

**Planning and Stakeholder Relations Committee
Minutes
November 12, 2020**

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:

Via WebEx Board Committee Members

John Tague, Jr., Chairman
Jessica Walls-Lavelle
Ann Ogoreuc
Stephanie Turman

Board Members and Solicitor

Sandy Garfinkel, Esq.
Representative Lori Mizgorski
Michelle Zmijanac
Representative Austin Davis

Opening Remarks

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

Approval of Minutes from the October 15, 2020 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.

BRT Project Update (David Huffaker & Amy Silbermann)

Mr. Huffaker, Chief Planning Officer gave a brief update on the Downtown-Uptown-Oakland-East End-Bus Rapid Transit Project:

- Design is 90% complete
- Starting to work with the POMC (Project Management Oversight Consultant), which is a representative of Federal Transit Administration.
 - Opportunity to evaluate readiness of our project and our ability to receive Federal Funding
- Will receive Federal Funding in January or February 2021
- We had begun on-line meeting's with Stakeholders, we just had one on Monday, November 9, 2020 and will have another one on Thursday.
- There will be on-line public engagements to discuss final design of project in February 2021.
- Will evaluate various activities with P.O.M.C.
 - Financial Plan
 - Resources dedicated to the project

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- Right-of-Way plan
 - Risk Management strategies
 - Risk assessment Workshop with them in early FY2021. This will go towards their evaluation of the project.
 - We anticipate that they will allow for us to receive the Federal Funding in early to-mid FY2021 which will then allow us to bid and let the project contracts, both our construction management and our construction contracts
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- Mike Cetra and his legal team continue to work through our Right of way acquisition plan
 - We have many parcels primarily related temporary construction easements. We are working on securing with property owners, limited property acquisitions that we need to make for the project, that work is under way.
 - Once we begin the construction process late FY2021 then construction will be on-going in FY2022.
 - We will be making bus procurements particularly the battery electric buses as part of this project will occur late in FY2021 as well.
 - A lot of work on the Roadway's in FY2022, construction will be finishing up in FY2023 and we anticipate revenue service begin in late FY2023
 - We have started a round of BRT Stakeholder updates, we have some official Stakeholder groups were partnering with, these are groups that represent communities throughout Downtown, Uptown, Oakland and East End communities
 - We have two public meetings that are being held on-line on Microsoft Teams. We did a Microsoft Teams live event
 - On Monday we were welcomed by County Executive, Rich Fitzgerald, we had Katharine Kelleman, our CEO, give us a few moments of welcome and then engage with about 60 individual Stakeholders, plus several Port Authority staff and you can see some pictures of the team in Katharine's office, which became our studio for the day. It was really an engaging conversation; people were able to ask questions through the chat function, those questions ran through the gambit like Station Design, Operations, right turns into the bus lane, status of the bike lanes, utility work and it was such a free range of conversation.
 - We will be doing a general round of public engagement in early FY2021

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Two additional items David Huffaker would like to discuss:

- Theme 3 – How can Transit Get You There?
 - November 17, 11:30am-1:00pm
 - November 18, 9:00am-10:30am
 - November 18, 5:30pm-7:00pm
 - Public Input on our website at **NEXTransit. network**
- Annual Service Report
 - Baseline schedule: November Board Presentation
 - 2020 Responding to COVID 19
 - Revised Schedule: Present to Board in January

Questions from Board Members and Others

1. Mr. Tague stated what does it mean we are at 90 percent. Does this mean there is 10 percent left. What type of changes could be made if any now? If something comes up in our Stakeholders meeting that we haven't thought about. Do we have a point person for the City that we work with?
 - a. Mr. Huffaker answered, the ability for us to make major changes is very limited at this point without significantly effecting the budget and schedule. We do believe that covered or identified fatal flaws or any major flaws in the project. We have been reaching out and working with various property owners and constitutes and Stakeholders throughout the process. There have been conversations about Station Locations and what the design looks like. We believe that we have identified any major issues.
 - b. Yes, we have had engagements and been working with City staff, particularly the department of infrastructure and just in September I believe they did hire a full-time project manager to interface with our team and other city departments as well as the public
2. Mr. Tague asked on our Bus Stop Consultation project
 - a. Mr. Huffaker said the last time we made changes to our stops was in March, due to COVID 19, it is on hold