

SPC Transportation Operations & Safety Committee

Tuesday, June 23, 2009, 10:00AM

Regional Enterprise Tower, 23rd Floor, O'Neill Room

ATTENDEES

Amanda Broadwater, City of Pittsburgh
Robb Dean, PennDOT District 12-0
Rachel Duda, PennDOT District 12-0
Max Heckman, Michael Baker
Keith Johnson, URS
Todd Kravits, PennDOT District 11-0
Mark Magalotti, Univ. of Pittsburgh
Melissa McFeaters, PennDOT District 10-0
Mike Mudry, Trans Associates
Erin North, Wilbur Smith
Lisa Kay Schweyer, SPC
Bob Taylor, Gannett Fleming

Dominic D'Andrea, SPC
Chuck DiPietro, SPC
Casey Hanner, Univ. of Pittsburgh
Jim Hunt, FHWA
Tom Klevan, SPC
Kathryn Larkin, PennDOT District 11-0
Lynn Manion, ACTA
Ed Miller, PennDOT District 11-0
Liz Nahm, OTMA
Mavis Rainey, OTMA
Doug Smith, SPC
Scott Thompson-Graves, WR&A

MEETING SUMMARY

- Following introductions, Bob Taylor provided a summary of the recently completed Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) report on congestion mitigation and smart transportation. (The TAC is an independent, statutory body created by the Pennsylvania Legislature in 1970 to “consult with and advise the State Transportation Commission and the Secretary of Transportation on behalf of all transportation modes in the Commonwealth.”) The TAC study highlighted congestion mitigation strategies that reflect Smart Transportation principles, identified tools needed to implement various congestion mitigation strategies, and provided recommendations to assist in strategy implementation. The report was accepted and approved by the State Transportation Commission on May 27th and is available on PennDOT’s website (<http://www.dot.state.pa.us> – click on More Links, Commissions/Committees, Pennsylvania State Transportation Advisory Committee, and Committee Reports).
- Max Heckman and Doug Smith provided a recap of the Traveler Information Workshop that was held by SPC on June 9th. BHSTE project manager Bob Pento attended the workshop and provided an update on the status of PA 511, which is currently in systems testing and will go live later this summer. The system will provide roadway, transit, tourism, maintenance, and weather information and will use a wide variety of data sources including PennDOT RCRS, InRix GPS data, and information from the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and National Weather Service. Southwestern Pennsylvania will be one of the 8 geographic calling areas of the system. - - The results of SPC’s regional traveler survey were also presented and discussed at the workshop. Topics that received the most discussion included transit traveler information, public awareness of 511, airport information, and ease of use of the system for travelers from outside the local area. - - The Baker team is currently wrapping up the traveler information survey project with a Needs & Opportunities report that will be used to provide input into the PA 511 system design as well as the next update of the Regional Operations Plan.
- Domenic D’Andrea provided an update on the status of the regional traffic signal program. SPC has met with each of the local municipalities with proposed projects and is currently

in the process of getting all the legal agreements in place. Two of the agreements have been executed and work will begin on those projects shortly. Domenic also provided an update on the recent LED purchase program, which is now complete, and noted that LTAP has developed a signals training course geared toward municipal officials and employees, which SPC intends to host in the near future. Kathryn Larkin asked about the potential for SPC to host the IMSA Level I training course again. Domenic will gauge the level of interest in IMSA Level I to determine if/when there is sufficient interest to fill the minimum number of seats required (20). IMSA Level I was held by SPC in 2008 and Level II was held in 2009. Both courses were well attended and there continues to be strong interest in signals-related training opportunities.

- Mark Magalotti provided an overview of the freeway ramp management research study currently being conducted by the University of Pittsburgh and PennDOT. Ramp management includes strategies such as ramp metering, ramp widening, turn lane additions, ramp closures, and signing and pavement marking changes. The study is looking at best practices in ramp management across the country, will identify congested freeways in Pennsylvania that may benefit from ramp management strategies, and will recommend criteria to be used by PennDOT for implementation of ramp management projects. The study will also utilize detailed modeling to evaluate the potential to implement various ramp management strategies to reduce congestion on I-376 near the Squirrel Hill Tunnels.
- Doug Smith provided an update on the regional Congestion Management Process (CMP). SPC is nearing the end of the current 3-year data collection cycle, which means that it is time for a CMP network reassessment. SPC staff is currently in the process of reviewing all the CMP corridors and developing a list of potential network changes, which will be shared with the PennDOT Districts, County Planning Departments, and transit providers. Planning Partners are encouraged to review the CMP corridors in their areas and provide SPC with comments and suggestions on potential CMP network modifications.
- Doug also provided an update on the regional Road Safety Audit (RSA) program. SPC has identified dates and is currently in the process of setting up three RSAs that were proposed by the PennDOT Engineering Districts (see below). Also, SPC was recently approved for supplemental planning funds that will allow three additional RSAs to be completed in the upcoming fiscal year. Planning Partners are encouraged to submit candidates to SPC.
 - Freeport Road from Morgan Street in Brackenridge Borough to Montana Avenue in Harrison Twp, ALCO: October 20-22, 2009
 - S.R. 519 at Thomas-Eighty Four / Brownlee Roads in North Strabane Twp, WACO: November 18-20, 2009
 - S.R. 56 from S.R. 66 in Apollo Borough to Balsiger Road in Kiskiminetas Township, ARCO: March 23-25, 2010
- The next meeting of the regional Transportation Operations & Safety Committee is tentatively scheduled for October 27, 2009. Committee participants are encouraged to submit potential agenda topics for future meetings.