

SCHUYLKILL RIVER PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY  
BOARD MEETING PACKET  
APRIL 24, 2023

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T4A APRIL MONTHLY REPORT



**Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority**  
**Meeting Agenda**  
April 24, 2023, 3pm\*

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of March 27 Minutes
3. Board Member Comments
4. Public Comment on Agenda Items
5. Committee Reports
  - a. Finance – Commissioner Lawrence, Chair
    - i. FY 2022 Audit Report and Motion to Submit to DCED - *Action*
    - ii. Motion to Pay Bills – *Action*
  - b. Marketing & Public Relations – Brian O’Leary, Chair
    - i. Report on Solicitation for Social Media Consultant
  - 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. 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, June 26, 2023. The same public registration link will be available for that meeting.

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\*Meeting will be held virtually and open to the public. Please visit the Authority website for the registration link. [www.GoSRPRA.com](http://www.GoSRPRA.com)

SCHUYLKILL RIVER PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING PACKET

APRIL 24, 2023

DRAFT MINUTES FROM MARCH 27, 2023 MEETING

# Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority Meeting

## DRAFT Minutes

March 27, 2023

3:00 p.m.

The following members were in attendance:

### **Authority Members in Attendance:**

Christian Leinbach, Berks County Board of Commissioners, Chair

Marian Moskowitz, Chester County Commissioner, Vice Chair

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

David Zellers, Montgomery County Director of Commerce

Kenneth Lawrence, Jr., Montgomery County Commissioner, Treasurer

### **Authority Members Absent:**

Eddie Moran, Mayor, City of Reading

### **1. Call to Order**

Commissioner Christian Leinbach, Chair of the SRPRA, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. He called for a moment of silence for those affected by the recent deadly factory fire that occurred in West Reading.

Mr. Dan Becker of Kozloff Stoudt Attorneys, legal counsel for the Authority, read the guidelines for making public comments.

### **2. Adoption of February 27, 2023 Minutes**

Christian Leinbach called for any corrections to the minutes.

- a. *As there were no corrections or objections to the draft minutes of the February 27, 2023 SRPRA meeting submitted, the minutes were approved.*

### **3. Board Member Comments**

*There were no Board member comments. However, Chairman Leinbach identified the need to amend the meeting Agenda to include an action under the Personnel Committee Report by which the Interim Executive Director’s contract would be extended beyond its end date of March 31, 2023. It was stated that because of the urgency, such an amendment to the Agenda was permissible under Commonwealth law, and that the Board’s action in this regard should take place before opening Public Comment on Agenda Items. The Board voted unanimously to amend the meeting Agenda.*

### **4. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

*There were no public comments submitted.*

### **5. Federal Railroad Administration Corridor Program Application Update**

Tom Frawley said that he completed and filed the SRPRA’S FRA application last week; one week ahead of the March 27 FRA application due date. He thanked everyone who contributed to the effort, in

particular the County Planning Departments and the Greater Reading Chamber Alliance. He reported that as of a few days prior, the FRA had received some 70 new corridor applications, 13 applications for new frequencies on existing routes, and 28 applications for extensions of existing routes. He noted that despite the substantial number of applications, he remained cautiously optimistic based on FRA's stated intention to favor multi-jurisdictional applications, (both state and local) that demonstrate partnering and local support, and to focus on applications that address social equity issues. He added that he believes a decision on the application will probably be made known in late summer of 2023. Brian O'Leary commended Tom on his efforts on the grant application.

## **6. Subcommittee Reports**

### **a. *Finance – Commissioner Kenneth Lawrence Jr., Chair***

#### **i. FY 2022 Audit Update**

Commissioner Ken Lawrence asked Tom Frawley to update the Board on the SRPRA'S 2022 audit being conducted by its accounting firm, Maillie LLP. Tom said that Maillie is on schedule to deliver the audit on time to meet the state submission deadline.

#### **ii. Motion to Pay Bills –*Action***

Commissioner Lawrence said there were three outstanding bill for the Authority to be paid: two invoices (\$3,500.00 each) for Smart Growth America for January and February services; and one for Thomas E. Frawley Consulting, LLC for \$10,950.00 for February 2023 service tasks provided as Interim Executive Director.

*Commissioner Lawrence motioned, and Peter Urscheler seconded, all voted unanimously, and the motion was carried to approve the payments of Invoice 23-SGA-150 for \$3,500.00 and Invoice 23-SGA-151 for \$3,500.00, payable to Smart Growth America, and the payment of Invoice 2023-02 in the amount of \$10,950.00 payable to Thomas E. Frawley Consulting, LLC for February 2023 services.*

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

#### **i. Committee Update**

Brian O'Leary reported that the committee held their March meeting and prepared and released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to hire a consultant to help with the SRPRA's communications. Brian said that five responses were received and will be reviewed during the Committee's April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, after which he hoped to provide the Board with recommendations at the April SRPRA Board meeting.

### **c. *Planning – Scott France, Chair***

#### **i. Committee Update**

Scott France reported that the committee benefitted from input from PennDOT and Amtrak on SRPRA's FRA application. Scott gave a shout-out to Transportation for America for their contribution and to Katie Cunfer who helped with the letters of support.

Scott said he was looking at the budget assembled for the Authority's application, which estimated Steps 1 and 2 costing between \$2.0 and \$2.5 million, and provided information on funding sources. Last week Berks County received the funding agreement for the long awaited \$750k Congressionally directed grant, and Montgomery County was notified of a state local share account (LSA) award for

250K grant towards a study for restoring passenger rail. Scott emphasized the importance of the state grant in that it can be considered a match for federal money.

Scott acknowledged David Hunter, who was in attendance and asked to provide an update on the upcoming APA mobile workshop where attendees will visit and meet with local participants at three proposed rail stops in Phoenixville, Pottstown, and Reading on Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. David said the tour is booked to half capacity, and thanked the Board members for their support of his efforts.

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

i. Committee Update

Marian Moskowitz, Vice Chair, reported that she recently met with Tom Frawley to discuss his status as Interim Executive Director. She commended Tom on the job he is doing and the Board concurred. She stated that the Personnel Committee recommends amending Tom’s title in his current contract with the SRPRA from “Interim Executive Director” to “Executive Director”. As well, the Committee recommends extending the duration of Tom’s contract until September 20, 2023, with a rate increase to \$130.00 per hour, for up to 25 hours per week.

*Vice Chair Marian Moskowitz motioned, and Commissioner Lawrence seconded, all voted unanimously, and the motion was carried to amend the SRPRA’s contract with Thomas E. Frawley Consulting, LLC to amend Mr. Frawley’s title, to extend the duration of the contract, and to increase Mr. Frawley’s fee for services.*

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

i. Committee Update

Jim Gerlach reported that his committee completed the three community outreach sessions held for Pottstown, Reading and Phoenixville. He told the Board about the Reading Franklin Street working group that is focused on transit-oriented development (TOD) through a study with a steering committee comprised of five entities. They were successful in obtaining an LSA grant for \$142K and explained that these funds come from a portion of casino revenues allocated back to the counties where casino operations exist for purpose of public benefit. The funds will be used to identify an appropriate location for a station, development in the surrounding area and TOD planning. The committee will reconvene with the City Planning Department to discuss how the grant proceeds might best be used. The Board discussed how it might possibly share progress regarding station efforts of the local municipalities and private partners on the SRPRA website.

**7. Executive Director’s Report**

Tom Frawley, Executive Director, thanked the Board for their confidence in him. Tom said that he has developed a presentation on the SRPRA project to use at public meetings and will post it to the Authority’s website. Tom said that as this is the first SRPRA held via Zoom, he asked any attendees having technical issues to please let him know.

**8. Other Business**

Vice Chair Marian Moskowitz asked Tom Frawley to compile a list of the SRPRA’s expenses so the Board has an idea about where the Authority’s financial position is to date.

Chair Christian Leinbach asked Dan Becker about the clause in the SRPRA’s documents requiring a reauthorization vote three years after the Authority was established. He’s unclear on when the

deadline is because formation of the Authority was approved by the three counties on two different dates in April, and was not formally accomplished until June when incorporated with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He requested that Dan check the Authority's documents and report back to the Board at next month's meeting. Christian asked that these two items be included as action items on the April agenda.

9. **General Public Comment**

*There was no public comment.*

**Adjourn**

*Jim Gerlach motioned and Brian O'Leary seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:36 p.m.*

**Next Board Meeting**

April 24, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,



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Ann Marie Meehan

SCHUYLKILL RIVER PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY  
BOARD MEETING PACKET  
APRIL 24, 2023

BILLS RECEIVED SINCE MARCH 27, 2023 MEETING





# INVOICE

1152 15th Street NW, Ste 450  
 Washington, DC 20005  
 Telephone: 202-955-5543  
 Fax: 202-955-5543  
 Federal EIN: 27-0038938

**DATE:** 4/10/2023  
**INVOICE #** 23-SGA-164

**FOR:** SRPRA Rail consulting services  
**PROJECT NO.** 2213SRPRA1  
**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:** 5/10/2023

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Primary Services Tasks (March 2023)	3,500.00
<i>Please reference the above-mentioned invoice number on your payment.</i>	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,500.00</b>
<b>TAX RATE</b>	0.00%
<b>SALES TAX</b>	-
<b>OTHER</b>	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,500.00</b>

We prefer payment via ACH

**ACH INFORMATION**

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

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

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: 07
Start Date: 26SEP2022	Invoice Number: 2023-03
	Invoice Date: 03APR2023

Invoice for services performed as Interim Executive Director of the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority for the period: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 through Friday, March 31, 2023.

LABOR, INCLUDING OVERHEAD AND FEE				
ELEMENT DESCRIPTION		TASK HOURS	CONTRACT RATE	TOTAL LABOR CHARGES
March 2023		117.75	\$100.00	\$11,775.00
				\$11,775.00

EXPENSES, AT COST			
DESCRIPTON OF EXPENSES		NOTES	EXPENSES INVOICED
Personal auto and parking			\$111.35

<b>TOTAL CHARGES THIS INVOICE - LABOR AND EXPENSES</b>		\$11,886.35
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INVOICE LABOR, EXPENSES, AND HOURS SUMMARY AND STATUS			
	LABOR	EXPENSES	TOTAL
CHARGED PRIOR TO 01MAR2023	\$34,660.00	\$313.33	\$34,973.33
CHARGED DURING 01MAR2023 - 31MAR2023	\$11,775.00	\$111.35	\$11,886.35
OVERALL CHARGED TO DATE	\$46,435.00	\$424.68	\$46,859.68
PREVIOUS INVOICES OUTSTANDING	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
ADJUSTMENT TO CORRECT DECEMBER PAYMENT	-\$100.00	\$0.00	-\$100.00
TOTAL INVOICES OUTSTANDING INCLUDING THIS INVOICE	\$11,675.00	\$111.35	\$11,786.35

	HOURS
HOURS EXPENDED PRIOR TO 01MAR2023	441.35
TOTAL HOURS CHARGED DURING 01MAR2023 - 31MAR2023	117.75
TOTAL HOURS CHARGED 01SEP2022 THROUGH 31MAR2023	559.10

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

03-APR-2023  
DATE

Thomas E. Frawley, P.E., Esq., MBA - Executive Director  
 Hours - Wednesday 01MAR2023 through Friday 31MAR2023  
 Invoice Number: 2023-03  
 Invoice Date: 03APR2023

DAY	DATE	HOURS	DESCRIPTION OF PRIMARY ACTIVITIES PERFORMED (ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED IN ATTACHED MONTHLY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT)
Wednesday	1	1.00	Marketing & Public Relations Meeting
Thursday	2	6.50	Advance FRA application
Friday	3	0.00	
Saturday	4	2.50	Prepare Monthly Report and Invoice; advance FRA application forms
Sunday	5	6.50	Advance FRA application; advance PPT presentation
Monday	6	6.50	Executive Committee Ad Hoc Meeting
Tuesday	7	7.00	Planning Committee; Reading Stakeholders Meeting (RACC)
Wednesday	8	6.50	PennDOT Meeting - Review FRA Application Comments
Thursday	9	6.00	Advance FRA application
Friday	10	4.50	Drexel University Meeting
Saturday	11	0.00	Advance FRA application
Sunday	12	4.50	Assemble audit materials; advance FRA standard forms
Monday	13	4.00	Planning Committee Meeting
Tuesday	14	5.00	Finalize Application text.
Wednesday	15	4.50	Advance standard forms and appendices
Thursday	16	3.50	Advance standard forms and appendices
Friday	17	1.50	Advance standard forms and appendices
Saturday	18	0.00	
Sunday	19	1.50	Finalize application appendices
Monday	20	4.00	Complete final check and submit FRA Application
Tuesday	21	6.50	Senator Fetterman Staff Briefing; Executive Committee
Wednesday	22	5.50	Victory Bank Meeting; Phoenixville Stakeholders Meeting
Thursday	23	4.50	Technical Committee Meeting
Friday	24	4.00	
Saturday	25	2.75	Assemble audit materials; Social Media Consultant Procurement
Sunday	26	1.00	Social Media Consultant Procurement
Monday	27	6.00	Board meeting; Technical Cmte meeting
Tuesday	28	2.50	
Wednesday	29	5.00	Kaplan Kirsch Meeting; Chesco Planning Comm. Spring Forum
Thursday	30	4.50	PSPE Meeting Presentation
Friday	31	0.00	

Task Totals:	117.75	
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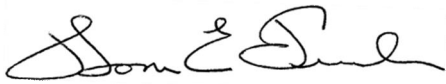
Certified:   
 Thomas E. Frawley, P.E., Esq. - Prinicpal

Date: 03-APR-2023

Thomas E. Frawley, P.E., Esq., MBA - Executive Director  
Exoenses - Wednesday 01MAR2023 through Friday 31MAR2023  
Invoice Number: 2023-03  
Invoice Date: 03APR2023

EXPENSES THIS INVOICE			
DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	NOTES
7-Mar-23	Personal Auto: Berwyn-Reading RT	\$52.40	80 miles at \$0.655
7-Mar-23	Parking - Reading	\$3.00	RACC Garage
22-Mar-23	Personal Auto: Berwyn-Phoenixville RT	\$14.41	22 miles at \$0.655
29-Mar-23	Personal Auto: Berwyn-Tredyffrin RT	\$4.86	7 miles at \$0.655
30-Mar-23	Personal Auto: Berwyn-Birdsboro RT	\$36.68	56 miles at \$0.655

Task 1 Total: \$111.35



Certified: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 03-APR-2023  
Thomas E. Frawley, P.E., Esq. - Principal

SCHUYLKILL RIVER PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY  
BOARD MEETING PACKET  
APRIL 24, 2023

TRANSPORTATION FOR AMERICA (T4A)  
APRIL 2023 MONTHLY REPORT

## April 2023 Report to the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority

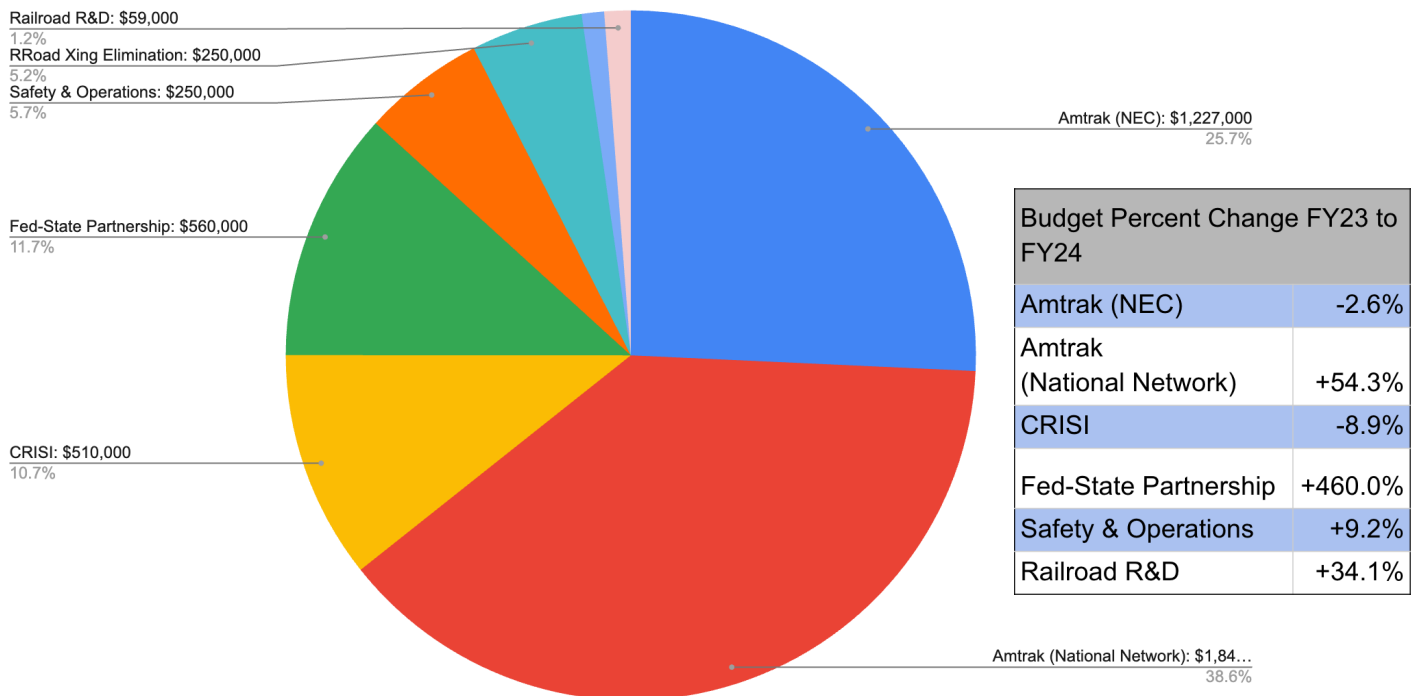
### Corridor ID Submitted

On Friday, March 17, SRPRA submitted an application to the [Corridor Identification and Development Program](#) for the Reading – Philadelphia – New York Corridor, with a focus on improving infrastructure between Reading and Philadelphia to connect that future route to the northeast corridor. For each corridor selected through this program, the FRA will award \$500,000 to plan, scope, and estimate costs for a Service Development Plan (SDP). Once those activities are complete, selected corridors will also receive funding to create SDPs and further develop relevant projects.

### President Biden’s Budget Would Expand Nationwide Passenger Rail Funding

Below is a chart summarizing President Biden’s budget request for the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for Fiscal Year 2024. The table next to it describes the percent change the proposal represents compared to the current federal budget. Congress will likely make major changes to the budget, but this budget serves as a good indication of where the Biden administration is on passenger rail. This budget indicates an increased focus from the administration on the national network, though it still fails to fund the national network at fully-authorized levels.

FRA Programs: FY24 Proposed (in thousands of dollars)



## Amtrak releases FY24 legislative grant request

In its FY24 budget request, Amtrak [requested \\$3.65 billion](#) from Congress, more than was authorized in the bipartisan infrastructure law (BIL). Where the BIL provides \$1.2 billion for the Northeast Corridor (NEC) and \$2.45 billion for the National Network (NN), Amtrak calls for \$1.7 billion for the NEC and \$1.95 billion for the NN, due to declining high-dollar business travelers from the NEC.

Amtrak divides the budget request into “base needs” and “modernization.” The former are bare minimum funds for existing Amtrak trains, infrastructure maintenance, and a “limited number of high-priority, high-impact strategic investments.” The latter are funds that target station and equipment upgrades, trip time reduction/ increase speeds, and on-board service/amenities.

## Rail Passenger Day + New Board Members

On April 6, [Rail Passengers volunteers advocated on the Hill](#) for a slew of proposals, including but not limited to: funding programs at the authorized levels established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), improving Amtrak responsiveness to passengers and increasing transparency for taxpayers, addressing Amtrak Board of Directors Vacancies, establishing a Rail Passenger Bill of Rights, and passing a House version of the Rail Safety Bill.

In addition, RPA added three new board members: Tom Compson of Texas, Alexander Ivanoff of New York, and Gary Lanman of Oklahoma, all of whom will join the Board for two year terms..

## New Model of High-Speed Rail Success at Amtrak

In April, Andy Byford joined Amtrak as an executive vice president, to oversee the development of high-speed rail. Byford, a former NYC Transit President, has held executive transit positions in Sydney, Toronto, and most recently the U.K. He brings high-tech knowledge and world-wide experience, to help guide Amtrak’s future.

## PA News

### New York City to Scranton, PA - Study results are in

Based on a two-year [analysis](#), reestablishing a rail connection between New York City and Scranton, Pa. could serve an estimated 470,000 riders per year, assuming three round-trips per day. This would generate more than \$80 million in new economic activity for the region. The analysis, conducted by Amtrak and the Pennsylvania Northeast Regional Railroad Authority, examined all aspects of the proposed 140-mile route, predominantly across Pennsylvania and northern New Jersey. With service beginning in 2028, this line will aid in the reduction of congestion and carbon emissions throughout the region.

For questions or more information, please contact John Robert Smith at [jrsmith@t4america.org](mailto:jrsmith@t4america.org) or 601-527-5040.