

**Regional Transit Coordination Study**  
**Joint Study Committee Meeting #4**  
**January 19, 2011**  
**12:00 p.m.**

Anna Lynn Smith reviewed the meeting agenda and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to review study progress made to-date, focusing on feedback received at the transit roundtable, updated corridor mapping, preliminary transit corridor evaluation methodology, and public outreach tasks.

### **Transit Roundtable**

Anna Lynn presented the results of the transit roundtable breakout groups. Generally they identified seven categories of “issues”, including transit agency implementation challenges, the need for aggressive marketing of the service, and challenges associated with the diverse and dispersed land use in the study area. All identified the use of Park and Rides as key to bringing people to transit.

Feedback from the transit roundtable was generally favorable, although Dennis Louwse thought some of the break out groups were too focused on route details and not discussing more strategic opportunities and constraints. He emphasized the need for the second transit roundtable to be focused on clear goals.

### **Corridor Modifications**

Ryan Furgerson reviewed the modifications to the 10 preliminarily identified corridors that were presented at the transit roundtable as a result of the discussions. These proposed revisions include:

- 1) Cyan Corridor – Connect from Chambersburg to Hanover (service to York provided via existing rabbit transit route)
- 2) Green Corridor – Extend into Camp Hill (service to Harrisburg CBD provided by existing CAT route)
- 3) Brown Corridor – Should stay on US 422 into Reading CBD – same approach as Red Corridor (it currently appears to head up on US 222)

More substantial changes were proposed for two additional corridors:

- 4) Purple Corridor – Need to consider a system of circulator routes to employers from Amtrak vs. a bus-only corridor on I-283
- 5) Pink Corridor – Can become a feeder to existing CAT service on other side of Susquehanna River. Shown as carpool/Van Pool locations vs. a bus route from Perry to Cumberland County

Ryan also discussed the three inset maps which represented additional details for several corridors:

- BRT – between Camp Hill and Harrisburg CBD to provide passengers a good connection option to continue to Harrisburg if desired.
- Shuttle to Hershey Medical Center from Elizabethtown and Middletown
- Express Bus – Hanover to York

JSC discussion seemed to concur with the first three suggestions; but they thought replacing the Purple Corridor with a series of circulator buses from the Amtrak stations was not a good idea. They felt that Amtrak is a different market than bus service, and preferred to keep the Purple Corridor on I-283 to better serve destinations near the Eisenhower interchange. It was also suggested that PB follow up with John Ward of the Modern Transit Partnership to obtain a copy of a circulator study done in conjunction with Corridor One as well as similar efforts with HATS in Lebanon County with Corridor Two. The JSC members thought the PA Turnpike Commission recently completed a study of commuter traffic on the Turnpike, and that consideration should be given to identifying the Turnpike as a corridor.

The JSC felt that the comments heard on the Pink Corridor related to carpools versus bus service reflected Perry County's reluctance to fund bus service for their residents.

Other additions that had been made to the revised corridor map included adding existing Park and Ride locations and icons denoting recommended type of service for the proposed corridors as follows:

- Red: Express City Bus
- Brown: Express City Bus
- Orange: Express City Bus
- Yellow: Commuter Coach
- Gold: Commuter Coach
- Purple: Circulator Shuttle
- Pink: Carpool/Vanpool
- Green: Express City Bus
- Cyan: Small Van

The JSC suggested that the consultants revise the corridor maps (one map per corridor) and data tables that were presented at the Transit Roundtable #1 for their review. JSC members will have 7-10 days from the receipt of the material to review and comment on the corridors.

### **Corridor Evaluation Methodology**

Andrew Smart then presented a heat map, an analytic tool that geographIT put together based on a weighted analysis of demographic data, travel data and road infrastructure, including:

- Workers commuting alone
- Job density
- Employment density
- Population density
- Highways

Andrew explained the methodology for creating the result and how the input parameters can change the results. Andrew also explained how the map displays "Transit Need" based solely on a data analysis perspective and modifying weighted values or data used in analysis will change the results. It was also explained that this map can be used as a tool for corridor alignments and does not represent final results or exact corridor alignments as there are elements to consider which the data does not represent.

The JSC expressed some concern that the weighting of the different measures could radically change the resulting map. It was agreed that this map could potentially be considered as an evaluation tool, but that more thought would be needed in terms of weighing the various factors.

Anna Lynn then reviewed other potential evaluative techniques or tools. "On the Map", a tool available from the Census Bureau shows the locations of employees' homes for a certain defined location. Anna Lynn showed examples of applications where a corridor, employer and borough were the defined locations. The JSC thought the tool was too confusing to present publicly at the next transit roundtable, but that there may be merit in using this tool for specific employer location analysis.

She next presented a draft matrix that could be used to analyze the corridors. The matrix would be used to help prioritize the implementation of the corridors. The potential measures explained include:

1. Heat Map
2. Potential for future ridership growth and economic development

3. Availability and capacity of existing P&R locations
4. Corridor serves zero car households
5. Number of counties route serves
6. Provides for intermodal connections
7. Major constraints exist to implement
8. Allows for future expansion of the corridor

There was considerable discussion of these measures. Initial comments were provided on the specific criterion. Again, the table of performance measures would be updated to reflect comments received at this meeting and be distributed to the JSC for their review and comment. Comments will be due within 10 days of the receipt of the materials.

Anna Lynn announced that the webinar would be recorded on Thursday January 20. Beth Nidam will distribute the link to JSC members for distribution to their Commissioners and other stakeholders. She reported the website had been updated to include the materials from the Transit Roundtable #1. The date for Transit Roundtable #2 was chosen as April 11, 2011. Pending verification of availability, all agreed the HACC was a good location; suggested start time is 8 a.m. (as opposed to 8:30).

Members of the JSC were asked to share any efforts that they had made to coordinate transit service in the region. All reported that the only two examples in the area are Lebanon Transit to Harrisburg and rabbitransit to Harrisburg. In both cases the initiating transit agency provides the service. There is no coordination with CAT. Adams and York Counties are connected administratively, but not the transit services.

Two additional meetings of the JSC were scheduled to discuss progress and prepare for Transit Roundtable #2. They are:

- February 22, 2011      10:00 a.m.      Commuter Services      issues and best practices
- March 22, 2011      10:00 a.m.      Commuter Services      agenda/presentation materials

The JSC suggested the consultants review the Pittsburgh area (SPC) as a potential model of transit system coordination.

**JSC Attendees: 1/19/11**

| <b><u>NAME</u></b> | <b><u>AGENCY</u></b> |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Laura Lutz         | URS                  |
| Thomas Cerny       | URS                  |
| Jeff Glisson       | RRTA                 |
| Dennis Louwerse    | BARTA                |
| Alan Piper         | BCPC                 |
| Bill Parkins       | CAT                  |
| Richard Schmoyer   | ACOPD                |
| Beth Nidam         | YCPC                 |
| Rich Farr          | YCTA                 |
| Tim Reardon        | TCRPC                |
| Anna Lynn Smith    | PB                   |
| Steve Deck         | PB                   |
| Maggie Mund        | PB                   |
| Ryan Furgerson     | Michael Baker        |
| Andrew Smart       | GeographIt           |