

Port Authority of Allegheny County

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Port Authority of Allegheny County provides bus and light rail service in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Our system serves 200,000 riders daily who come from throughout the Southwestern Pennsylvania region, many of them traveling to and from destinations in Pittsburgh.

We share similar infrastructure challenges as other legacy transit systems, which create tremendous obstacles for us as we plan for growth in the future. These challenges include maintaining bridges, tunnels, rail lines and busways.

The high cost of maintaining our infrastructure comes at the expense of expansion to meet the true demand for public transportation in the region. How to strike a balance between high capital costs for infrastructure repair and the demand for service expansion remains a primary concern.



The East Busway serves 25,000 riders daily in a dense transit corridor. Possible expansion of the busway would reach suburban communities wanting improved transit service and help ease traffic congestion on commuter arteries.

While our operating budget currently is stable and certainly capable of sustaining the current level of service, we're unable to add service or expand. The operating side of this dilemma will be the basis of an ongoing community discussion: How much transit do we need and how should we pay for it?

But even if we resolve that issue, we still face the uphill capital side— how to pay for the infrastructure needed to accommodate the demand. This not only includes maintaining our already-strained operating divisions, rail and bus lines, and fleet, it also includes the need to add an operating facility and expand our park and ride network.

The demand for transit growth is obvious – we see it monthly at our business meetings as countless numbers of residents, organizations and municipalities approach us with requests for new service. Our most popular routes experience overcrowding and we know that frustrates some riders.

If we don't find a way to address these issues and break through this barrier, we fear riders will seek other transit options and we'll have missed a tremendous opportunity for our region.