

SCHUYLKILL RIVER PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING PACKET
DECEMBER 19, 2022

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T4A DECEMBER MONTHLY REPORT



Schuykill River Passenger Rail Authority
Meeting Agenda
December 19, 2022, 3pm*

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of November 28 Minutes
3. Board Member Comments
4. Public Comment on Agenda Items
5. Adoption of 2023 Meeting Schedule - *Action*
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 Schuykill River Passenger Rail Authority will be conducted virtually at 3:00 PM on Monday, December 19, 2022. 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

DECEMBER 19, 2022

DRAFT MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 28, 2022 MEETING

Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority Meeting

DRAFT Minutes

November 28, 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

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Christian Leinbach, Chair of the SRPRA, called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

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

2. Adoption of October 24, 2022 Minutes

Christian Leinbach called for any corrections to the minutes.

As there were no corrections or objections to the draft minutes of the October 24, 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. Subcommittee Reports

a. Finance – Comm. Lawrence, Chair

i. Banking Update/Signature Authority

As the banking has been completed, Commissioner Ken Lawrence asked Tom Frawley to report on the payment of the SRPRA's bills.

ii. Motion to Pay Bills-Action

SRPRA's Executive Interim Director, Tom Frawley, said there was one outstanding bill for the Authority to be paid for \$9,760.00 for his October, 2022 services provided as Interim Director.

Commissioner Lawrence motioned, and Commissioner Moskowitz seconded, all voted unanimously, and the motion was carried to approve the payment of Invoice 2022-10 in the amount of \$9,760.00 payable to Thomas E. Frawley Consulting, LLC for October 2022 services.

b. Marketing & Public Relations– Brian O’Leary, Chair**i. Committee Update**

Brian O’Leary reported that the committee is still gathering content, and Peter Urscheler and Tom Frawley have completed work on the Authority’s ~~Constant Contact account and the~~ email account.

c. Planning – Scott France, Chair**i. Consultant Update/Smart Growth America T4A**

Scott France reported that his presentations to the Pottstown Health and Wellness Foundation and the Greater Reading Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers to share information on the rail project were well received. He said that a kick-off meeting with Transportation for America was held and their first monthly report was included in the Board meeting packet. A key takeaway was the impact of the recent election results and the need for Board outreach with Senator Elect Fetterman’s staff before year’s end. A Washington D.C. trip should be planned for February 2023, for SRPRA Board members and their consultants.

ii. Outside Agency Coordination

Scott France said Tom Frawley has scheduled a meeting with the Executive Committee and Andrew Batson, Acting Deputy Secretary for Multi-Modal Transportation at PennDOT on December 13, 2022. The meeting with Amtrak will be scheduled once the ~~quarter-Corridor~~ ID program is in effect. The application for the APA Mobile Workshop has been submitted.

d. Personnel – Comm. Moskowitz, Chair**i. Committee Update**

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

e. Community Engagement – Jim Gerlach, Chair**i. Committee Update**

Jim Gerlach reported that the committee met last week and will soon meet with officials from Reading, Pottstown and Phoenixville. They are currently compiling an invite list to be completed by the 1st week of December, send out the invites by the 2nd week in December for the mid/late January 2023 meeting. He asked Board members to please send him any suggestions for possible invitees.

6. Interim Executive Director’s Report

Tom Frawley, Interim Executive Director of the SRPRA reported that he would add the 2023 SRPRA Board meeting schedule to December’s agenda for approval. Meetings will continue to be held on the 4th Monday of each month at 3 p.m., with the exceptions of September and December, when the meetings will be held on the 3rd Monday of those months because of holidays (Yom Kippur and Christmas).

Tom said he would present an updated, detailed SRPRA 2023 budget at the Board at the December meeting. He also reminded the Board that he would shortly begin a search of auditing firms for the SRPRA, and post an RPF on the county websites with a view to presenting 2-3 firms to the Board for final consideration. Tom Frawley said the FRA will release funding opportunities in early December and he will be exploring these opportunities with the FRA.

Christian Leinbach added that he would convene the 1st Executive Committee meeting of the SRPRA (Commissioners Lawrence, Moskowitz, Leinbach) shortly, to keep things moving forward. To be discussed: 1) the Authority’s FRA (Federal Railroad Administration) application; 2) planning for a delegation of SRPRA officials to go to Washington D.C. in February 2023 to meet with elected officials re the project.

Tom Frawley introduced John Robert Smith and Giancarlo Valdetaro of Transportation for America. John Robert Smith made a presentation on ways in which Transportation for America plans to provide technical assistance, advocacy and leadership for the SRPRA. Next steps include: examining upcoming funding opportunities; developing a corridor ID timeline; identifying stages of development; planning the 2023 Washington D.C. visit; preparing for corridor ID and Federal-State partnership grants; reaching out to local governments.

7. Other Business

There was no other business discussed.

8. General Public Comment

There was no public comment.

9. Adjourn

Chairman Christian Leinbach adjourned the meeting at 3:58 p.m.

Next Board Meeting

December 19, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,



Ann Marie Meehan

SCHUYLKILL RIVER PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING PACKET
DECEMBER 19, 2022

PROPOSED 2023 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE



PROPOSED BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2023

ASSUMES 4TH MONDAY OF EACH MONTH EXCEPT AS NOTED
 ALL MEETINGS AT 3:00 PM AND HELD VIRTUALLY

| DATE | NOTES |
|--------------|--|
| January 23 | |
| February 27 | |
| March 27 | |
| April 24 | |
| May 22 | |
| June 26 | |
| July 24 | |
| August 28 | |
| September 18 | 3 rd Monday due to Yom Kippur |
| October 23 | |
| November 27 | |
| December 18 | 3 rd Monday due to Christmas |

SCHUYLKILL RIVER PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING PACKET
DECEMBER 19, 2022

BILLS RECEIVED SINCE NOVEMBER 28 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: 03 |
| Start Date: 26SEP2022 | Invoice Number: 2022-11 |
| | Invoice Date: 13DEC2022 |

Invoice for services performed as Interim Executive Director of the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority for the period: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 through Wednesday, November 30, 2022.

LABOR, INCLUDING OVERHEAD AND FEE

| ELEMENT DESCRIPTION | TASK HOURS | CONTRACT RATE | TOTAL LABOR CHARGES |
|---------------------|------------|---------------|---------------------|
| November 2022 | 46.50 | \$100.00 | \$4,650.00 |
| | | | \$4,650.00 |

EXPENSES, AT COST

| DESCRIPTON OF EXPENSES | NOTES | EXPENSES INVOICED |
|---------------------------|-------|-------------------|
| Personal auto and parking | | \$6.88 |

TOTAL CHARGES THIS INVOICE - LABOR AND EXPENSES

\$4,656.88

INVOICE LABOR, EXPENSES, AND HOURS SUMMARY AND STATUS

| | LABOR | EXPENSES | TOTAL |
|---|-------------|----------|-------------|
| CHARGED PRIOR TO 01NOV2022 | \$12,040.00 | \$94.45 | \$12,134.45 |
| CHARGED DURING 01NOV2022 - 30NOV2022 | \$4,650.00 | \$6.88 | \$4,656.88 |
| OVERALL CHARGED TO DATE | \$16,690.00 | \$101.33 | \$16,791.33 |
| PREVIOUS INVOICES OUTSTANDING | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| TOTAL INVOICES OUTSTANDING INCLUDING THIS INVOICE | \$4,650.00 | \$6.88 | \$4,656.88 |

| | HOURS |
|--|--------|
| HOURS EXPENDED PRIOR TO 01NOV2022 | 120.40 |
| TOTAL HOURS CHARGED DURING 01NOV2022 - 30NOV2022 | 46.50 |
| TOTAL HOURS CHARGED 01SEP2022 THROUGH 30NOV2022 | 166.90 |

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

13-DEC-2022

DATE

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

Hours - Tuesday 01NOV2022 through Wednesday 30NOV2022

Invoice Number: 2022-11

Invoice Date: 05DEC2022

| DAY | DATE | HOURS | DESCRIPTION OF PRIMARY ACTIVITIES PERFORMED (ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED IN ATTACHED MONTHLY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT) |
|-----------|------|-------|---|
| Tuesday | 1 | 0.00 | |
| Wednesday | 2 | 0.00 | |
| Thursday | 3 | 0.00 | |
| Friday | 4 | 0.00 | |
| Saturday | 5 | 0.00 | |
| Sunday | 6 | 0.00 | |
| Monday | 7 | 0.00 | |
| Tuesday | 8 | 0.00 | |
| Wednesday | 9 | 0.00 | |
| Thursday | 10 | 0.00 | |
| Friday | 11 | 2.00 | Draft input materials for website |
| Saturday | 12 | 0.00 | |
| Sunday | 13 | 0.00 | |
| Monday | 14 | 6.00 | Marketing & Communications Committee meeting; Planning Committee meeting |
| Tuesday | 15 | 6.00 | Transportation for America kickoff meeting; Executive Committee meeting |
| Wednesday | 16 | 3.50 | Meeting with Bill Vitiello (Victory Bank); web address call |
| Thursday | 17 | 3.00 | SRPRA/Berks Technical Committee |
| Friday | 18 | 4.00 | Website meeting with Carolyn Oakley; Finance Committee meeting |
| Saturday | 19 | 0.00 | |
| Sunday | 20 | 0.00 | |
| Monday | 21 | 3.00 | Community Engagement Committee meeting |
| Tuesday | 22 | 2.75 | |
| Wednesday | 23 | 4.00 | |
| Thursday | 24 | 0.00 | |
| Friday | 25 | 0.00 | |
| Saturday | 26 | 0.00 | |
| Sunday | 27 | 0.00 | |
| Monday | 28 | 6.75 | Meeting with Dan Becker; Monthly Board meeting; SRPRA/Berks Technical Committee meeting |
| Tuesday | 29 | 3.00 | |
| Wednesday | 30 | 2.50 | Meeting with Peter Urscheler regarding web based telephone |
| | | | |

| | | |
|--------------|-------|--|
| Task Totals: | 46.50 | |
|--------------|-------|--|

Certified: _____



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

Date: 13-DEC-2022

Thomas E. Frawley, P.E., Esq., MBA - Interim Executive Director
 Expenses - Tuesday 01NOV2022 through Wednesday 30NOV2022
 Invoice Number: 2022-11
 Invoice Date: 13DEC2022

| EXPENSES THIS INVOICE | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------|--|
| DATE | DESCRIPTION | AMOUNT | NOTES |
| 16-Nov-22 | Personal Auto: 11 mi @ \$0.625 | \$6.88 | Drive to lunch meeting with Bill Vitiello (Victory Bank) |
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Task 1 Total:

Certified: _____ Date: 13-DEC-2022

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

SCHUYLKILL RIVER PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING PACKET

DECEMBER 19, 2022

AUTHORITY TAG LINE IDEAS

Recommended SRPRA Tagline

Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority
Reconnecting Reading to Philadelphia

Other SRPRA Tagline Ideas

Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority
Reconnecting Reading to Philadelphia and beyond

Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority
Moving the region forward

Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority
Connecting to our region's future

Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority
Transporting the region forward

Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority
The scenic way to travel

Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority
Connecting Reading to Philadelphia

Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority
All aboard to Philadelphia

Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority
All aboard to Philadelphia and beyond

Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority
Powering passenger rail between Reading and Philadelphia

Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority
Restoring passenger rail between Reading and Philadelphia

Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority
A tri-county collaboration of Berks, Chester, and Montgomery counties

Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority
Reviving the line between Reading and Philadelphia

Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority
Reviving the line between the Reading and Philadelphia Communities

SCHUYLKILL RIVER PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING PACKET
DECEMBER 19, 2022

TRANSPORTATION FOR AMERICA (T4A)
DECEMBER 2022 MONTHLY REPORT

December 2022 Report to the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority

Fed-State Program NOFO Released

On Wednesday, December 7, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) released a [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) for its FY23 Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Program . The FY23 Fed-State Program makes \$2.3 billion available for competitive grants that can fund a broad array of passenger rail improvements, including stations, repair, and capital improvements along long-distance passenger rail routes. The SRPRA is eligible as a subdivision of the state of Pennsylvania (C.1.d). Applications are due on March 7, 2023.

RAISE Program NOFO Released

On Monday, December 12, the FRA released a [NOFO](#) for its FY23 National Infrastructure Investments (i.e., the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program). The RAISE program makes \$1.5 billion available for competitive grants that can fund a wide swath of transportation projects, including any and all passenger rail projects. The main limiting factor of RAISE is its competitiveness, since its general applicability usually attracts applications from a large number of state and local governments. The SRPRA is an eligible applicant under its status as a “public authority with a transportation function” (C.1). Applications are due on February 28, 2023.

Corridor ID Program Updates

On Wednesday, December 7, T4A met with representatives from the Federal Railroad Administration’s (FRA) Office of Regional Outreach and Project Delivery to discuss how regional rail authorities can best take advantage of the Corridor Identification and Development Program (CIDP). The FRA has yet to release a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the program, but you can [read T4A’s memo on the program here for more information in the meantime >>](#)

During the meeting, the FRA clarified that the CIDP will consider applications for individual corridors, anticipating that each applicant will submit multiple applications. They stressed that applicants should dream big and propose all corridors that they could feasibly achieve. Applicants (ideally regional commissions or authorities like the SRPRA) should articulate how these myriad corridors will feed into each other, by showing support from localities along the proposed corridors. Most importantly, FRA made clear that they will recognize progress that corridors have already made. They said that they will not force existing corridors to start again from the basics of planning and development.

STB Update - Gulf Coast Settlement Reached

On Tuesday, November 22, the Surface Transportation Board (STB) [announced](#) that Amtrak, CSX, and Norfolk Southern had reached a settlement that would grant Amtrak the right to restore long-awaited passenger rail service to the Gulf Coast. FRA and STB acknowledge that this was a bell-weather case, and its resolution bodes well for other passenger rail interests. It also guarantees substantial infrastructure investments from CSX and Norfolk Southern. This

[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

decision comes after the STB [had declared](#) it would hold a conference vote to finally decide the matter of Gulf Coast passenger rail on December 7, holding cross-examinations for all parties on November 17th and 18th. These deadlines likely prompted the parties to come to a mutual agreement before the STB ruled unilaterally. [Read the STB's statement on settlement here>>](#) and [read T4A's statement on the settlement here>>](#)

Norfolk Southern's public support of the settlement should be an encouraging sign for the SRPRA. It potentially signals the company's willingness to work with Amtrak to run passenger rail service on other tracks it owns across the country, including in Pennsylvania. T4A is seeking further guidance from the STB to ensure that this settlement can serve as a precedent to quickly resolve future similar cases. We will keep the SRPRA updated on this process.

Looking Ahead in Harrisburg

On November 14, Governor Tom Wolf announced a \$26 million investment in Pennsylvania railway infrastructure. With 65 operating railroads, covering almost 5,600 miles, the state of Pennsylvania has the most operational railroads in the U.S. The investment, including 24 projects across 25 counties, is provided through the Rail Transportation Assistance Program (RTAP) and the Rail Freight Assistance Program (RFAP).

Governor-Elect Shapiro has appointed a bipartisan transition team, headed by William Sasso. The governor-elect's [transportation and infrastructure advisory committee](#) has representation from several unions, trade/industry associations, government, private business, and community organizations. Leslie Richards, general manager at SEPTA and former PennDOT secretary, is a member of this committee.

Freight Strike Averted Via Congressional Action

On Monday, November 28, President Biden called on Congress to prevent an early December railroad worker strike that would cripple the U.S. economy. Shortly thereafter, [Congress voted](#) on December 1 to forcibly impose the [recommendations](#) of the Presidential Emergency Board (PEB), which includes 4%-to-7% wage increases through 2024. The PEB recommendations did not, however, include any paid sick leave, a [persistent sticking point](#) for the unions. Business groups also continue to push for increased regulation due to [ongoing service delays](#).

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