



*A Statewide Joint Partnership to Meet the Needs of the New Technology of Public Transit
Funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry*

KEYSTONE TRANSIT CAREER LADDER PARTNERSHIP FACT SHEET

The Statewide Labor-Management training program started in 2001 under the Governor Ridge Administration with a grant from the Pennsylvania Secretary of Labor and Industry Johnny Butler. The career ladder initiative began in Philadelphia and within a year expanded to include the Pennsylvania Public Transportation Association member agencies. By the third year, the Partnership expanded to become statewide. It now includes 33 Pennsylvania public transit agencies and 23 unions. Due to the constant changes in vehicle and equipment technology, training will always be crucial for public safety. The training opportunities made possible through the Partnership meet the needs of the employer, the career goals of their employees, and serves to strengthen public transit systems. A highly trained transit workforce lowers production and material costs while ensuring a safe ride for passengers.

The Partnership is structured into three regions: Philadelphia (Class 1), Pittsburgh (Class 2), and Rest of State (Class 3, 4, and 5 PA transit agencies). Regional Policy Steering Committees comprised of senior transit agency managers and union officers govern the programs and budgets for each region.

KEYSTONE TRANSIT REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS: EMPLOYERS AND UNIONS

Philadelphia SEPTA and Transport Workers Union (TWU) Local 234

Pittsburgh Port Authority and Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 85

Rest of State 31 Class 3, 4, and 5 PA Transit agencies and 21 unions including:

88 Transit Lines	Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority/ATU 568
Altoona Metro Transit/ATU 801	Fayette Area Coordinated Transportation
ATA/Non-union	Indiana County Transit Authority/ AFSCME
Beaver County Transit Authority/ATU 1743	Laidlaw
Berks Area Reading Trans. Authority/IAM 447	Lehigh & Northampton Trans. Authority/ATU 956
Blair Senior Services	Luzerne County Trans. Authority/ATU 164
Brownsville Bus Lines	Monroe County Transit Authority/ ATU Local 819
Butler Transit Authority	New Castle Area Transit Authority/ATU 89
Cambria County Transit Authority/ATU 1279	Rabbit Transit/Teamsters Local 776
Capitol Area Trans. Authority/ATU Local 1436	Red Rose Transit Authority/ATU 1241
Centre Area Trans. Auth./ AFSMCE Local 1203-B	River Valley Transit/ ATU Local 1496
County of Lackawanna Transit System/ ATU Local 168	Schuylkill Trans. Sys./SEIU Firemen & Oilers 1201
County of Lebanon Transit/Teamsters 429	Town and Country Transit/ ATU Local 1738
Cumberland Area Transit System	Union-Snyder Transportation Alliance
Edenfield Transit	York Rabbit Transit/Teamsters Local 776
Endless Mountain Trans. Auth./Teamsters 229	

The Partnership's regional and statewide labor-management committees continue to meet to address the following partnership concerns:

TRAINING:

- Evaluated prior program year's training opportunities (classes and instructors)
- Identified future training needs
- Continued to develop training curriculum
- Identified and interviewed new training providers
- Scheduling of training classes – In progress

The Transit Partnership regional Workgroups and the Statewide Standards committee designated the following training as priorities:

PHILADELPHIA: SOUTHEAST PA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (SEPTA)/TWU LOCAL 234

- Adult Basic Education for Job Promotions
- Computer training
- HVAC diagnostics
- Promotional Training for Bus and Rail Technicians /Mechanics (Career Ladder Training to Fill Vacancies)
- Apprenticeship Training
- Summer Youth Program
- Elevator Escalator training

PITTSBURGH: PORT AUTHORITY OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY (PITTSBURGH)/ATU LOCAL 85

- Electrical Maintenance and Troubleshooting Training
- Paint Application for Body Repair Person – Including Environmental Regulations and Safety Considerations
- Programmable Logic Controller for Electronic Maintainers, Wire Persons, and Building Maintainers
- Track Maintenance for Light Rail Vehicles
- Upholstery and Sewing Training
- Hybrid Bus Drive Train Training

REST OF STATE: CLASS 3, 4, AND 5 TRANSIT AGENCIES AND UNIONS

- Advanced Electronics
 - Dinex/Multiplex
 - Programmable Logic Controller
- Allison Transmission Diagnostics
- Airbrakes –Anti-Locking Brake Systems and Automatic Traction Control Diagnostics
- Cummins Engine Diagnostics
- Destination Sign Training – Including Interface with GPS Systems
- Diesel Engine Emissions – Including EGR
- Diesel Engine Fuel Systems
- Duramax Diesel Engine Training
- Farebox Training
- HVAC - Theory
- HVAC - Certification
- HVAC - New 407c Refrigerant training
- Hybrid Bus Drive Train Training
- Preventive Maintenance
- Uria Tank (emissions) Training
- Welding

The PA Public Transportation Association, which represents and advocates on behalf of public transit providers and the communities they serve, agreed to update their website to include the Partnership training schedule.

The Partnership collaborates with the national Transportation Learning Center to maintain a website at www.keystonetransit.org. The site contains publications and updates.

Number of Trainees by Location and Region				
Program Year	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh	Rest of State	Total
Year 1 (12/01-06/02)	134	0	0	134
Year 2 (07/02-06/03)	785	0	125	910
Year 3 (07/03-06/04)	1,065	150	150	1,365
Year 4 (07/04-06/05)	1,120	108	81	1,309
Year 5 (07/05-06/06)	1,304	236	128	1,668
Year 6 (07/06-06/07)	1,686	328	81	2,095
Year 7 (07/07-06/08) ¹	1,044 ²	263	67	1,374
Year 8 (07/08-06/09)	1514	58	108	1,680
Year 9 (07/09-06/30/10) ³	1542	88	97	1,727

Notes: ¹ Grant reduced by 46% ² 421 SEPTA trainees were in promotional classes ³ Grant reduced by 14%

Strategies to address challenges

- The Partnership sponsored classes scheduled to accommodate productivity schedules.
- Research Train-the-trainer and mentor programs to develop capacity of the agencies to meet specific training needs.
- Strengthen industry stakeholder governance for the Partnership to address self-sustainability.
- Meeting the needs of the PA public transportation agencies and their workforce in “Green” technology training (vehicle propulsion) has been identified as a top priority. The Partnership is addressing the shortage of qualified trainers.

The Keystone Development Partnership (KDP) manages the Partnership grants. KDP is a 501(c) (3), non-profit organization created by the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO in 2005. KDP develops and sustains Labor Management training programs focused on high performance. KDP staff provides technical assistance to industry partners in the private and public sectors.

Working directly with industry stakeholders, KDP develops training for incumbent employees, new hires, as well pre-employment programs. Customized curriculum based on actual on-site findings provides for precise job oriented training to meet employee skill needs.

The program was so successful that the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry awarded KDP a grant in 2006 to replicate the Transit Partnership for Pennsylvania’s utilities employers and unions. Starting in Pittsburgh with an IBEW local union and three energy employers, the Keystone Utilities Partnership grew to be statewide within one year. By the second year, it expanded to include employers in the water and gas sectors. The Utilities Partnership includes 16 employers including PPL, Met-Ed, First Energy, and RRI along with 22 unions to include the IBEW and Utility Workers Union.