The Regular Meeting of the Board of Port Authority of Allegheny County was held on Friday, February 23, 2018, at 9:30 a.m., 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:
Jeff Letwin, Chair
Jennifer Liptak
Senator Jim Brewster
Ann Ogoreuc
John Tague
Rob Vescio
Rob Kania
Michelle Zmijanac
D. Raja
Stephanie Turman
Joel Lennen, General Counsel

Media:
Ed Blazina, Post-Gazette

Port Authority Staff:
Katharine Kelleman, chief executive officer, Bill Miller, chief operations officer, Keith Wargo, assistant general manager Engineering and Technical Support, Barry Adams, assistant general manager, Human Resources, Jim Ritchie, assistant general manager Marketing, Planning and Communications, Ed Typanski, director Grants and Capital Programs, Jeff Faddis, contract specialist Professional Services, Qazi Zahra, data analyst, Catherine Terrill, Professional Services contract specialist, Jerimaine Ward, manager Contract Administration, Fred Mergner, assistant manager Scheduling and Service Planning, Adam Brandolph, Public Relations representative, Deborah Skillings, Community Outreach representative, Diane Williamson, executive assistant.

Other
Jonah McAllister-Erickson, Speaker, Carolyn Lenigan, Steve Palonis, ATU, Local 85, Kim Morewood, ACCESS, Chandana Cherukupalli, Pittsburghers for Public Transit.

The Chair called the February 23, 2018 Regular Meeting of the Board to order.

After the recital of the pledge of allegiance, a recommendation was made for approval of the minutes of the January 26, 2018 Annual and Regular Meetings. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed.

The Chair called on Ms. Kelleman for a report of the Chief Executive Officer. Ms. Kelleman first reported on the Bus Rapid Transit project as we are about to schedule roughly a dozen community meetings to update riders and residents. Ms. Kelleman noted that these meetings will include the Mon-Valley communities. They will also include other areas within the overall BRT corridor where we have held previous community sessions and gathered public input.
Ms. Kelleman assured everyone that she has been spending considerable time on this matter as she wants to ensure that we are considering all possibilities as we make decisions going forward. She stated that she wants to be certain of the direction we are heading before we schedule this next round of meetings which she anticipates will occur in March and April.

Next, Ms. Kelleman reported on the Board Room upgrades. She stated that by the time we meet next month, a number of upgrades will have been completed in this Board Room. The improvements are long overdue as you can see from the huge televisions hanging from the ceiling that we don’t use. The upgrades range from new energy-efficient lights, ceiling tiles, replacing the older televisions with flat-panel LET monitors and new speakers and sound controls. The changes will modernize the Board Room function and make it easier for those attending our meetings to see and hear Board members and presentations.

Ms. Kelleman announced that she will be including a new item in her monthly Board report to acknowledge Port Authority employees, both active and retirees, who have passed away. She feels that recognizing their service to this agency and the community is appropriate. The following employees passed away in January and February 2018: Terence Renton; William Lyons; Daniel Amato; William Haslett; George Lucas; Paul Cody; Elmer Frazier Jr.; Jack Dean; Louis Cella; Frank DePietro; Leighton Irwin; Robert Stokes; Edward Duffy and Ronald Reiss.

That concluded the report of the Chief Executive Officer.

Mr. Letwin called on Ms. Zmijanac for a report of the Performance Oversight Committee.

Ms. Zmijanac reported that a meeting of the Performance Oversight Committee was held on February 15, 2018 and the minutes from the previous meeting were approved by the Committee.

The financial statements were presented at the meeting, and it was reported that Total Operating Revenues through January for Fiscal Year 2018 were approximately $4.38 million higher than budget mainly due to higher Passenger Revenues. It was also reported that Total Expenses for the Fiscal Year were approximately $12.7 million dollars under budget and Total Subsidies were approximately $345,000 under budget, which is a timing issue.

Mr. D. Raja referred to the decrease in ACCESS revenues and asked if this is a one-time thing or if it could become a trend. Port Authority’s CFO, Mr. Pete Schenk, responded that Shared Ride revenues could fall below budget depending on the future composition of ridership between Shared Ride passengers and those that are ADA eligible riders.

Ms. Zmijanac continued reporting that there were three resolutions reviewed by the Performance Oversight Committee and are being recommended for consideration by the Board.

The Committee first reviewed eight procurement items and found the bids to be in accordance with the Authority’s procurement policies and procedures, the prices to be fair and reasonable, and the bidders to be responsive and responsible. The Performance Oversight Committee therefore recommends the eight items outlined in the resolution for award for the total amount of $2.5 million.

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.

Ms. Zmijanac stated that the next resolution being recommended by the Performance Oversight Committee is authorization to award a construction contract for the South Hills Junction Roof Preservation project. It was reported that the contractor will renovate and preserve the existing metal roofs on Port Authority’s South Hills Junction Buildings 2, 4 and 5 and replace metal walkways, access ladders, flashings, gutters and downspouts. Bid documents were prepared and publicly advertised and five bids were received.

After review of the bids by staff and counsel, it has been determined that the bid of Schultheis Roofing, Inc., in the amount of $887,135.00, is the lowest responsive bid from a responsible bidder meeting the Authority’s specifications for the contract. Therefore, the Performance Oversight Committee recommends that the contract be awarded to Schultheis Roofing.

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.

Ms. Zmijanac presented the final resolution being recommended by the Performance Oversight Committee which is authorization to enter into an agreement for PeopleSoft Human Capital Management System Upgrade Services. Ms. Zmijanac explained that the contractor would be responsible for developing implementation options, detailed project plans, resource plans, schedules, training and supporting strategies to improve the Authority’s PeopleSoft based Human Capital Management System, and to implement selected customizations and modifications.

A request for proposals was prepared and publicly advertised and six proposals were received. The proposal submitted by GNC Consulting, Inc. has been determined to be the highest rated proposal for the performance of the services and a total not-to-exceed amount of up to $1,418,642 is recommended for approval. The Performance Oversight Committee therefore recommends the award of this contract to GNC Consulting, Inc.

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 called on Mr. Tague for a report of the Stakeholder Relations Committee. Mr. Tague reported that although he does not have any resolutions today, he wanted to report on two items.

First, he wanted to report on important transit funding matters at the state and federal levels. Mr. Tague reported that the President has proposed an infrastructure plan. He noted that there has been speculation that portions of the proposal may negatively impact public transit funding. The American Public Transportation Association issued a statement advocating for the federal government to continue funding public transportation. Port Authority’s CEO, Katharine Kelleman, will join other
transit leaders in Washington, D.C., in March to advocate transit funding, noting that Ms. Kelleman has traveled to Harrisburg twice since arriving in Pittsburgh, meeting with state leaders to discuss a variety of matters.

Mr. Tague continued reporting that during Planning and Stakeholder Relations Committee meeting last week, Ms. Breen Masciotra presented the group with an update on Transit Oriented Development and specifically the plans for Negley Station. As part of the Station Improvement Program, all 75 BRT and light rail stations were evaluated to identify the places where facilities need the greatest investment and conditions are ripe for walkable development. Port Authority sought feedback from station users, staff and the community through surveys and meetings.

Through this process, it was determined that Negley Station, location along the East Busway, should be the first station renovation project. The planners took a holistic approach to evaluating the station area. They not only looked at the needs of the riders and the station, but all modes of transportation including buses, cars, bicycles and walkers, along with the needs and concerns of the community.

Mr. Tague concluded his remarks by reporting that the Authority is proposing a significant investment in improvements to the Negley Station. Possible new features will include improved pedestrian safety, wider walkways, improved visibility and accessibility, a vehicle drop off area, bicycle racks, maps and signage, ConnectCard machines and improved storm water management.

Mr. Tague concluded his report by thanking Ms. Masciotra and her team for an excellent presentation.

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

Under new business, Mr. Letwin presented a resolution to create a new standing committee. Previously, the Board created a temporary special purpose committee to address various technology issues pertaining to Authority’s fare system. He reported that the Board now wishes to create a standing committee to oversee and address various technology changes, implementation and issues and will be called the Technology Committee.

The Chair stated that Mr. Rob Vescio would be the Chair of the newly created Technology Committee, along with members, Ms. Jennifer Liptak and Mr. Rob Kania.

Mr. Letwin respectfully requested approval of the resolution. It was moved, seconded and unanimously agreed that the resolution be approved as presented.

There was one speaker, Mr. Jonah McAllister-Erickson, who addressed the Board.

Mr. McAllister-Erickson’s remarks were in regard to the BRT project. He stated that the proposed Bus Rapid Transit plan has many beneficial aspects such as bus only lanes, signal prioritization, enhanced stations, and high level platforms that will improve the riding experience. Beyond that, the BRT plan would improve pedestrian infrastructure and connectivity, as well as providing much needed bicycle infrastructure in the Oakland to downtown corridor.

Mr. McAllister-Erickson also addressed his concerns with the project. He stated that the Mon-Valley has 13 of the 15 poorest communities in Allegheny County, it has a much higher percentage of zero
car households and that this proposal will make the public transit connections between the Mon Valley and our region’s two primary employment centers more difficult.

Mr. McAllister-Erickson also shared his concerns with the Hazelwood Greenfield four-mile run project. His concerns are with autonomous vehicles, a lack of real community engagement and who will really benefit from the plan.

There being no further business to conduct. The meeting was adjourned.

The next Regular Meeting of the Board will be Friday, March 23, 2018.