

Memo

To: Seth Davis, Manager of Corridor Planning

From: Kathryn Schlesinger, Michael Baker International

Date: August 9, 2023

**Subject: Homestead to McKeesport Public Meeting Round #2 Meeting
Summary Memo**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Port Authority of Allegheny County (PAAC) provides public transportation throughout Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. The Authority's 2,600 employees operate, maintain and support bus, light rail, incline and paratransit services for approximately 200,000 daily riders. Port Authority is governed by an 11-member board – unpaid volunteers who are appointed by the Allegheny County Executive, leaders from both parties in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and Senate, and the Governor of Pennsylvania. The board and its committees hold regularly scheduled public meetings. Port Authority's budget is funded by fare and advertising revenue, along with money from county, state, and federal sources. The Authority's finances and operations are audited on a regular basis, both internally and by external agencies. Port Authority began serving the community in March 1964.

Participants

Port Authority of Allegheny County would like to thank agency partners for supporting the Bus Stop and Street Design Guidelines, and all those who participated by dedicating their time and expertise.

These Bus Stop and Street Design Guidelines are administratively issued and maintained by the Development Division. These Guidelines are subject at all times to applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and ordinances and any and all applicable Board-adopted policies. These Guidelines may be amended, modified or revoked at any time by Port Authority, in its sole discretion. This document was created in collaboration with the City of Pittsburgh.\

Title VI Discrimination Policy

Port Authority of Allegheny County hereby gives public notice of its policy to assure full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Port Authority is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of its services on the basis of race, color or national origin as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. No person or group of persons shall be discriminated against with regard to the routing, scheduling or quality of transportation service furnished by Port Authority of Allegheny County on the basis of race, color or national origin. Frequency of service, age and quality of vehicles assigned to routes, quality of stations serving different routes and location of routes may not be determined on the basis of race, color or national origin.

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On August 2-3, 2023, Pittsburgh Regional Transit and project team held the second round of public meetings, both online and in-person, for the Homestead to McKeesport Transit Improvements project (also referred to as Corridor R or H2M). Following the support received from municipal and political official engagement, the goal of these meetings was to provide a status update on the overall project, present existing conditions and conceptual design of key intersection upgrades to the public and solicit input on the proposed concept.

Virtual Meeting

Beginning on August 2, PRT held the virtual meeting via Zoom on August 2 from 11:30 – 12:30 PM. The meeting included a presentation led by PRT and due to low attendance, the project team determined that a general Q&A session would be sufficient rather than creating separate break-out groups to solicit additional feedback. In total, 16 attendees participated in the virtual public meeting and two American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters were also available for the duration of the meeting. A full list of participants and email addresses is available in Appendix A.

With a smaller audience to present and discuss the project with, the project team structured the presentation in a more informal style to facilitate an open discussion after each segment of intersection concepts was presented beginning with locations in Homestead Borough and ending with McKeesport. Overall, the attendees expressed support for the project and the range of proposed intersection improvements. In addition to the list of participants in Appendix A, notes from the meeting were recorded by the project team and are available in Appendix B.

Public Meeting

On August 3, PRT convened the in-person meeting in Homestead Borough at Mon Valley Initiative's space on 8th Avenue from 6:00 – 7:30 PM. Unlike the virtual meeting, the in-person meeting was organized in an open house style to facilitate discussions. 12 boards were set up around the space with information on project overview, goals and objectives, improvement kit of parts, future projects, and examples of the intersection improvements proposed in Homestead, Munhall, Duquesne, and McKeesport. Similarly, to the virtual meeting, the attendees expressed their support for the project and overwhelmingly, are excited to see these investments in the Mon Valley communities.

In total, 8 attendees attended the in-person public meeting in addition to members of the project team to facilitate discussions at the various boards. Appendix C includes a summary of the post-it notes that were added to the boards during the meeting and Appendix D includes a full list of the in-person participants and contact information.

Appendix A

Virtual Public Meeting Attendee List

Unknown, phone number only listed	412-380-2242
A K	keatinga@yahoo.com
Andrew King	andrewkingjourney@gmail.com
Bonnie Fan	Bonnie.y.fan@gmail.com
Cheryl Stephens	cheryl@pittsburghforpublictransit.org
David Totten	dtotten@spcregion.org
Dicky Nassar	newsdeck@kdka.com
Joy Dore	joyedorepgh@aol.com
Kristin Green	bbal.kris@gmail.com
Laura Chu Wiens	laura@pittsburghforpublictransit.org
Margaret Krauss	mkrauss@wesa.fm
Mark Cassel	mcassel@bowman.com
Nicole Gallagher	nicole@pittsburghforpublictransit.org
Sherri Peyetson	sherrip@pitt.edu
Swain Uber	Swain.uber@gmail.com
Teira Collins	Teiracollins4@gmail.com

Appendix B

Virtual Public Meeting Summary

- Joy: Please remember that there are a lot of seniors and individuals with disabilities in this area.
 - So remember that it is important to keep service wheelchair accessible, and some of the surrounding sidewalks need to be repaired.
 - And the 53L on weekends in Homestead only runs every two hours. It hurts the seniors and families that need it to get groceries. Please consider increasing the frequency of this bus and 61C.
 - Please have Aps signals for blind to cross. This corridor is difficult for disabled.
 - Many times, open strollers take away from wheelchairs. I watched as a driver yesterday tried to turn away a wheelchair, but we had room for him.
 - Accessibility is a passion of mine.
 - Actually, unfortunately a lot of that sidewalk is in poor repair. I use it daily.
 - This is especially true at Homestead Apartments. Many loose bricks on the sidewalk.
 - And many of their residents speak Russian and PPT flier not translated and many of them did not know about this meeting.
 - Of special concern to me is the lack of wheelchair accessibility to the Waterfront from 8tg/Amity.
 - Streetlights often take up entire sidewalk.
 - The crosswalk sign near Rite Aid in Munhall E 8th /Williams Mark Drive is falling over.
 - Please ask Allegheny County or Munhall Borough to fix. (William Mark Drive)
 - How does this affect 57/Hazelwood?
 - Kathryn Schlesinger: The 57 route falls outside of the geographic scope of this project, so there will be no impact at this time.
 - I am excited about this, but please do not leave out the existing lifelong residents of Mon Valley.
 - Please include Hazelwood residents too. Did not see any signs in my neighborhood and it heavily affects us.
 - Sarine: Thanks for bringing that to our attention. We can include Hazelwood at our next round of public meetings to ensure we capture riders from different neighborhoods that visit the corridor.
 - Many of us are in Homestead regularly who are city residents. Many of us work and shop there daily.
 - What about traffic calming and speed limits? Many accidents occur in this corridor because cars go flying.
 - Radar? Many cars speed and have injured pedestrians.
 - But we can update traffic and pedestrian signals.
 - Fair and honest disclosure: Hazelwood resident but in Homestead daily for multiple reasons (shopping, health care, work).
 - Also, fair and honest disclosure: running for seat on Ppt board, but always passionate and active in transit advocacy.
 - Can you consider reaching out to City and County Ada Task Force?
 - What about improvements in Aps signals around Kennywood Duquesne?
 - There is a Giant Eagle and restaurants there the community uses, not just Kennywood.
 - Sidewalk is narrow is my point heavily used all year for routes 61C, 59.
 - For winter and bad weather. Used to have buildings there but was shut down.
 - Shelter at McKeesport transit center

- Again, many Hazelwood and City residents are required to go there for welfare etc. but did not know about this meeting. Ppt did a good job of putting them in Homestead. I keep on copying them and handing them out.
- A K: excited to see consolidated & improved stops here.
- David Totten: I am curious why you opted for the curb extension at Hoffman, rather than the queue jump lane. Not that I favor either choice, but I would be interested in hearing what criteria you used for those two options?
- Swain Uber: Love the consolidation and simplification of stops like this.
 - Yes, it would be great to help make the Rankin bridge and surrounding areas more pedestrian and biker friendly. Cause it currently very much is not. (Lots of missing sidewalks and signals and the like.)
- Nicole Gallagher, PPT: Are there other intersections you will be updating in Duquesne?
 - It seems a lot of tops could use basic amenities like benches and shelters.
 - Also, the intersection of Grant and 1st is extremely dangerous for pedestrians.
- Cheryl Stephens: It is good to see the 5th Ave location near the bridge have a crossing because people are walking in the street and on the island near there.
 - Changes on Lysle are absolutely needed. It is hostile being a pedestrian on that street. Drivers are going faster than the speed limit and it feels like you are inches away from them.
 - Sarine: Thank you Cheryl. Definitely a future project that could enhance the pedestrian experience along Lysle and in McKeesport.
 - Kathryn Schlesinger: Thank you, Cheryl. We have heard this from many folks and know this is a top priority. PRT will coordinate with McKeesport to advocate for implementing a road diet and other design changes that are very much needed for pedestrians and transit riders.

Q&A

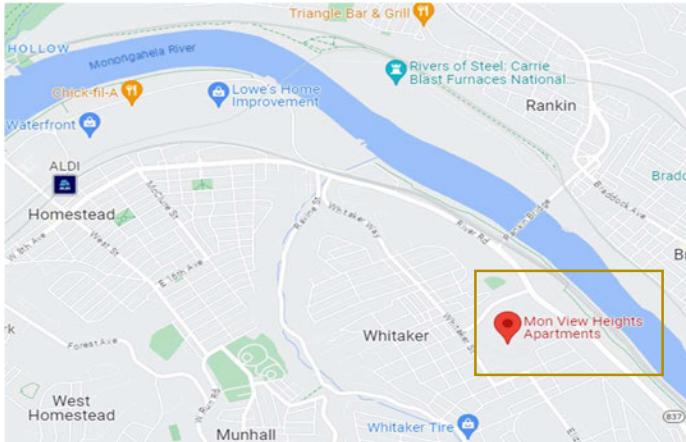
- Cheryl Stephens: Can you explain how the queue jump helps the bus to get through the light, if the bus is not the first vehicle at the light? Explain how this impacts the rest of the traffic? In Homestead and other places.
 - (answered live)
- Joy Dore: Will there be maps tomorrow at Mvi to see proposed changes?
 - Kathryn Schlesinger: Yes, there will be!
- Laura Chu Wiens: I am curious about the timeline - when can we actually expect to SEE the improvements? You mentioned winter of 2023, is that when we might see the implementation of these plans?
 - (answered live)
- Sherri Peyetson: Will there be consolidated stops on the 61c in Greenfield as well.
 - Kathryn Schlesinger: Hi Sherri, no Greenfield falls outside of the scope of this project so there will be no impacts there at this time.
- Joy Dore: Are masks required at Mvi meeting? Being deaf, often have lip read.
 - Seth Davis: As per CDC guidelines, masks are not required.

Appendix C

In-Person Public Meeting Summary

Post It Notes:● **General:**

- Have community open house/in person meeting next time during the day to get more foot traffic and input.
- 59 comes much earlier than schedules sometimes, people end up missing important appointments.
- Is there a way to help operators manage priority seating on the bus? Elders with walkers sometimes end up standing on the 61C because kids do not move back to make room.
- Need more than 59/52L to Mon View Heights and better sidewalks around Mon Valley Heights

● **Amenities:**

- Will there be added Connect Card Machines along the corridor? There are only a few outside the Waterfront.
- Real Time Updates are needed. Can the boards have ADA/audio announcements for disabled people and folks with lower literacy.
- Can there be chargers at Bus Stops?

● **Existing Conditions:**

- Note saying they have Bus Stops located on “islands” in McKeesport.

● **Homestead to Munhall:**

- PRT Virtual map shows that boardings at Ann St are more than McClure. Would it make sense to update the Ann stop instead of McClure? Regardless of spacing?
- Homestead Grays Bridge - could use real-time signals or improved crossing signals.
- Amity: Bus Stop Amenity Ideas - Real time digital signage, connect card machine, trash can
- Library Place:
 - I love the landscape bump outs with trees and shrubs.
 - Also note that there is a school nearby.

● **Kennywood and Duquesne:**

- Overall: Can there be some kind of amenities at the park and ride? Such as a connect card machine or real time tracker.
- Kennywood Stop: Can we add a connect card machine at both sides please!
- 2nd st and Grant:
 - Add a connect card machine and real time tracker.
 - Could use some pedestrian safety “alerts” at Grant and South 1st street and a shelter.

● **McKeesport.**

- **5th Ave: This looks better! (ramp to Mathias way) People walk across the street here and on the ped island into traffic.**
- **Is there a way to get traffic calming on Lysle Blvd? Or just a curb extension to make pedestrians feel a little further away from traffic.**
 - **Look at sidewalk's conditions in McKeesport.**
 - **Also trees or some other greenery for cooling would be needed.**
- **Can we get a large shelter for the inbound stop across the street from the McKeesport Transportation Center with a glass covering to shield from the rain?**
- **Larger benches at all new shelters, but in particular the ones on Lysle Blvd are very small.**

In-Person Public Meeting Attendee List

Nicole Gallagher	nicole@pittsburghforpublictransit.org
Carol	412-927-6607
The Rompalas	N/A
Faun Montgomery	takeactionmonvalley@gmail.com
Cheryl Stephens	412-495-5714
Armond Busby	412-812-9246
Cheron Price	412-430-1150
Keyara Williams	412-414-8853