million has been paid to date with change orders totaling a credit of \$1.7 million. The aerial structure contract is 78 percent complete and on schedule. A total of \$31 million has been paid to date with change orders totaling \$722,000. The train systems contract is 15 percent complete and on schedule. A total of \$11 million has been paid to date with change orders totaling \$71,000.

This concluded the report of the Performance Oversight Committee.

The Chairman called on Mr. Guy Mattola for a report from the Planning and Development Committee. Mr. Mattola reported that the Planning and Development Committee did not meet this month as staff was focused on the implementation of the Transit Development Plan, one of the most significant initiatives in the history of Port Authority.

Mr. Mattola reported that preparations are going well, and as Mr. Bland reported, we're looking forward to implementation of the first phase shortly.

Mr. Mattola then highlighted some of the items that the Planning and Development Committee will be discussing at its February meeting. He reported that at our February committee meeting, we will seek to formalize our planning agenda for 2010 [noting that the committee's sights are not limited to 2010]. We are simultaneously initiating planning for our Board workshop currently scheduled for April 20. At that meeting, we will develop an agenda of priority items to steer the Authority's agenda over the next three to five years. The February meeting will also kick off the planning for the FY 2011 budget.

This concluded the report of the Planning and Development Committee.

The Chairman called on Ms. Ellenbogen for a report from the Stakeholder Relations Committee.

On behalf of the Stakeholder Relations Committee, Ms. Ellenbogen presented the following resolution for consideration.

On October 24, 1986, Port Authority Board passed a resolution implementing a policy entitled Presentation by Members of the Public to the Board of Port Authority of Allegheny County. In recent months, the Stakeholder Relations Committee, along with Legal and Public Relations personnel, reviewed the policy to determine whether it should be amended to reflect changes in the structure of the Board and format of Board meetings and to consider an amendment to allow for requests to be submitted electronically.

Based on this review, the committee recommends that the policy be updated as detailed on Exhibit A in the board packet. The proposed amendment to the policy includes shortening the time limit for making presentation requests, allowing for presentation requests to be made via facsimile or electronically via the Authority's web site, modify presentation time limits to make them more efficient and compatible with the current structure of the Board and Board meetings, and other changes deemed reasonable and necessary by the Stakeholder Relations Committee and the Legal and Public Relations personnel.

At the January Stakeholder Relations Committee meeting, inside general counsel provided his opinion that the proposed amendments to the policy comply with the reasonable access and reasonable opportunity to address requirements of the Sunshine Act and Second Class County Port Authority Act because the proposed amendments would make it easier for members of the public to make requests to speak to the Board and the time limit modifications would allow the opportunity for more individuals to address the Board at an individual meeting.

The committee believes that the improvements to this policy will continue our transparency efforts, enhance the public's ability to address this Board and expand public participation and input. Therefore, on behalf of the Stakeholder Relations Committee, Ms. Ellenbogen requested approval of this resolution.

It was moved by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Mattola and unanimously agreed that the resolution be approved as presented.

Ms. Ellenbogen reported that the Stakeholder Relations Committee met on January 14, 2010 and the committee received updates and discussed several ongoing communications and public outreach efforts.

First, Ms. Wendy Stern and Ms. Judi McNeil presented a progress update on the TDP communications and education efforts. All forms of electronic and print communications tactics will be used including new media reporting, street teams handing out information, brochures, interactive web site information, briefings for community organizations and elected officials, along with utilization of social media and email blasts. It was reported that staff is on schedule to begin its communications and education blitz by one month prior to the implementation of the first phase of the TDP.

In furtherance of our transparency and outreach efforts, it was also reported at the meeting that Board committee and Board meeting agendas and resolutions are now being posted on Port Authority's web site for public review prior to consideration by the Board and committees. Previously, the resolutions were posted after the Board voted on them, which did not allow the public time to review and offer input prior to action by the committees or the full Board.

Then the committee heard from Heather Pharo, Port Authority's Public Relations representative, who gave the committee an update on the department's social media efforts. Port Authority's transit blog and twitter site have become popular with more than 1,000 followers. The department plans to expand its efforts to include other social media outlets in the near future.

Next, as Mr. Bland noted, Ms. Ellenbogen reported that the Spirit of King Annual Awards Ceremony took place at the Kingsley Center in East Liberty. This year's honorees were Bishop Charles H. Foggie and Dr. Jake Milliones. The Spirit of King award was established in 1989 by the Kingsley Association, Port Authority and the Pittsburgh Pirates, and annually honors the lifetime achievements of local citizens who pursue human rights and equality in the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. On behalf of the Stakeholder Relations Committee, Ms. Ellenbogen thanked Chairman Brooks, and Board members Guy Mattola and Eddie Edwards, for representing the Board and to Mr. Bland for participating in the ceremony. Ms. Ellenbogen also recognized Port Authority staffers Dante Calderone, Eric Wells, Ed Greene and Evelyn Newsome for coordinating this year's event.

As stated by Mr. Bland, Ms. Ellenbogen reported on how Port Authority stepped up to transport the Haitian orphans, caretakers and local medical personnel. She then read an email received by Mr. Bland and Mr. Bill Miller, Port Authority's Bus Operations officer.

*"Dear Steve and Bill, while the work with the Haitian kids still goes forward, I wanted to personally say thanks so much for your critical assistance on transportation planning throughout the day and night Monday and flawless execution of the plan today. Chuck Rompala and his team were professional, flexible, patient, and consistently went the extra mile in a situation fraught with challenges. I want to particularly mention the creativity that allowed us to get doctors and nurses going to the plane. We made this change about 5:30 in the morning and it would have been easy for Chuck to say no. But he said yes. That "yes" made a critical difference in the quality of the experience for kids and the docs and nurses." It was signed by Bob Stump, Allegheny County Department of Human Resources.*

Ms. Ellenbogen then recognized the many other Port Authority employees who were instrumental in assisting with this crucial transportation effort, including bus operators Ed McAndrews, Bill Brown, Curtis Kennedy and Eric Krol. In addition, along with Mr. Rompala, several of our finest from Road Operations assisted with coordinating the special service, including Rich Wojnar, Don Palmer, John Celesti and Nick LePore.

Ms. Ellenbogen added that this type of community service on the part of our employees is really the norm for Port Authority and not the exception.

Ms. Ellenbogen then took a few minutes to read some excerpts from other amazing stories that talk about how our employees quietly perform small acts of kindness day in and day out without recognition or expectation of it.

The first letter from Audrey Clark read as follows:

*"Dear Port Authority, thank you so much for coming to our aid on October 29, 2009. All of us tenants from the Blawnox Apartment Building had to vacate the building due to a 1:30 a.m. fire. You were so kind to provide a warm bus for us to sit in and await the outcome. Your wonderful driver then drove us to a nearby church where we were cared for until we received knowledge of our temporary housing. I was spared apartment damage, thank God, and permitted to return after two days and one night. Other neighbors are still not able to come back due to severe damage. Words cannot express to you how grateful I am for you and your kindness." It was signed gratefully and prayerfully, Audrey Clark.*

Ms. Ellenbogen read another letter addressed to Mr. Steve Bland from Colonel Frank Pulowski, who is the Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police.

*“Dear Mr. Bland, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for the invaluable assistance provided by Port Authority of Allegheny County to the Pennsylvania State Police from September 23 to September 25, 2009, during the week of the G-20 Summit. The assistance and professionalism shown by Mr. Charles Rompala, an employee of Port Authority of Allegheny County, was particularly exceptional. While I’m unable to document the results of what could have occurred had the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police and her sister agencies not been as prepared as they were, there is no doubt the ability of the Pennsylvania State Police to deploy as quickly and efficiently as we were able to definitely resulted in a safer and less violent G-20 Summit. This was due in great part by the fine work of Mr. Rompala and Port Authority transit drivers and equipment. Please accept this letter as heartfelt thanks on behalf of the Pennsylvania State Police for the excellent services provided by Port Authority and its employees. Thank you for a job well done.”*

Ms. Ellenbogen read one final letter that appeared in the Post Gazette on January 14 under Random Acts of Kindness, entitled “Bus driver had case to make other pause”:

*“I found this to be very touching and I want to pass it on. I was driving with my son on Brinton Road in Braddock Hills. There were two cars directly in front of me and a PAT bus in front of the cars. The bus stopped, which led to a slight traffic tie-up. There was only one lane in either direction, so I had no alternative but to wait for the bus to complete its stop. It seemed like the delay was longer than usual and I was getting impatient. After what seemed like forever, was probably five minutes at the most, my son noticed someone slowly getting out of the bus. It turned out that the bus driver was escorting a visually impaired rider off the bus. He left the bus parked on the street and walked the passenger along the snow-covered embankment by the road. All of the motorists, including me, then drove around the bus, so I did not get to see how far he escorted the passenger. I also did not see the number of the bus. I am hoping the bus driver or someone who knows him may see this. I was very touched by his actions and quite humbled by my own impatience given the circumstances. Once in a while it feels good to experience the kindness of strangers.” It was signed by Shelly Mayhack from Forest Hills.*

This concluded the Stakeholder Relations Committee report.

Under new business, the Chairman called on Ms. Annette Kroll to address the Board. Ms. Kroll wanted to speak to the Board regarding some of the service changes. She stated that originally when she moved to Allegheny County in 1990, a large part was due to the public transportation system available to her as a visually impaired person. This enabled her to have a lot of independence and mobility to get around.

She noted that she is specifically upset with the changes with the 36A because she relies on that bus for most things like getting to work and grocery shopping. She stated that even though she is visually impaired, she is someone who wants to work and be a productive person in the community. On a personal level, she is very active in the community with charity organizations such as the March of Dimes and blood drives. If her service is eliminated, this creates a hardship for her and it is very upsetting.

Ms. Kroll continued by saying that she has been active calling her Congressman and State Senator Pippi, who she believes back in 2005 did try to submit a bill for dedicated funding for public transportation.

When Ms. Kroll has called Port Authority, staff has suggested that she use ACCESS. She noted that she works for UPMC in Customer Service and cannot schedule a day or two in advance.

Ms. Kroll is willing to work with Port Authority to come up with a solution and is willing to go and speak in front of the Department of Transportation in D.C. or to Harrisburg. She does not want to sit home and collect a social security check. She wants to be an active, productive member of society.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Kroll.

The next regular meeting will be Friday, February 26, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned.