PORT AUTHORITY OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, MAY 31, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Port Authority of Allegheny County was held on Friday, May 31, 2019 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
Jennifer Liptak, Vice Chair
Michelle Zmijanac
John Tague
Stephanie Turman
D. Raja (via phone)
Ann Ogoreuc
Senator Jim Brewster
Rep. Austin Davis
Rep. Lori Mizgorski
Joel Lennen, General Counsel

Media
Ed Blazina, Post-Gazette
Bob Mayo, WTAE

Port Authority Staff
Katharine Kelleman, chief executive officer, Keith Wargo, chief engineer Planning and Engineering, Mike Cetra, chief legal officer, Pete Schenk, chief financial officer, Adam Brandolph, Public Relations manager, Dan DeBone, Community and Government Relations Officer, Jim Ritchie, chief communications officer, Jeffrey Devlin, chief information officer, David Huffaker, chief development officer, Inez Colon, chief Human Resources officer, Jerimaine Ward, manager Contract Administration, Catherine Terrill, Professional Services contact specialist, Phillip St. Pierre, director Service Development, Heather Wilhelm, director Service Delivery, West Mifflin, Tony Trona, director Purchasing and Materials Management, Fred Mergner, program manager Scheduling, Maria Nickerson, manager Internal Audit, Ed Typanski, director Grants and Capital Projects, Sarah Kastelic, Digital Communication Specialist, John DeAngelis, manager Contract Administration, Mike Heidkamp, Deputy Chief Operations Officer Operations, Danielle Hillgartner, assistant director Rail, Cindy McMonagle, assistant to the director East Liberty, Mike Sniegocki, director Service Delivery, Ross, Neil Caponi, associate internal auditor, Melissa Dunbar, Professional Services contract specialist, Brad Straight, director Road Operations, Darcy Cleaver, assistant manager Passenger Amenities, Robert Valenzuela, Procurement contract administrator, Andre Carr, assistant to director Collier, Ellie Newman, manager Transit Analysis, Louise Pickert, software support analyst, Amy Silbermann, director Planning Department, Diane Williamson, executive assistant.

Operators Recognized
John Borodycia, East Liberty
David Kay, Collier
Raymond Rohe, Collier
Linda Washington, Collier
James Wastchak, Collier
Randy Miles, Ross
James Savage, West Mifflin
Christopher McCrea, West Mifflin
The Vice Chair called the May 2019 Regular Meeting of the Board to order on behalf of the Chair, Mr. Letwin, who was unable to attend. Ms. Liptak also announced that Mr. D. Raja was participating by phone.

Following the pledge of allegiance, a recommendation was made for approval of the minutes of the April 26, 2019 Regular Meeting. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed.

The Vice Chair called on Ms. Kelleman for the report of the Chief Executive Officer.

Ms. Kelleman started her report by asking for a moment of silence as she read the names of the employees and former employees that passed away last month: Operators Cornelius Henderson Jr., Alan Hecht, Garver Rayburn and Eugene Conner; Fleet Warranty Program Specialist Keith Augenstein; Manager Purchasing and Materials Jessie Coleman; and Advertising Account Executive Nancy DeVall.

Ms. Kelleman also acknowledged the passing of former Board member Dr. Charles Martoni and the very tragic death of Thomas Dunn, an operator at Ms. Kelleman’s former property in Tampa. Thank you to all of our operators who have been wearing black ribbons this week. Ms. Kelleman stated that these senseless attacks underscore the need for additional penalties for violence against public transit operators, and we at Port Authority fully support House Bill 632 of 2019 that would upgrade the criminal penalties for assaulting transit operators.

Ms. Kelleman reported that ridership in the month of April was up nearly two percent over last year and we are still about 1.5 percent above year-over-year, so again, still beating the national trend.

Ms. Kelleman stated that we all know that public transit begins and ends with doing what is best for our customers and that is reliable access at a reasonable cost. It is a simple concept, as agencies from across the country know, but is sometimes a little more difficult to execute. So nationally, our operating costs are higher than before. Uber and Lyft have been a bit of competition, and as folks move to new neighborhoods that we do not serve, we have the challenge of connecting people back to this robust network, which is the best way for us to get people around. Technology is changing the way others perceive our industry, and locally, the trucker’s lawsuit has impacted our capital funding and accelerated a lot of our funding conversations of what it takes to fund the kind of transit agency that our city and our region deserves. Nevertheless, you did not bring me here to keep things status quo. Ms. Kelleman said that she has a very clear direction that it is time to do more and we deserve better. And you have seen some of these initiatives in the past year and a half, and we need to prepare for our future.

Ms. Kelleman stated that in the next 18 months, Port Authority will hire a consultant to assist us with a system plan. It is time to do a holistic view with our entire community, where should transit be in 20 years and make that blueprint of how we get there. Instead of saying what we can afford, let us go with what we deserve and figure out then how we afford it. Therefore, you will start seeing at the Planning and Stakeholders Committee meeting updates on this process. Instead of looking at one-
year service planning, which we’ve done historically, it is time to look at neighborhoods as a whole and look at sections of our area in which we need to improve the service.

We have heard loud and clear that we need to improve on how we collect fares and today the Board will consider going with our first jump into the future of fare collection with the resolution for a mobile app.

Ms. Kelleman announced that next week we will have our inaugural bus in the Pittsburgh’s Pride Equality March. We invite all of our employees to be out there on June 9.

Finally, we are going to continue to recognize operators who have gone 20 years without a chargeable accident. Ms. Kelleman then recognized the following employees: Operator John Borodycia from East Liberty; Operators David Kay, Raymond Rohe, Linda Washington and James Wastchak from Collier; Operator Randy Miles from Ross; and Operators James Savage and Christopher McCrea from West Mifflin. Kenneth Belke from Ross and Jeff McCambridge from the Rail Center are also among these operators but were unable to attend today.

That concluded the report of the Chief Executive Officer.

Ms. Liptak called on Ms. Zmijanac for a report of the Performance Oversight Committee. Ms. Zmijanac reported that the Performance Oversight Committee met this week and she had a few items to report.

At the meeting, Chief Financial Officer, Peter Schenk, reported that for the month of April 2019, Total Operating Income was below budget by $173,275 primarily due to lower Passenger Revenues. However, Total Operating Income for the fiscal year remains approximately $209,000 over budget. Total Expenses for the month of April were under budget by approximately $1.9 million.

Operating Subsidies were reported under budget by $3.4 million for the month due to a timing issue with State Operating Assistance. Mr. Schenk also reported that the extraordinary operating expenses related to last year’s flood and derailment totaled approximately $4.2 million.

Ms. Zmijanac stated that there were five resolutions reviewed by the Performance Oversight Committee.

The Committee first reviewed three procurement items and determined that the bids were in accordance with the Authority’s procurement policies and procedures, the prices were fair and reasonable, the bidders were responsible and the bids responsive. The Performance Oversight Committee recommends for award the three items listed in the resolution for the total amount of approximately $1.4 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 reported that the next resolution seeks authorization to award a contract for the Sidewalk and Stairway Rehabilitation project at the Wood Street and Steel Plaza LRT Stations. Bid documents were prepared and publicly advertised and two bids were received. After review of the
responsive bids, it has been determined that the bid of A. Merante Contracting, Inc. is the lowest responsive bid from a responsible bidder.

The Performance Oversight Committee recommends awarding the contract to A. Merante Contracting, Inc., in the amount of $1,414,805, subject to the completion of all pre-award requirements.

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 seeks authorization to award General, Plumbing and Electrical construction contracts for the Collier/Manchester Garage Bus Lift Improvements project. Bid documents were prepared and publicly advertised. Two bids were received for the General Construction Contract, one bid was received for the Plumbing Construction Contract and three bids were received for the Electrical Construction Contract.

The Performance Oversight Committee recommends awarding the General Construction Contract to Allegheny Construction Group, Inc., in the amount of $2,462,000.00; awarding the Plumbing Construction Contract to Wheels Mechanical Contracting and Supplier, Inc., in the amount of $198,800.00; and awarding the Electrical Construction Contract to TSB, Inc., doing business as Schultheis Electric, in the amount of $122,000.00, subject to the completion of all pre-award requirements.

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 seeks authorization to establish a third-year budget with Transdev Services, Inc. In April 2017, the Authority’s Board authorized the award of a five-year agreement with Transdev Services to provide professional services to coordinate and administer paratransit services for individuals with disabilities and elderly persons in Allegheny County, also known as ACCESS.

The Agreement specifies that a not-to-exceed amount must be established for each fiscal year. A not-to-exceed amount of $2,667,880 is being recommended for the Agreement’s third fiscal year, covering the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. This represents a 3.1 percent increase when compared to the costs approved for last year.

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 final resolution seeks authorization to enter into a Designated Service Agreement with Pittsburgh Public Schools. It was reported at the meeting that for several years, the Pittsburgh Public Schools purchased monthly paper flash passes from the Authority to distribute to students to utilize the Authority’s transportation system to travel to and from school.

The Authority previously implemented a pilot test program to test identification cards compatible with the Authority’s smart card-based Automated Fare Collection System. The Authority and the
Pittsburgh Public Schools worked together to transition students from monthly paper flash passes to identification cards.

Now that the transition of students has been completed, the Authority wishes to enter into an agreement to maintain the use of the identification cards in exchange for the Pittsburgh Public School’s paying the Authority an applicable standard monthly pass rate per student identification card used per month.

The recommendation is to enter into an agreement with the Pittsburgh Public Schools per the terms and conditions set forth in Exhibit A attached to the resolution.

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 Vice Chair called on Mr. Tague for a report of the Planning and Stakeholder Relations Committee. Mr. Tague reported that the Planning and Stakeholders Relations Committee met on Wednesday and he has four items to report to the Board.

Ms. Amy Silbermann provided a review of Port Authority’s Title VI Program. The FTA requires that Port Authority review and update our program every three years. Program updates must be reviewed and adopted by the Board. The Authority staff, as part of the triennial review effort, has made various updates and revisions to the program that have also been submitted to the FTA Region III Office of Civil Rights for review.

This resolution amends and adopts the program for the 2019-2021 period, subject to any further revisions or amendments deemed necessary by FTA.

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

Next, Mr. Tague reported that Mr. David Huffaker, Port Authority’s Chief Development Officer, discussed the Long-Range Plan. Port Authority has not had a long-range plan since 2006, which had a future horizon date of 2020. We are in the process of forming a new 25-year plan with community input and scheduling community meetings throughout the county. We should have a final report in the fall of 2020 but look forward to regular public updates along the way.

Next, Mr. Tague noted that Mr. Schenk presented the Authority’s preliminary Operating and Capital budgets for 2020. The proposed operating budget is $463 million and the proposed capital budget is $58 million. The preliminary budgets will be posted online, and a final Board vote is planned for our June meeting.

Next, Mr. Tague provided the Board with updates from the Allegheny County Transit Council. At the May 22 General Meeting, members were provided an opportunity to learn about the Authority’s budget categories to prepare for the actual budget presentation scheduled for the June meeting. Port Authority’s Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Schenk, provided a general overview of the budget process.
and funding categories. Mr. Devlin, Port Authority’s Chief Information Officer, provided some general discussion related to digital apps, how they function and what apps are currently available that share Port Authority scheduling information.

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

Ms. Liptak then gave the report of the Technology Committee. She thanked Mr. Letwin for chairing the meeting for her.

Ms. Liptak reported that she had three items for the Board’s consideration today.

The first item presented is for the procurement of wide area fiber optic connectivity. The bid of Lightower has been determined to be the lowest responsive bid from a responsible bidder and the price to be fair and reasonable. The Technology Committee therefore recommends for award the procurement of the wide area fiber optic connectivity from Lightower for the total amount of $891,000.

On behalf of the Technology Committee, Ms. Liptak respectfully requested approval of the resolution. It was moved, seconded and unanimously agreed that the resolution be approved as presented.

Ms. Liptak stated that the second item presented to the Committee was for the purchase of Multiband GPS transit antennas and sealant. The bid of Express Systems & Peripherals has been determined to be the lowest responsive bid from a responsible bidder and the price to be fair and reasonable.

On behalf of the Technology Committee, Ms. Liptak respectfully requested approval of the resolution. It was moved, seconded and unanimously agreed that the resolution be approved as presented.

Ms. Liptak reported that the final resolution seeks authorization to enter an agreement with Masabi LLC to design, build, operate and maintain a mobile ticketing application and provide supporting services. In response to the Authority’s RFP, 11 proposals were submitted. Through the Board adopted procurement policy and procedures, the Authority’s evaluation team reviewed the proposals, conducted interviews, gathered supplemental information and ultimately determined the proposal submitted by Masabi to be the highest rated proposal.

The Authority is requesting the authorization to enter into an agreement with Masabi for a term of three years with two option years that can be exercised at the sole discretion of the Authority. The proposed total not-to-exceed amount for the agreement is $2,850,000, plus a tiered revenue share up to 5.95 percent.

On behalf of the Technology Committee, Ms. Liptak respectfully requested approval of the resolution. It was moved, seconded and unanimously agreed that the resolution be approved as presented.

At this time, Representative Davis commended the administration, in particular Ms. Kelleman, for their work and her leadership and thinks this is a step in the right direction in creating a more equitable transit system.

Ms. Liptak thanked Representative Davis for his comments and agreed that it is something we have requested for some time for the accessibility of our patrons to purchase fares.

That concluded the report of the Technology Committee.
There were no items under New Business.

There was only one speaker, Mr. Paul Groark, who addressed the Board regarding the need for WI-FI availability in the subway and tunnels.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next Regular Meeting of the Board will be Friday, June 28, 2019.