



Public Meeting Synopsis June 24, 2021

Introduction

Rich Brahler introduced the County Project Team, provided an overview of the study, the study origins, and a brief synopsis on what the study will focus on. Chad Dixon from McMahon Associates, Inc. then introduced his team and began his presentation.

Presentation

Chad and his team began the presentation with a poll asking the group how often they utilize public transportation. "Within the last 5 years" received 44% of the vote and "Everyday" and "2 to 3 times per week" each polled at 22%.

Chad reviewed the history of public transit in the area, noting that rail based service has previously been studied and has been determined to be not a feasible mode at this point due to the high capital and maintenance costs associated with passenger rail restoration. He then went in to cover the project timeline, study area, and provided demographic information on the commutes of study area residents.

During this time Chad conducted another poll to asking where people live, the majority responded with "Bucks County - in the Study Area"

The presentation then turned over to Andy Zalewski, Foursquare ITP, who spoke about how they determine the needs of an area to make a demand profile for the area, then base their recommendations on those findings. He then reviewed potential transit modes including Microtransit, Circulator, Fixed-Route Local Bus, Human Services Transport, Deviated Fixed Route, and Commuter Bus.

Natasha Manbeck then took over the presentation to gather input on travel needs. Via a poll, she asked the group what "Transit should serve and connect..." The top response was "Key Corridors, such as Route 309 or Route 663." She followed up that question with "If you live in the study area, select the location you travel to at least once a week, "Montgomery County" received the most votes.

The presentation then moved to an open format discussion where the group discussed destinations within the study area they would like visit, Kathy Bennett indicated that transit to Quakertown would be a major benefit. Danielle Bodnar said "Sellersville Theater, Perkasio, and Nockamixon State Park are great destinations as well."

Regarding destinations outside the study area Kathy and Danielle listed Philadelphia, New York City and BCCC's Newtown campus as potential locations.

Natasha then ran a poll asking what the biggest barriers to using public transit are, the group selected Frequency/ Convenience of schedule as the biggest barrier.

The floor then opened to generic questions from the group.

- Kathy Bennett started out by saying public transit needs to bring employees to the area, specifically healthcare workers. Chad asked where most healthcare workers in this area come from and Kathy said, Allentown, Norristown, and Philadelphia.
- James Hull noted that Bucks County Transportation and Transnet already provided public transit like options for qualifying individuals.
- Danielle Bodnar asked if social service based transit system have ever progressed to a full fledge bus or transit service. Mark Cassel of SEPTA said it's typically the opposite, a workforce based shuttle gets developed and then more social based services are woven in.
- Danielle followed up with Mark asking if they typically reach out to employers prior to running a shuttle or bus service. He said that in less dense areas like Upper Bucks County that they would, in order to align the service with the schedules of employees. AJ Jordan of LANTA interjected stating that to provide a transit service in this area that the provider would likely have to enter a revenue services agreement with multiple employers within the area to get the service up and operating. Lastly, Mark reiterated that the lack of density in this area would prove to a big challenge as transit service and accommodations aren't always at the forefront of large employer's decisions on where to locate.
- Lastly, Steven Rose commented that there is a severe lack of transit service between the Lehigh Valley and the Quakertown area.

Evan then provided a quick overview on how citizens can become engaged with the 2040 Bucks County Comprehensive Plan development process.

Chad and Rich closed the meeting by reminding everyone that there is a project website and it can be found at www.tinyurl.com/UpperBucksPT. Also, anyone can provide comments by sending an email to Rich at rgbrahler@buckscounty.org.

Attachment A: Attendees

Name	Agency
Richard Brahler	Bucks County Planning Commission
Evan Stone	Bucks County Planning Commission
Christian Regosch	Bucks County Planning Commission
Chad Dixon	McMahon Associates, Inc.
Natasha Manbeck	McMahon Associates, Inc.
Andrew Zalewski	Foursquare ITP
Kathy Bennett	Bucks County Area on Aging
Spencer Gober	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
AJ Jordan	Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority
Steven Rose	Perkasie Borough
James Hull	Sellersville Borough
Kathleen Hallman	Sellersville Borough
Sarah Rasmussen	Senator Bob Mencsh's office
Mark Cassel	Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority
Danielle Bodnar	Upper Bucks Chamber of Commerce

Attachment B: Poll Results

1. How often do you ride public transit?	
Every day	2
2 to 3 times a week	2
Once a month	0
Within the last year	0
Within the last five years	4
Never	0

2. Where do you live?	
Bucks County - In Study Area	5
Bucks County - Out of Study Area	0
Lehigh County	1
Northampton County	0
Montgomery County	0
Philadelphia	0
New Jersey	0
Other	1

3. Transit should serve and connect...	
Downtown areas and major employment centers	2
Social and medical services	2
SEPTA bus or rail service	2
LANTA bus service	2
Key corridors, such as Route 309 and Route 663	3
Other	1

4. If you live in the Study Area, where do you travel to at least once a week?	
Lower Bucks County	1
Montgomery County	3
Philadelphia	0
Lehigh Valley	2
New Jersey	0
New York	0

5. Select two reasons why you wouldn't use public transit if it were available	
Cost	1
Travel time	2
Frequency or convenience of schedule	4
Safety	0
Cleanliness	0
Lack of information	2
Other	1

