

SCHUYLKILL RIVER PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING PACKET
JANUARY 23, 2023

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T4A JANUARY MONTHLY REPORT



Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority

Meeting Agenda

January 23, 2023, 3pm*

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of December 19 Minutes
3. Board Member Comments
4. Public Comment on Agenda Items
5. Federal Railroad Administration Corridor Program Application Update – Tom Frawley
6. Committee Reports
 - a. Finance – Commissioner Lawrence, Chair
 - i. Auditor Solicitation Update
 - ii. Motion to Pay Bills - *Action*
 - b. Marketing & Public Relations – Brian O’Leary, Chair
 - i. Committee Update
 - c. Planning – Scott France, Chair
 - i. Committee Update
 - d. Personnel – Commissioner Moskowitz, Chair
 - i. Committee Update
 - e. Community Engagement – Jim Gerlach, Chair
 - i. Committee Update
6. Interim Executive Director’s Report
7. Other Business
8. General Public Comment
9. Adjourn

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority will be conducted virtually at 3:00 PM on Monday, February 27, 2023. The same public registration link will be available for that meeting.

*Meeting will be held virtually and open to the public via the following registration link:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CnKBM4M8RTuVhXSwtTjoMw

SCHUYLKILL RIVER PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING PACKET

JANUARY 23, 2023

DRAFT MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 19, 2022 MEETING

Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority Meeting

DRAFT Minutes

December 19, 2022

3:00 p.m.

The following members were in attendance:

Authority Members

Christian Leinbach, Berks County Board of Commissioners, Chair

Marian Moskowitz, Chester County Commissioner, Vice Chair

Kenneth Lawrence, Jr., Montgomery County Commissioner, Treasurer

Scott France, Executive Director, Montgomery County Planning Commission, Secretary

Jim Gerlach, President, GRCA, Assistant Secretary

Peter Urscheler, Phoenixville Borough Mayor, Assistant Treasurer

Brian O'Leary, Executive Director, Chester County Planning Commission

Eddie Moran, Mayor, City of Reading

David Zellers, Montgomery County Director of Commerce

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Christian Leinbach, Chair of the SRPRA, called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Mr. Scott France, Secretary of the SRPRA, read the guidelines for making public comments.

2. Adoption of November 28, 2022 Minutes

Christian Leinbach called for any corrections to the minutes.

As there were no corrections or objections to the draft minutes of the November 28, 2022 SRPRA meeting submitted, the minutes were approved.

3. Board Member Comments

There were no Board member comments.

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items

There were no public comments submitted.

5. Adoption of 2023 Meeting Schedule-Action

Christian Leinbach said that the 2023 SRPRA meeting schedule was included in the Board members' meeting packet for their consideration. Meetings will continue to be held on the 4th Monday of each month, with the exception of September (Yom Kippur) and December (Christmas), when the meetings will be held on September 18th and December 18th.

Vice Chair Marian Moskowitz motioned, and Commissioner Kenneth Lawrence, Jr., Treasurer seconded, all voted unanimously, and the motion was carried to adopt the SRPRA 2023 meeting schedule.

6. Subcommittee Reports

a. **Finance – Comm. Lawrence, Chair**

Commissioner Ken Lawrence stated that five invoices have been received to date for the SRPRA, that the 2023 SRPRA budget was in the process of being updated, and that the auditor solicitation process was continuing. He then invited SRPRA's Interim Executive Director, Tom Frawley to report on these items in detail.

i. Auditor Solicitation Update

The executive search for an auditor for the SRPRA has begun. Over twenty firms were contacted, and two requests for proposals have been placed with Maillie LLP and Baker Tilly, LLP, with a due date of January 13, 2023.

ii. *Motion to Pay Bills-Action*

Commissioner Ken Lawrence said there was one outstanding bill for the Authority to be paid for \$4,656.88 for Thomas E. Frawley Consulting, LLC November 2022 services provided as Interim Executive Director.

Commissioner Lawrence motioned, and Mayor Urscheler seconded, all voted unanimously, and the motion was carried to approve the payment of Invoice 2022-11 in the amount of \$4,656.88 payable to Thomas E. Frawley Consulting, LLC for November 2022 services.

b. **Marketing & Public Relations– Brian O'Leary, Chair**

i. Committee Update

Brian O'Leary reported that the committee met last week. He urged the Board to go to the SRPRA website to view the expanded content and said that more information would be included in future. The committee's focus next month will be on social media. Enclosed in the Board packet was a list of taglines developed for the Authority; the committee narrowed it down to one: "Reconnecting Reading and Philadelphia", and asked the Board for their thoughts adding that the tagline needn't be permanent and that it might change over time as the project advances.

c. **Planning – Scott France, Chair**

i. Committee Update

Scott France reported that the committee is awaiting the federal corridor ID program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and notice regarding the U.S. Department of Transportation's thriving communities funding opportunities. The Authority's forecasted operating expenses have been updated and Board may provide feedback before it goes before the finance committee next month. The Planning Committee will be coordinating with Jim Gerlach's committee on community engagement on long term/localized issues and a possible future station policy statement. The Planning Committee is scheduled to meet with PennDOT on December 13th.

Transportation for America is working on their goal of securing a meeting with Senator Elect Fetterman's staff in early 2023, for SRPRA Board members and their consultants. Mayor Eddie Moran will obtain a letter of intent from the City of Reading for the Authority. As he has established contacts with Senator-Elect Fetterman's staff, he offered to assist in outreach on the Authority's behalf.

d. **Personnel – Comm. Moskowitz, Chair**

i. Committee Update

Marian Moskowitz, Vice Chair, reported that she did not have any updates from the committee.

e. **Community Engagement – Jim Gerlach, Chair**

i. Committee Update

Jim Gerlach reported that the committee is working on establishing three community sessions with officials from Reading, Pottstown and Phoenixville. They are compiling the invitee list and developing the appropriate process for holding meetings in mid/late January 2023 meeting. He asked Board members to please send him any suggestions for possible invitees.

7. **Interim Executive Director’s Report**

Tom Frawley, Interim Executive Director, reported that a successful session with Amtrak was held last week. It was a press event regarding procurement of new dual powered rolling stock that is designed to operate in both diesel and electrified territory and that will support multiple lines nationwide including Reading to Philadelphia. He announced that further to Scott France’s comments, that prior to the meeting he received a copy of the FRA’s Corridor ID and Development Program notice as published in the Federal Register, and has forwarded it to the Board members. Some key items in the document include 3 stages: 1) development of scope, schedule and budget for building the service development plan (funded 100% up to \$500K); 2) the preparation of the service plan itself (funded 90-10 with no preconceived numbers in terms of limits); and 3) going into preliminary engineering and NEPA environmental activities (funded 80-20). The application due date is 90 days after publication in the Federal Register, which would be third week of March 2023.

8. **Other Business**

There was no other business discussed.

9. **General Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

10. **Adjourn**

Chairman Christian Leinbach adjourned the meeting at 3:42 p.m.

Next Board Meeting

January 23, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,



Ann Marie Meehan

SCHUYLKILL RIVER PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING PACKET
JANUARY 23, 2023

BILLS RECEIVED SINCE DECEMBER 19 MEETING

FROM: THOMAS E FRAWLEY CONSULTING, LLC

551 Daventry Road
Berwyn, PA 19312-1740
Attention: Thomas E. Frawley

Thomas E. Frawley Contact Information:
Tom@FrawleyConsulting.com
610-724-5028 (Mobile)

TO: SCHUYLKILL RIVER PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY
Berks County Courthouse and Government Services Center
633 Court Street
Reading, PA 19601
Attention: Finance Committee

Contract Date: 20SEP2022	Sequential Payment Request Number: 04
Start Date: 26SEP2022	Invoice Number: 2022-12
	Invoice Date: 02JAN2023

Invoice for services performed as Interim Executive Director of the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority for the period: Thursday, December 1, 2022 through Saturday, December 31, 2022.

LABOR, INCLUDING OVERHEAD AND FEE				
ELEMENT DESCRIPTION		TASK HOURS	CONTRACT RATE	TOTAL LABOR CHARGES
December 2022		70.20	\$100.00	\$7,020.00
				\$7,020.00

EXPENSES, AT COST			
DESCRIPTON OF EXPENSES		NOTES	EXPENSES INVOICED
Personal auto and parking			\$212.00

TOTAL CHARGES THIS INVOICE - LABOR AND EXPENSES		\$7,232.00
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INVOICE LABOR, EXPENSES, AND HOURS SUMMARY AND STATUS			
	LABOR	EXPENSES	TOTAL
CHARGED PRIOR TO 01DEC2022	\$16,690.00	\$101.33	\$16,791.33
CHARGED DURING 01DEC2022 - 31DEC2022	\$7,020.00	\$212.00	\$7,232.00
OVERALL CHARGED TO DATE	\$23,710.00	\$313.33	\$24,023.33
PREVIOUS INVOICES OUTSTANDING	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL INVOICES OUTSTANDING INCLUDING THIS INVOICE	\$7,020.00	\$212.00	\$7,232.00

	HOURS
HOURS EXPENDED PRIOR TO 01DEC2022	166.90
TOTAL HOURS CHARGED DURING 01DEC2022 - 31DEC2022	70.20
TOTAL HOURS CHARGED 01SEP2022 THROUGH 31DEC2022	237.10

I have personally examined this billing statement. All entries are correct and reasonable for the services performed and allowable costs incurred, and no item on this statement has been previously billed.

Thomas E. Frawley, P.E., Esq. - Principal

02-JAN-2023
DATE

Thomas E. Frawley, P.E., Esq., MBA - Interim Executive Director

Hours - Thursday 01DEC2022 through Saturday 31DEC2022

Invoice Number: 2022-12

Invoice Date: 02JAN2023

DAY	DATE	HOURS	DESCRIPTION OF PRIMARY ACTIVITIES PERFORMED (ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED IN ATTACHED MONTHLY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT)
Thursday	1	0.00	
Friday	2	0.00	
Saturday	3	0.00	
Sunday	4	1.00	Prepare invoice
Monday	5	3.50	Pottstown Health & Wellness Fdn call
Tuesday	6	4.10	Transportation for America call; auditor solicitation
Wednesday	7	5.00	Smart Growth Alliance meeting in Reading
Thursday	8	2.00	Phone answering service
Friday	9	3.50	Auditor solicitation
Saturday	10	0.00	
Sunday	11	2.50	FRA Partnerships NOFO
Monday	12	4.00	Auditor solicitation
Tuesday	13	7.00	Auditor solicitation; Exec Dir report; Finance Cmte report
Wednesday	14	5.00	Executive Cmte call; Marketing and PR Cmte call
Thursday	15	9.00	Amtrak press event NYP; Technical Cmte call; board meeting packet
Friday	16	3.50	Planning Cmte meeting; Exec Dir report
Saturday	17	0.00	
Sunday	18	0.00	
Monday	19	4.60	Board meeting; Technical Cmte call; review FRA CID&D NOFO
Tuesday	20	4.00	Transportation for America call; SAM number; begin
Wednesday	21	0.00	Community Engagement Committee meeting
Thursday	22	0.00	
Friday	23	0.00	
Saturday	24	0.00	
Sunday	25	0.00	
Monday	26	1.00	CID&D application outline
Tuesday	27	3.00	CID&D application outline
Wednesday	28	4.50	CID&D application draft
Thursday	29	3.00	CID&D application draft
Friday	30	0.00	
Saturday	31	0.00	

Task Totals:	70.20	
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Certified: _____

Thomas E. Frawley, P.E., Esq. - Prinicpal



Date: 02-JAN-2023

Thomas E. Frawley, P.E., Esq., MBA - Interim Executive Director
 Expenses - Thursday 01DEC2022 through Saturday 31DEC2022
 Invoice Number: 2022-12
 Invoice Date: 02JAN2023

EXPENSES THIS INVOICE			
DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	NOTES
7-Dec-22	Personal Auto: 68 mi @ \$0.625	\$42.50	Drive to Smart Growth Alliance meeting in Reading
15-Dec-22	Personal Auto: 4 mi @ \$0.625	\$2.50	Drive to Paoli Amtrak station
15-Dec-22	Amtrak PAO-NYP RT	\$167.00	Keystone Service #648 and #651

Task 1 Total: \$212.00



Certified: _____ Date: 02-JAN-2023
 Thomas E. Frawley, P.E., Esq. - Principal

1152 15th Street NW, Ste 450
 Washington, DC 20005
 Telephone: 202-207-3355
 Fax: 202-207-3349
 Federal EIN: 27-0038938

DATE: 12/23/2022
INVOICE # 23-SGA-110

FOR: SRPRA Rail consulting services
PROJECT NO. 2213-SRPRA
ACCOUNT CODE: 4100

BILL TO: Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority
 Attn: Thomas E. Frawley
 633 Court Street
 Reading, PA 19601
 tom@frawleyconsulting.com

DUE DATE: 1/22/2023

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Primary Services Tasks (November 2022)	\$ 3,500.00
Primary Services Tasks (December 2022)	\$ 3,500.00
<i>Please reference the above-mentioned invoice number on your p</i>	
Subtotal	\$ 7,000.00
Tax Rate	0.00%
Sales Tax	-
Other	-
Total	\$ 7,000.00

We prefer payment by ACH transfer

Bank: Capital One Bank
 1800 M Street NW
 Washington, DC 20036

ABA #: 255071981
 Beneficiary Acct #: 1574304640
 Beneficiary: Smart Growth America
 Reference: Invoice Number

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

SCHUYLKILL RIVER PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING PACKET
JANUARY 23, 2023

FRA GRANT APPLICATION STATUS REPORT

FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION
CORRIDOR IDENTIFICATION
AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

SCHUYLKILL RIVER PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY
APPLICATION STATUS REPORT

JANUARY 23, 2023

PROGRAM INCLUDES 3 STEPS

PROGRAM PHASE	MATCH
Step 1: Develop Scope, Schedule and Cost Estimate to Prepare Service Development Plan (SDP)	\$500k with No Match Required
Step 2: Prepare Service Development Plan	No Ceiling Identified; 10% Match Required
Step 3: Engineering and Design	No Ceiling Identified; 20% Match Required

SRPRA Application Covers Steps 1 and 2

PROGRAM APPLICATION IN DEVELOPMENT

- " Complete Initial Draft Anticipated by January 27
- " SAM Number Requested in December
- " Application Limited to 15 Pages plus Letters of Support
- " Letters of Support Requested by February 3
- " Completed Application Package Targeted for March 3
- " Submission Planned for March 6
- " Applications Due March 20

SCHUYLKILL RIVER PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING PACKET
JANUARY 23, 2023

TRANSPORTATION FOR AMERICA (T4A)
JANUARY 2023 MONTHLY REPORT

January 2023 Report to the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority

FRA Announces Northeast Corridor Improvements

On Thursday, December 22, the [FRA announced](#) \$9 billion in investments along the Northeast Corridor via that corridor's [project inventory](#). These projects include the Portal Bridge project, the Gateway Hudson Tunnel project, and the Philadelphia 30th Street District Plan, all of which constitute capacity improvements that will benefit the viability of the Reading – Philadelphia – New York.

Congress Reaches Spending Deal

On Tuesday, December 20, Congressional leaders released a compromise [omnibus FY2023 spending bill](#) to fund the federal government through September 2023. The bill short-changes a number of Federal Railroad Administration programs, funding them at levels well below the amounts authorized in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

The Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail program would receive \$100 million, a small fraction of the \$1.5 billion authorized in the IIJA. This adds to the \$7.2 billion the program will receive in advanced appropriations from the IIJA, bringing total Fed-State funding to \$7.3 billion in FY23.

The Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Improvement Grants (CRISI) program would get \$535 million, a little over half the \$1 billion in the IIJA. This is in addition to the \$1 billion the program will receive in advanced appropriations from the IIJA, bringing the total CRISI funding to \$1.535 billion in FY23.

Amtrak funding for the Northeast Corridor (NEC) – \$1.2 billion – exceeded the \$1.1 billion authorized to it in the IIJA while funding for the National Network was set at \$1.2 billion, far less than its \$2.2 billion in the IIJA. The National Network's budget this year will be buoyed by an additional \$3.2 billion in advanced appropriations from the IIJA, bringing total FY23 program funding to \$4.4 billion. While this is much more than the \$1.2 billion in advanced appropriations for the NEC (total FY23 being \$2.4 billion), Congress chose to fully fund the NEC while shorting the National Network.

Corridor ID NOFO Released

On Tuesday, December 20, the FRA released a [Notice of Corridor Solicitation and Funding Opportunity for the Corridor Identification and Development Program](#). For each corridor selected through this program, of which the SRPRA can apply for multiple, the FRA will award \$500,000 to conduct planning to scope and estimate costs for an Service Development Plan (SDP). Once those activities are complete, selected corridors will also receive funding to create SDPs and further develop relevant projects.

The NOFO clarifies that eligible “corridors” include intercity passenger rail routes of less than 750 miles, the restoration or enhancement of existing such routes, and increased service

[Transportation for America \(T4America\)](#) is an alliance of elected, business and civic leaders from communities across the country, united to ensure that states and the federal government step up to invest in smart, homegrown, locally-driven transportation solutions – because these are the investments that hold the key to our future economic prosperity. t4america.org

frequency on existing long-distance intercity passenger rail routes. Applications for all corridors are due on March 10, 2023. T4A is working with commission members and county staff on an application for the Reading – Philadelphia segment of the Reading – Philadelphia – New York Corridor.

Rail Included in USDOT's National Climate Strategy

On Tuesday, January 10, the United States Department of Transportation released its [Blueprint to Decarbonize America's Transportation Sector](#). This report mentions passenger rail several times as a pillar of USDOT's climate action strategy to relieve congestion and shift trips to modes other than personal, carbon-emitting vehicles. But the focus of the passenger rail strategy is on electrifying rail. Here is a quote from the report:

Although passenger rail does not currently account for a relatively large proportion of passenger miles traveled relative to other modes, it is critical to addressing traffic congestion in and between cities and can play an important role in decarbonizing both freight and passenger movements...

While electrification is more common in the U.S. for passenger rail than for freight rail, commuter rail is not fully electrified. As such, the electrification of commuter rail fleets offers promising opportunities for further emissions reduction. Longer-distance rail for passengers and freight may require fuel technologies in addition to electric batteries and fuel cells to achieve emissions reductions goals, and pathways to total decarbonization still need to be determined. Priority actions and levers to decarbonize rail include:

1. Infrastructure investments in electric locomotives and the expansion of electrification corridors to help to accelerate the zero-emission transition. Interoperability and infrastructure for clean fuel technology adoption will facilitate efforts. Federal funding may be used to purchase more efficient and cleaner trains and to implement solutions that improve system-level efficiency. Other investments that will maximize emissions reductions include building strong domestic rail equipment supply chains for electric and alternatively fueled locomotives and railcars and supporting the development and deployment of sustainable fuels.

2. Multi-stakeholder collaborations to accelerate the deployment of rail technologies that reduce emissions and increase efficiency. Ambitious and shared targets and regulation for the rail sector can help minimize investment risk and catalyze decarbonization actions. Existing industry partnerships such as EPA's SmartWay Program are designed to improve efficiency and reduce emissions in the freight network. State freight advisory committees and rail and freight plans present opportunities for stakeholders to help identify pathways to transition fleets and modernize rail systems.

3. Research and innovation to advance technology through pilot projects, greater infrastructure investments, and continued policy and regulation support that helps accelerate the growth of electrification of the U.S. passenger rail system. Freight rail research should be prioritized to determine the most promising paths to decarbonization, including a

focus on sustainable fuels and the design and manufacture of new locomotive propulsion and fueling systems. The four agencies and partners should identify transformative pathways that can help inform the development of ambitious goals and regulation to reduce rail emissions. The continued collection of real-world operational data to better understand vehicle requirements and develop models and tools to perform technical analyses can help to identify the most viable pathways for clean technology solutions to replace diesel locomotives.

For questions or more information, please contact John Robert Smith at jrsmith@t4america.org or 601-527-5040.