

Meeting Minutes
APTA High-Speed and Intercity Passenger Rail Committee

2019 APTA Rail Conference
Toronto, ON
Sunday, June 23, 2019

APTA's Committee on High-Speed and Intercity Passenger Rail (HSIPR) met on Sunday, June 23, 2019, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The meeting was held in conjunction with the 2019 APTA Rail Conference. Committee Chair Al Engel called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m. He delivered introductory remarks observing that a comprehensive, high performance intercity passenger rail system is the missing link in providing true mobility as a service. He further noted that the U.S has the wealth and high density corridors to support high-speed rail, we lack the political will. The Committee then had an extended round of self-introductions, highlighting ideas that can make a difference in building the political will for public investment in a robust national high-speed and intercity passenger rail program.

Al thanked Talgo for sponsoring the breakfast at the committee meeting, and invited Talgo's Joshua Coran to offer a few words of welcome.

1. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the previous meeting, held Sunday, March 17, 2019, in Washington, DC, were approved as submitted.
2. Remarks by the APTA Leadership: APTA Chair David Stackrow highlighted his priorities as Chair, noting that the much emphasis had been placed on the development of consensus APTA recommendations for the reauthorization of federal transit and passenger rail programs. APTA President and CEO Paul Skoutelas commended the committee for its hard work, noting that the political winds will again change in the direction of passenger rail. Paul added that the rail operations on the Northeast Corridor is a national success story, and merits further emphasis. Paul noted that APTA was devoting significant staff resources to the Committee.
3. Approval of Revised Committee Bylaws: Stan Feinsod presented revised committee bylaws and summarized the process for reviewing the bylaws and proposing revisions. During discussion, it was suggested that the concept of connecting urban, suburban and rural areas through improved corridor service be added to the bylaws. The bylaws were approved with that revision.
4. Discussion of APTA Federal Legislative Recommendations: Ward McCarragher, APTA Vice-President for Government Affairs, reported on the great attention given to passenger rail issues in the development of APTA's legislative recommendations. Ward mentioned that the recommendations called for \$32 billion of investment over six years

and called for the establishment of a Rail Trust Fund. Commuter and Intercity Rail Legislative Subcommittee Chair Karen Hedlund was complimented for her development of a report quantifying the pipeline of passenger rail projects.

Ward highlighted amendments that APTA was fighting off during the AY-20 transportation appropriations process, and the importance of strong bipartisan majorities.

5. Discussion of December 4, 2019 High-Speed Rail Policy Forum: Al Engel reported that session topics have been identified for the December 4 program, and that potential headliners have been identified. Promotional Flyers were distributed noting that the December 4 program will be held at the APTA offices, and that “Building Capacity for Economic Growth” will be the theme.
6. Discussion of Multi-Day Conference: Chris Brady reported that APTA senior staff have committed to producing an APTA conference on high-speed and intercity passenger rail to be held April 2021 in Philadelphia. Chris mentioned that a survey would be sent to HS&IPR Committee members asking them for their intentions to attend / help recruit / sponsor / help plan the event.
7. Joint Meeting with APTA / AASHTO / TRB: Al Engel reported that AASHTO’s Rail Council will hold its national meeting September 16-19, in Hartford, CT. A segment of that meeting will be scheduled for a joint meeting between passenger rail representatives of APTA, AASHTO and TRB.
8. Federal Railroad Administration Remarks: Michael Hunter and Devin Rouse of the Federal Railroad Administration spoke about and answered questions on FRA’s Tier III High-Speed Rail Equipment Standards, describing the new interoperability provisions as a paradigm shift.
9. UNIFE Presentation: Jonathan Nguyen, Public Affairs Manager of UNIFE (the rail supply association of Europe) made a presentation of international passenger rail trends, highlighting the European Union’s *Shift2Rail* initiative.
10. Chicago-St. Louis Corridor Update: Phil Pasterak presented a status report on the project, noting that reliability and ridership took a hit during construction years. identified other environmental, host railroad, and equipment delivery challenges. The goal continues to be 110 MPH operations.
11. ROI Study Next Steps: Charlie Quandel reported that based on feedback from meetings with states at an AASHTO meeting, additional work is needed to make the current ROI study more useful in corridor cost-benefit studies. It was agreed that Charlie would convene with APTA staff to determine a plan for supplementing the initial ROI study with

additional work necessary to produce a final product to become a useful, go-to resource in corridor studies. Charlie reported that such additional work is estimated to cost \$125,000. Funding sources could include APTA, APTA business members, and individual contributions. In that context, Charlie committed \$10,000 from Quandel Consultants to set the tone for other companies to follow.

12. Partners Roundtable: Jeff Wharton reported on efforts to identify partners from various sectors, including from the travel industry, the clean-energy sector, AARP and others. A roundtable discussion will be organized for the upcoming APTA Annual Meeting in New York.
13. Rebranding High-Speed Rail: Don Leidy introduced the topic of rebranding passenger rail, noting passenger rail as the missing mode between the car and the airplane. It was noted that this is an important conversation to continue in a special meeting / conference call or during the APTA Annual Meeting in October.
14. Adjourn: Al noted that the Committee would meet again on Sunday, October 13, 2019, in conjunction with APTA's Annual Meeting in New York City. Having run out of time, Al Engel adjourned the meeting at 10:05 a.m.