

## **Planning and Stakeholder Relations Committee**

### **Minutes**

**February 14, 2019**

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

Robert Kania  
Jeff Letwin  
Joel Lennen  
Michelle Zmijanac

### **Opening Remarks**

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

### **Approval of Minutes from the January 17, 2019 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.

### **Economic Development Report Presentation (eConsult Solutions)**

Mr. Ritchie said that last year the Authority started the Economic Development Study, as it was a topic of interest to CEO Katharine Kelleman and board members. The Authority did not have a recent economic impact report about the value of public transportation information for local government, county government and the State. It is valuable information when you are talking to people discussing the benefits of public transportation. SEPTA has done an effort like this recently and they have excellent information that they are using every day and now we will too. The folks that have provided this information are with us today - Mr. Dick Voith and Mr. Ethan Conner Ross from eConsult Solutions, Inc. and they are going to walk us through results of the study.

Mr. Voith, President of eConsult Solutions, Inc., gave a brief introduction about the firm, which is an economics and planning consulting firm.

There are three major sections to the report:

#### Economic Impact

- **Expenditure Impacts:** Tracing the flow of funds. When Port Authority spends a dollar on operating or capital - what does that mean for the economy?
- **Economic Competitiveness and Equitable Growth:** How is the service enabling density and productivity, which is really driving the economy of the region? How is it connecting those equitably?

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- **Investment and Property Value Impacts:** The value that is generated from the transit service. How is it that reflecting on where developments are happening and how does that affect homeowners or residents throughout the county?

### **Questions from committee, board members and others**

1. Mr. Tague asked have we analyzed how many dollars have been paid out in taxes.
  - Mr. Ross answered yes there is a tax impact from this.
2. Mr. Tague asked about expanding the walk shed.
  - Mr. Ross said there are some programs that will expand the distance you can get to with your bike.
3. Mr. Ritchie stated that every the Authority often is questioned about the value provided to the economy.
4. Ms. Zmijanac stated we cannot be reminded enough about how valuable it is and we provide public transportation to the community. Thank you to Mr. Ritchie for getting this information.
5. Ms. Kelleman stated everyone internally knows how valuable the Authority is but outside of Allegheny County how do we build that support to invest with people who are in Harrisburg or Washington that are not going to come through Pittsburgh. It was critical for the Authority to be acknowledged, that we are an engine for the County. So, when we are talking to our legislators that are not public transportation supporters, we can point to the improvements of property value and that we are helping to grow the economy. Thank you to Mr. Ritchie and Mr. DeBone for moving so quickly and getting this data.