



What is NEXTransit?

NEXTransit is the name given to Port Authority's 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan. From March 2020 through May 2021, Port Authority will work with the public via a team of consultants to develop the NEXTransit plan.

What is Port Authority of Allegheny County? What is its mission?

Port Authority of Allegheny County was established in 1964 and operates public transportation service within Allegheny County. It is a public authority and is run by a board of 11 members. Its fleet includes more than 700 buses, 80 light rail vehicles and two inclined planes: the Monongahela Incline and the Duquesne Incline. Port Authority's mission is to deliver outstanding transportation services that connect people to life. This means a stable, viable and growing public transit system is essential to the health, well-being, and economic growth of our region and Commonwealth. With the vision to become America's premier public transportation company, Port Authority is focused on raising the bar regarding what a rider should expect from their transit system.

What is a Long-Range Transportation Plan?

A Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is a comprehensive, long-term plan to guide investments and decision-making to plan, design, build, operate and manage a regional transportation network serving Allegheny County. The plan will support and integrate the region's planning efforts, and address the needs and wants of its communities and partners. Following the planning process, the NEXTransit plan will be an action-oriented strategy for making major investments and changes to service within the Authority's system that will guide the Authority, its planning partners, the public, and regional stakeholders in setting priorities for major transit investments through horizon year 2045.

Why do we need the NEXTransit Plan?

The NEXTransit plan will serve as a guide for future investments, prioritization of projects, and future financial sustainability for Port Authority. It will also ensure that the community's voice is incorporated into those future projects.

What are the goals of the NEXTransit plan?

Working together with the community, Port Authority's goals are to:

- Engage the public by listening to and soliciting input.
- Evaluate economic changes by understanding existing and future markets for transit.
- Provide transportation choices by identifying and planning accessible transit that connects to jobs, attractions, services, and to one another.
- Analyze system conditions and performance by building upon the system's current strengths while addressing weaknesses.
- Prioritize future efforts by developing a set of priority investments and recommendations that enhance the region's mobility, take advantage of efficiencies, and foster equitable and transit-supportive community development.

How does the NEXTransit planning process work?

To develop the NEXTransit plan, the project team will review existing data including previous transportation plans, transit routes and system information, ridership data, transit patterns, corridor plans, current and ongoing planning efforts, services, gaps, market analysis, and other relevant information and data sets. In addition, Port Authority will conduct a robust 6-phase community engagement process that will include methods such as surveys, events, meetings, and interactive workshops—all of which can be done virtually as we progress through the COVID-19 situation. This will allow the team to compile more in-depth current data, and most importantly, incorporate resident input into the plan. The planning process will take 14 months and is expected to be complete by May 2021. The implementation of the plan by Port Authority is expected to start immediately after the plan is complete.

What areas are included?

The geographic scope of the plan consists of the Port Authority service area, which includes all of Allegheny County and 3 miles into the counties next to the Allegheny County boundaries. This includes all areas that currently have transit options and also places where transit does not run today. Even if there is no Port Authority transit services in your area, your participation is very important as it helps us determine gaps in service and where we might look to add new options.

How does this plan affect the plans/projects that Port Authority already has planned/underway?

Any projects that are already planned or in-progress will not be affected by this plan.

Who is working on the plan?

The NEXTransit planning team will be guided by Port Authority staff. Port Authority has contracted Michael Baker International, Inc. which has partnered with E. Holdings Inc., Campos, Inc., Infrastrategies, LLC, and Drive Engineering Corp. to assist in carrying out the planning effort.

How long will it take to develop the NEXTransit plan?

The planning process will take 14 months and is expected to be complete by May 2021. The implementation of the plan by Port Authority is expected to start immediately after the plan is final.

What are the next steps after the NEXTransit Plan is complete?

Following the adoption of the NEXTransit plan by Port Authority, the implementation of the plan will begin. Throughout the planning process a series of short-term initiatives will be identified for Port Authority, with public support, to begin immediately.

What types of transit are being included in the NEXTransit plan?

NEXTransit will focus on (but not be limited to) the types of transit Port Authority currently runs such as local bus, bus rapid transit, light rail, and incline. Other modes of transit will also be explored as well as new facilities such as transit centers and a new bus garage with a goal of creating a better, more cohesive network. While Port Authority does not control or operate highways, bike lanes, traffic signals, etc., partner agencies that operate these will be actively involved in the planning process. All parts of the transportation network are important to consider when planning for an integrated and improved transit network.

Will the plan raise taxes/how is it funded?

The long-term financial operations of Port Authority will be a key part of the plan. Future capital (construction) projects will also be prioritized. Dedicated funding for transit is a critical issue for regions across the country, and each region has unique challenges and approaches to solving this problem. The solution for our region will be customized based on the outcome of the NEXTransit plan. That solution could involve tax revenue, but nothing related to this has been determined (or even discussed) yet.

Will the plan incorporate ways to reduce emissions, increase environmental protection, etc.?

Yes! This is of critical importance to our region, and to our planet. Port Authority strives to be a leader in greenhouse gas reduction, both through improvements to its fleet and through reduction in single-occupancy vehicle trips. Exactly how that will look is something the plan will outline based on public input.

What kind of changes/projects will come out of this plan?

NEXTransit will focus on both operational and capital (project) needs over the next 25 years; that includes actions and projects that Port Authority could begin immediately or over time. The exact changes or projects to come out of the plan have not been determined yet; that is what we will be working with you to do over the next 14 months. For example, the plan might say to build a new busway in a certain location, upgrade an existing station to include new features, or use a new type of technology to improve service to certain areas. We will work with you to decide these things together.

How often will the plan get updated after it is adopted?

The plan can be updated as transit, economic, and demographic conditions change. Though Port Authority has not yet determined an update schedule, it's anticipated that all future plan updates will include a robust public engagement program to ensure that the public's contribution and input will help shape Port Authority's future planning efforts and initiatives. Once the development process is complete, the final plan will be compiled and published. The report will then be utilized by the Port Authority and can be updated as needed.

How will the plan account for Covid-19 guidelines?

As the Covid-19 pandemic continues to evolve and change, we will also adjust and react in an appropriate manner. Any guidelines and regulations in place in Allegheny County will be followed in any in-person engagement. When guidelines cannot be followed meetings will be held online and the team will utilize virtual feedback methods. We will also be offering all surveys online, as well as by phone. Recorded meetings will be available for view on our website to offer an alternative for people who cannot make scheduled meeting times.