

Planning and Stakeholder Relations Committee

Minutes

March 15, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am in Port Authority's Neal H. Holmes Board Room at 345 Sixth Avenue, Fifth Floor, Pittsburgh, with the following in attendance:

Board Committee Members

John Tague, Jr., Chairman
Ann M. Ogoreuc
Stephanie Turman

Board Members and Solicitor

Michelle Zmijanac
Joel Lennen

1. Opening Remarks

Mr. Tague, Committee Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

2. Approval of Minutes from the February 15, 2018 Planning and Stakeholder Relations Committee Meeting

Mr. Tague asked Committee members if there were any corrections to the minutes. There were none and members approved the minutes.

3. Station Square Station Conceptual Design Presentation (B. Masciotra)

Ms. Breen Masciotra showed a PowerPoint presentation of the Station Square Transit Center Design, which includes:

- Current station includes:
 - Four Bus Stops – including 13 different bus routes
 - Light Rail Station – includes three LRV routes
 - Incline Station
 - Combined total of 5800 riders a day – third busiest location in the system
- Station Square has been an entertainment and tourist location – including over \$350 million in planned real estate development.
- Walkshed – everything in Blue on the presentation is within a ten-minute walk to the light rail station.
- When the Authority started to look at this project they looked at staff and community input with a station user survey. The results of the rider survey indicate riders would like to see:
 - Better design, more information and safety improvements
 - The number one obstacle that people identified with is feeling unsafe from traffic
 - Also in the community meetings and with staff there was discussion about the concerns with the crosswalk and traffic

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- Station Improvement Projects generally include three components TOD Feasibility, Station Access and Station Design.
 - TOD Feasibility is not included for this station as Port Authority does not own land
 - Station Access – create a safe environment and easy access
 - Station Design – improve design and appearance of station, improve rider experience.
- Proposed street improvements:
 - Widening the Sidewalks and adding a landscape buffer.
 - Under the bridge of the Light Rail – screen off the area and add public art and landscaping. Add light and make it feel safer and welcoming.
 - Improve the design of the station such as lowering the brick walls to add more light into the station by using screening.
 - PennDOT Improvements:
 - PennDOT is working on a project that includes East Carson Street from Smithfield Street to 33rd Street. The purpose of their project is pedestrian safety improvements.
 - The Authority staff has provided input to PennDOT on this project to insure it meets Port Authority's needs.
 - Most important thing that PennDOT is doing and a benefit to the Station Square planning work is moving the inbound bus stop. A major concern at the bus stop is illegal pedestrian crossings from the bus stop to the Light Rail Stop.
 - Signage and clear graphics near key access locations, as one way to show all these transportation modes are in one area and give some indication that there is a light rail facility to your left and an incline station to your right.
 - Another recommendation is implementing a landscape buffer and bumping out the curbs making them wider. This will make it safer for pedestrians to cross the street.
- Making some changes to the Incline Station:
 - The employee parking is currently the most visible part of the station.
 - When you open the door to the Incline it blocks the sidewalk. Would like to add an automatic sliding door
 - Adding a plaza in place of employee parking
 - Adding a ticket vending machine outside
 - Creating better access for maintenance by adding an access road behind the incline for Port Authority employees only

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Questions from committee and board members

1. Ms. Zmijanac asked what are the areas in Blue across the Smithfield Bridge (as shown on the presentation)?
 - Ms. Masciotra answered – It is the area that riders can walk to such as Downtown, it is within ten-minute walk or ½ mile to a Light Rail Station or Bus Station.
2. Mr. Tague asked what is going to be done with wayfinding and real time?
 - Ms. Masciotra answered – Mr. Vetere is responsible for those efforts and it is not yet known what type of signage the Authority will be using, especially for the electronic real time.
3. Ms. Turman asked what is the timeline of the project?
 - Ms. Masciotra answered we will be following up with Mr. Wargo and having future design meetings and submitting our capital requests to consider what we need to support to keep this project going.