

## **Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority Meeting**

### **DRAFT Minutes**

May 19, 2025

3:00 p.m.

The following members were in attendance, in-person unless otherwise noted:

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

Marian Moskowitz, Chester County Commissioner, Chair  
Tom DiBello, Montgomery County Commissioner, Vice Chair  
Peter Urscheler, Phoenixville Borough Mayor, Treasurer  
Scott France, Executive Director, Montgomery County Planning Commission, Secretary  
Christian Leinbach, Berks County Board of Commissioners, Assistant Secretary  
David Hunter, Executive Director, Berks County Planning Commission  
Matt Edmond, Executive Director, Chester County Planning Commission

#### **Authority Members Absent:**

Eddie Moran, Mayor of Reading  
Stephanie Henrick, Mayor of Pottstown

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

Marian Moskowitz, Chair of the SRPRA, called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

#### **2. Adoption of April 28, 2025 Minutes**

SRPRA Chair, Marian Moskowitz called for any corrections to the minutes. There were no corrections to the minutes.

*As there were no corrections to the minutes, Marian Moskowitz announced that the SRPRA's April 28, 2025 meeting minutes stand approved as presented.*

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

*There were no Board member comments.*

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

Dan Becker of Kozloff Stoudt Attorneys, legal counsel for the Authority, read the guidelines for making public comments. There were no public comments on the agenda items.

#### **5. Motion to Adopt Proposed SRPRA 2025-2027 Budget – Action**

Tom Frawley, SRPRA's Executive Director, presented the proposed SRPRA 2025-2027 that was provided in the meeting packet. The SRPRA budget is being prepared earlier this year than in past years to allow more time for the three organizing counties to consider their contributions, which are proposed to be \$100,000 per county in both 2026 and 2027. Chester and Montgomery County contributions for 2025 of \$100,000 each remain outstanding.

*Mayor Peter Urscheler motioned, David Hunter seconded, all voted unanimously, and the motion was carried to adopt the 2025-2027 SRPRA proposed budget.*

## 6. Committee Reports

### a. **Finance – Mayor Peter Urscheler, Chair**

#### i. Committee Update

Mayor Peter Urscheler reported that the SRPRA Finance Committee met on May 14th. Maillie LLP has completed the SRPRA's 2024 Audit and Tom Frawley will submit it shortly to Pennsylvania DCED. Peter reported the SRPRA request for reimbursement submitted to FRA on April 7 for only Task 2 (Technical) expenditures from September 2024 through February 2025 totaling \$125,409.17 was paid on May 5. March and April Task 2 expenditures have not yet been submitted to FRA. All Task 1 (Administration) expenditures from September 2024 through the end of the Step 1 will be reimbursed during Step 1 closeout, which is now forecasted to begin during the summer.

#### ii. Motion to Pay Bills – Action

Peter requested that the Board ratify the SRPRA's four prepaid bills paid between May 1st, 2025 and May 16th, 2025 totaling \$147.77 and approve for payment the four invoices dated between January 1st and May 9th totaling \$23,782.28.

*Peter Urscheler motioned, Commissioner Tom DiBello seconded, all voted unanimously, and the motion was carried to approve the payments of prepaid and outstanding bills presented in the SRPRA's May 19, 2025 Board meeting packet.*

### b. **Personnel – Comm. Moskowitz, Chair**

#### i. Committee Update

Marian Moskowitz, SRPRA Chair and Personnel Committee Chair, reported that there were no updates from the Personnel Committee.

## 7. CIDP Update – Tom Frawley

Tom reported that entry into CIDP Step 2 remains pending. FRA's attorneys are conducting one final review of the statement of work after which SRPRA can finalize the document and all Step 1 deliverables can be formally considered complete. He also briefly described the process of advancing into Step 2 as including a NOFO in the Congressional record, to which SRPRA will respond with a set of standardized federal forms. Tom also noted that during the confirmation hearing for Robert Gleason as the new Chair of Amtrak, Senator Fetterman asked about his support for SRPRA's Reading – Philadelphia project, to which Mr. Gleason enthusiastically responded in the affirmative.

## 8. Executive Director's Report – Tom Frawley

Tom reported that a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Service Development Agreement had been prepared by Amtrak to govern their role in Task 2, including preparation of ridership forecasts, and operating and maintenance cost estimates. SRPRA has returned the draft MOU to Amtrak with suggested changes, and SRPRA is awaiting Amtrak's response. Finalization of the MOU is expected during May. Additionally, Tom reported on meetings with Norfolk Southern (NS), and NS' position that finalization and execution of a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) and service development agreement (SDA) need not have been accomplished prior to SRPRA's entry into CIDP Step 2.

## 9. Marketing Team Report – David Hunter

David Hunter, Chair of the Marketing Team, reported that SRPRA messages are appearing on Lamar Advertising's digital billboards; these are being provided as a public service announcement and SRPRA does not pay for the billboards.

David said that short video interview reels intended to add content and variety to the SRPRA's social media outreach are continuing to be completed and released; Matt Edmond will be profiled next. As well, an article on SRPRA will be featured this autumn in Berks County Living magazine. Tom Frawley and David Hunter will also be featured on a BCTV Planning Chats TV spot re SRPRA project. David informed the Board that he has also begun discussions with Aaron Gantz, Vice President of Economic Development and Strategy for Reading on how to better engage citizens in Reading and to help guide SRPRA's update of its fact sheet and FAQ document, both of which will be available in both English and Spanish.

Marian Moskowitz, Chair, asked that the Marketing Team share any SRPRA related links with the Board so that they may share.

**10. Planning Team Report–Scott France**

Scott thanked everyone who helped stage last month's SRPRA Board meeting in Pottstown.

He reported that the team continues to work with Amtrak on a service development agreement, and is continuing discussions with PennDOT. As well, he said that Tom Frawley had been engaging with Senator McCormick's staff on the SRPRA project.

**11. Other Business**

*There was no other business discussed.*

**12. General Public Comment**

*There was no public comment.*

**13. Adjourn**

Marian Moskowitz called to adjourn the meeting.

*David Hunter motioned, Commissioner Tom DiBello seconded, and all voted unanimously, to adjourn the May 2025 meeting of the SRPRA Board.*

**Next Board Meeting**

June 23, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,



Ann Marie Meehan