

2013 | 2014
**ANNUAL
REPORT**



SUCCESS

acta

This year was as positive as last year was challenging.

After much uncertainty, in November 2013 the State Legislature voted to include our rideACTA shuttle service in the Transportation Bill. That's excellent news for the hundreds of riders who need the service to get to jobs at worksites up to a mile-and-a-half away from the hub bus stop at IKEA.

Additionally, a major project came to fruition in mid-2014 with the opening of the Super Stop—a model bus stop that has drawn attention from across the region, and in fact across the country.

Other projects—some of them “firsts” for the region—filled out 2013-14, making it one of ACTA's most successful years ever.

But none of the year's successes would have happened without the responsiveness of funders and partners in both government and the private sector. They deserve great credit—and they have our great gratitude.



Lynn Manion
Executive Director

A YEAR OF

SUCCESS



A BUS STOP THAT MAKES NEWS

It's not every day that a new bus stop attracts attention from newspapers, radio, TV, magazines, national wire services, and even Twitter—but that's exactly what happened with the opening of the Super Stop, a multi-modal bus stop located at IKEA.

Why all the attention? Because the Super Stop is unique, a result of two recent ACTA studies that created design prototypes for several types of suburban bus stops.

One of those prototypes became a reality when ACTA secured competitive funding from PennDOT to develop the Super Stop and a host of related infrastructure improvements to benefit bus riders, motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians. With support from great partners, ACTA managed the project—and the results debuted at a July 2014 ceremony. Featured speakers included then-Governor Tom Corbett and County Executive Rich Fitzgerald.

The Super Stop represents major advances in safety and convenience—for example, it is accessible, spacious, and set safely back from the road. Its amenities include bike racks, picnic tables, benches and trash receptacles. It also offers the Airport Corridor's first bike workstation—a self-contained, free-standing facility where cyclists can make simple repairs.

Drawing on successful experience with transit shelters in Europe, IKEA has applied

to the back of the shelter a plastic film depicting a room setting, so that commuters waiting on Super Stop benches appear to be sitting in a living room.

Associated improvements in the area—all part of the overall project and all designed to increase safety and mobility—include:

- A new four-leg intersection, with a new traffic signal and pedestrian crosswalks, enhances safety on Park Manor Boulevard where it connects the IKEA Driveway and Robinson Town Centre (western) Driveway.
- On Park Manor Boulevard at the PNC driveway—site of many accidents—a new protected lane helps drivers making the left turn.

- Bicycle/vehicle lanes with new signage support sharing the road between the Montour Trail and the Super Stop.

The project is an example of a successful public-private partnership, combining the vision and resources of governmental, nonprofit, and for-profit entities.

Among the financial partners for the overall project, including the Super Stop, are PennDOT, IKEA, PNC Bank, and Robinson Township. Robinson Township has agreed to take ownership of the improvements, and will maintain them.

Designers and builders include Donegal Construction, Informing Design/Bob Firth, Mackin Engineering Company, Maynes & Associates, and Michael Baker Jr., Inc.





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rideACTA HITS RIDERSHIP HIGHS



With solid funding and a robust service schedule, the rideACTA shuttle hit new ridership highs this year.

Last year, amid great uncertainty about funding, ACTA made the difficult decision to stretch resources by trimming Sunday service and operating fewer shuttles on other days.

After considerable debate in Harrisburg—a period during which ACTA and local legislators advocated hard for sustained funding—the State Legislature responded to the need for the shuttle service, providing \$652,000 for the year starting in July 2014. The shuttle service is now a part of the public transit stream along with other

services—in this region, two examples are the Port Authority of Allegheny County and Beaver County Transit Authority.

As soon as the State money became available—on July 1, 2014—rideACTA resumed full service, and ridership soared to new highs. In July, **5900 rides** were provided—51% over the previous year and the highest July ridership ever. In August, the service provided **6633 rides**, the highest month ever—until September, which saw **7719 rides** provided. It's proof positive that rideACTA meets a great need for workers in the Airport Corridor.

51 PERCENT INCREASE
JULY 2013 - JULY 2014



TOWNSHIPS, BUSINESS, COUNTY STEP UP TO PROVIDE MATCH

The \$652,000 in new State funding represents 85% of rideACTA's annual cost; the Legislature requires a local match of 15%. For this year, Moon Township, Findlay Township, and IBEX Global have stepped up to the plate — as did Allegheny County. County Executive Rich Fitzgerald recently announced that the County would provide \$84,250 of the required local match.



AIRPORT CORRIDOR'S FIRST BIKE MAP INTRODUCED

In another transportation-related “first” for the region, ACTA spearheaded the creation of the area’s first-ever bike map.

The colorful, easy-to-use Airport Corridor Bike Connections map benefits both commuting and recreational cyclists. It shows bike trails throughout the Corridor, including the Montour Trail—the region’s cycling superhighway.

The map also shows how the bike trails connect to roads, shopping centers, business areas, and recreational facilities.

For the convenience of users, the map comes in several versions: on the web, as a smartphone app, paper, and waterproof paper.

The app and web versions are highly interactive, offering a search function; the ability to click to show your current position; popups showing bike shops, bike racks, and trail access points; and easy directions to wherever you want to go.

Want the map? Here’s how to get it:

- On the web, go to www.actabikemap.org
- For the free smartphone app, search for ACTA Bike Map on the iOS App Store and “ACTA Bike Map” (use the quotes) on the Android Play Store
- For hard copy, call 412.533.4602; the paper version is free and the waterproof version only \$5



The map was made possible by the generosity of lead underwriter PennDOT and sponsors including Allegheny County Airport Authority, Allegheny County, Armstrong Telephone, DiCicco Development, Inc., Dick’s Sporting Goods, FedEx Ground, IKEA, The Mall at Robinson, Port Authority of Allegheny County, Robert Morris University, Findlay Township, and Moon Township.



ACTA GETS THE WORD OUT ABOUT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Have you ever driven through a highway construction area and wondered what was going on? Or when the project would be over? Or whether there’s a good detour around it?

For many PennDOT District 11 projects throughout the county, ACTA provides public outreach—detailed project information available to anyone who wants it.

The information is available in several ways: telephone hotlines (see numbers

to the right—call to ask a question about a project); email blasts (to get on the list, phone or email Amy Mathieson at 412.533.4602 or amy.mathieson@actapgh.org); or in the Construction section of ACTA’s website at acta-pgh.org.

The website provides complete information about all projects for which ACTA is doing outreach, including start and end dates, a project description, traffic advisories (for example, information about closures), and detour information.

Current projects for which ACTA is providing outreach and their hotline numbers include:

- Parkway West: 412.533.4602 or 412.533.4601
- Fort Pitt Tunnel: 412.533.4602 or 412.533.4601
- Route 51/88: 412.533.4606
- West Carson Street: 412.533.4604
- Lincoln Way: 412.533.4602



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