Port Authority's NEXTransit to Present Ideas to Improve Transit Countywide

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (February 17, 2021) - The future of public transit in Allegheny County could include the expansion of the rapid transit network, and the creation of transportation hubs and community circulators, according to ideas generated from NEXTransit, Port Authority's long-range planning effort.

First, the public must review the list to ensure it meets the needs of the community and help determine which projects should be prioritized.

Port Authority will host four public meetings, at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Thursday, February 25, and at 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 2. Please visit https://NEXTransit.network/events to register. Those without access to the internet can call 1-855-925-2801 and enter code 9120 to join any of the meetings at the specified time.

"We are so excited to be at this pivotal step in our long-range planning process," said Port Authority CEO Katharine Kelleman. "If implemented, these projects, programs and policies, would be transformative for individual communities and our region as a whole."

Some of the ideas that will be presented at the meetings include:

- New high-capacity transit corridors to the North Hills, Pittsburgh International Airport, Hazelwood, Monroeville, the Allegheny Valley and McKeesport.
- Better on-street transit amenities to several corridors, including Second Avenue, State Route 837, Freeport Road, and McKnight Road
- Transit hubs throughout Allegheny County, including the Strip District, the North Hills, Edgewood, and Carnegie.
- Community circulators that feed into the high-frequency network and connect communities without needing to go downtown.
- Extensions of the light rail system
- Busway extensions
- Accelerated vehicle fuel diversification.
- Additional wayfinding and signage.
- Fare policies that support affordability and accessibility.
- A sidewalk accessibility program to make it easier for pedestrians to access the transit system.

Once the community helps prioritize what transit investments ought to be pursued, the project team will then ask for their input on how to pay for them. That phase of the study will begin in late spring.

NEXTransit is Port Authority's community-led planning effort for the next 25 years. The plan will help guide the Authority, planning partners, the public and regional stakeholders to set priorities for major transit investments and initiatives through the year 2045. The goal of

NEXTransit is to build upon and improve our current transportation network to attract more riders, enhance mobility, and support community development and redevelopment while promoting regional equity, sustainability, and accessibility. Port Authority launched NEXTransit on June 1, 2020.

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