

PORT AUTHORITY OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Port Authority of Allegheny County was held on Friday, February 25, 2022, 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.

The following members were in attendance in person: Jeff Letwin, Chair, Jennifer Liptak, Representative Austin Davis and Ann Ogoreuc. The following members were in attendance virtually: Senator Jim Brewster, John L. Tague Jr., Jessica Walls-Lavelle, Representative Lori Mizgorski, Gerald Delon, Michelle Zmijanac, Stephanie Turman and General Counsel Sandy Garfinkel.

The Chair called the February 25, 2022 Regular Meeting to order and requested everyone stand for the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for the people of Ukraine.

A recommendation was made for approval of the minutes of the January 28, 2022 Annual and Regular Meetings. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed.

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

Ms. Kelleman first asked for a moment of silence for the following retired and active employees: Operators Dave Bojanic, Thomas Shandrewsmith, and Tara Michael; bus assignment shifters Keith Nunley and Mary Ellen Allen; automotive mechanic John Remark; William Kwence, assistant manager of road operations; George Guthrie, facilities systems supervisor; and off board fare collector Robert Hines.

Ms. Kelleman began her remarks by stating that the last time she stood at the podium was on January 28, at which time the Authority was gathering information and learning more about a bridge collapse in the Squirrel Hill area. It would eventually be learned that a 60-foot articulated bus containing the operator and two passengers, and a few other vehicles were on the bridge when it collapsed, and there were 10 people injured, but thankfully no deaths.

Ms. Kelleman continued reporting that the collapse of the Fern Hollow Bridge served as a wakeup call throughout our region about the importance of maintaining our infrastructure and keeping it in a state of good repair if we want to safely rely on it and continue to use it in the future.

Ms. Kelleman also reported that six Port Authority officers performed a selfless act to climb down the hillside to help the driver and two passengers get out of the bus despite a major natural gas leak at the site. After the rescue, the officers assisted with other aspects of the emergency response before they sought treatment for their own natural gas exposure.

Ms. Kelleman acknowledged the officers involved in the rescue at this time. They were Lt. Rob DiPippa, Sgt. Shawn Mauro and Officers Nicholas Masi, David Harris and Trastian Collins. A dispatcher, telecommunications specialist Greg Sherman, helped to coordinate the initial dispatch of all emergency personnel to the site.

Ms. Kelleman noted that these employees should be commended for their bravery and selflessness.

Before concluding her report, Ms. Kelleman announced that on Thursday, March 3 at 10 a.m. the Authority will be hosting a groundbreaking event at Negley Station, which will be the first station in the Authority's Station Improvement Program to undergo construction. The improvements include a new ramp and stairs to and from South Negley Avenue, new inbound and outbound platforms, LED lighting, and increased safety elements.

She also announced that two weeks later on March 17 at 2 p.m. the Authority will be hosting a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the McKeesport Transportation Center and it is hoped that the newly improved center will be a catalyst for development in the community.

That concluded the report of the Chief Executive Officer.

The Chair called on Ms. Zmijanac for a report of the Performance Oversight Committee.

The Performance Oversight Committee met during the prior week and she had one resolution for the Board's consideration.

After approving the minutes from the January 20, 2022 Performance Oversight Committee meeting, the Committee reviewed three procurement items and determined the bids to be in accordance with the Authority's procurement policies and procedures, the prices fair and reasonable, the bidders to be responsible and the bids responsive.

The Performance Oversight Committee recommended the award of bids listed in the resolution for the total amount of \$24,188,848.

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 Planning and Stakeholder Relations Committee.

Mr. Tague reported that the Planning and Stakeholder Relations Committee met during the prior week and he had several items for the board.

First, the Committee was given a presentation regarding the conceptual plan for South Hills Junction Station which began in May 2021. There were public meetings held in May, August, and November of 2021. The final plan was just released during February.

Mr. Tague noted that the master plan includes improving station access, enhanced pedestrian safety, ADA accessibility, and streetscape improvements, including wider sidewalks and street trees.

Mr. also Tague noted that the most exciting element is a new pedestrian bridge spanning the junction that will connect the top of the Lelia Street steps in Mt Washington to Warrington Ave on the Beltzhoover side. The plan also contains a rebuilt station that combines bus and rail on one platform, new seating, wind screens, lighting, and a canopy.

Total construction costs are estimated to be \$53-69 million. Right now, this is just a conceptual plan. The next steps include developing a master facility plan and identifying funding sources. Construction is likely 5-8 years away.

Next, Chief Development Officer, David Huffaker, provided the results of the Public Review Process for the November 2020 Service Changes in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Board authorized a public comment period starting on December 1, 2021 and ending on February 1, 2022. In addition, staff hosted an online information session and a formal public hearing in January. There were six registered speakers, and their comments centered around recognizing the need to serve those communities most hurt by the pandemic. They would also like to understand the metrics used for decision-making around restoring service. A complete report of public comments will be made available to the public on the Port Authority website.

Mr. Huffaker also provided an update of the Port Authority's bridge inventory and Bridge Maintenance Program to the Committee. He reported that Port Authority has 79 bridges that it maintains. The average condition score of those bridges is 6.1, which is designated as satisfactory. There are nine bridges with a score of four, which is poor. Mr. Huffaker stated in his report that all nine bridges that have a poor rating are either already in the Capital Program for rehabilitation or are in the FY 2023 capital budget request.

Mr. Tague continued reporting that the Saw Mill Run Blvd Bridge, which connects the Red Line and South Busway to downtown, was taken out of service in February after staff identified an unexpectedly large gap in the expansion joint on the bridge. The Engineering Department staff has determined that water infiltrated the support structure and that subsequent freezing of that water caused the gap in the expansion joint. That bridge will be out of service approximately 10-12 weeks while repairs are made. A Red Line shuttle connecting Beechview to the remainder of the T system will be provided while repairs are being made. Staff will continue to monitor complaints to ensure that we provide a shuttle that works for the community.

Next Mr. Tague reported on the Committee for Accessible Transportation and Allegheny County Transit.

The Committee for Accessible Transportation held their quarterly meeting in February. Staff provided an update on Port Authority's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Annual Service Report. Director of ACCESS, Karen Hoesch, provided an update on ridership, ACCESS' efforts to recruit new drivers, the provider service area transition and ACCESS' snow policy. The next meeting is scheduled for May 5 and will be conducted using Microsoft Teams unless otherwise noted.

The Council also met virtually in February. Staff provided a summary of the recent public hearing and public comment period. The next meeting is scheduled for March 23 and will be conducted using Microsoft Teams unless otherwise noted.

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

The Chair called on Ms. Ogoreuc for a report of the Finance Committee. Ms. Ogoreuc reported that the Finance Committee met last week and she had two resolutions for the Board's consideration.

The first resolution presented was seeking authorization to extend an agreement to provide fare model development and related Title VI Fare Equity Analysis services.

It was reported that in January 2019, the Board authorized an award of an agreement to Four Nines Technologies to provide such services for an initial three-year term with two option years for a not-to-exceed amount of \$210,000.

Ms. Ogoreuc reported that the Finance Committee was advised that all work will be on a work order basis and only conducted as needed.

The Finance Committee recommended approving this resolution authorizing exercising the first option year, extending the agreement to February 28, 2023, and the increase of the not-to-exceed amount to \$410,000.

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

The second resolution presented was seeking authorization to enter into an agreement to provide pension plan actuarial services.

It was reported at the meeting, that after six proposals were received and reviewed, Cowden Associates Inc., was determined to be the highest rated proposal for the performance of the services.

The Finance Committee recommended entering into an agreement with Cowden Associates, Inc., in the total not-to-exceed amount of \$1,082,350, for a term of four years with two additional option years at the sole discretion of the Authority.

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

Also at the Finance Committee meeting, the January financial results were reported to the Committee.

It was reported that Total Operating Income for the month of January was under budget by \$3.9 million dollars and \$26.5 million dollars under budget for the fiscal year due to lower Passenger Revenue and ACCESS Shared Ride Revenue. Federal ARPA funding will be utilized to make up for this revenue shortfall.

Total expenses in January were \$1.9 million dollars below budget and \$29.6 million dollars below budget for the fiscal year.

Total Subsidy for the month of January was \$6.2 million dollars below plan due to lower State Operating Assistance and Preventive Maintenance invoicing.

Finally, it was reported that the Authority ended the month of January with approximately \$158.8 million dollars in cash reserves.

That concluded the report of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Letwin presented a resolution under New Business requesting approval of a performance bonus for Port Authority's CEO, Katharine Kelleman, in the amount of 10 percent of Ms. Kelleman's base salary.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the resolution be approved as presented.

Mr. Letwin congratulated Ms. Kelleman and thanked her for her leadership during these trying times. The Chair added that the Board agreed Ms. Kelleman has met or exceeded all of the key performance indicators set by the Board.

One speaker addressed the Board this month. Mr. Ralph Williams, President of ACTC, congratulated Ms. Kelleman on her performance bonus. Mr. Williams also congratulated the officers honored today for their heroism; thanked staff for their due diligence in regard to closing the Saw Mill Run Bridge; and requested to work together with staff and the Board on funding.

The Chair announced the next Regular meeting of the Board will be Friday, March 25, 2022.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.