

SPC Transportation Operations & Safety Committee

**Wednesday, November 29, 2006, 10AM
Regional Enterprise Tower, 23rd Floor, Fetterolf Room**

ATTENDEES

Doniele Andrus, Butler County Planning
Lucinda Beattie, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
Robb Dean, PennDOT District 12-0
Chuck DiPietro, SPC
Rachel Duda, PennDOT District 12-0
Bob Dudash, URS Corporation
Rich Feder, Port Authority of Allegheny County
Dave Freudenrich, Maguire Group
David Ginns, SPC
Todd Kravits, PennDOT District 11-0
Bill Laubach, PennDOT BHSTE
James MacKay, DMJM+Harris
Lynn Manion, Airport Corridor Transportation Management Association
Kevin McCullough, PennDOT Program Center
Dominic Munizza, DMJM+Harris
Brenda Murphy, PennDOT BHSTE
Mavis Rainey, Oakland Transportation Management Association
Lou Rocchini, Maguire Group
Bernie Rossman, Allegheny County Public Works
John Rudiak, PennDOT District 11-0
Steve Schillero, DMJM+Harris
Doug Smith, SPC
Dave Tomaswick, PennDOT District 10-0

MEETING SUMMARY

- Following introductions, Doug Smith provided a recap of the Regional Operations Plan (ROP) meeting held on September 14th and identified the four priority areas for operations that were developed in that work session. He explained that a task force has been established for each of the four priority areas and announced the dates and times for those meetings. Contact SPC or simply show up for the task force meeting(s) if you are interested in participating.
- Doug Smith indicated that SPC recently received a letter from PennDOT Central Office offering the opportunity for the MPO to nominate up to two corridors for the next cycle of the Congested Corridor Improvement Program (CCIP). Because of the short turnaround time, SPC has been coordinating directly with each of the Districts on a response. The CCIP studies identify potential Immediate (< 1 year), Short-term (1-3 years), and Long-term (3+ years) improvements in the study corridors. CCIP study funding comes from Central Office, but the Planning Partners must agree to set aside \$250,000 in final design funding on the TIP for

implementation of study recommendations. Because of the timing of the CCIP cycle and the fact that the 2007-2010 TIP has already been adopted, in order to make room for \$250,000 in final design funds for a CCIP project, another project(s) would have to be removed from the TIP, which is not palatable. SPC and the Districts took an alternative approach by looking for projects that were already on the TIP for design funding and where the project was early enough in development that CCIP findings would be able to be integrated into the design process. Based on this approach, SPC and District 12-0 have nominated the U.S. 119 corridor in Connellsville, Fayette County for this round of the CCIP. Implementation of CCIP recommendations will be integrated into the U.S. 119 Memorial Bridge project (MPMS #29811) to the extent possible. Representatives of DMJM+Harris requested to be included on the CCIP committee for the U.S. 119 corridor since they are doing the design for the Memorial Bridge project.

- The Ops & Safety Committee discussed the CCIP program and identified the need to establish CCIP line items during the next TIP update in order to avoid this situation in future cycles and avoid the possibility of the region not being able to participate in the program due to a lack of funds on the TIP for implementation. The Committee also recognized that the Planning Partners' commitment to follow through with construction funds will be the key to success of the CCIP.
- Doug Smith reviewed recent improvements to the region's Congestion Management Process (CMP) and noted that the first data collection "season" for the new 3-year data collection cycle has been completed. Doug discussed the design for the proposed CMP stakeholder areas and explained how these stakeholder groups might be used to provide input to the CMP. The stakeholder groups would be a mechanism for taking the regional CMP to a local level and providing an avenue for the public and local officials to provide input into the process. CMP data could be presented to these stakeholder groups and stakeholders could help to verify congestion patterns, identify causes of congestion, define performance thresholds for each corridor, evaluate congestion mitigation strategies, and report on strategy implementation activities in their areas. SPC anticipates launching this new effort in Spring 2007 with the Beaver-Lawrence stakeholder group since data collection was recently completed for corridors in those areas.
- A report on CMP initiatives at two other MPOs was also provided. Doug recently met with representatives of the Lebanon MPO, which is a relatively new MPO, to discuss SPC's CMP and to share information on the organization of the process, data collection methods, and other related matters. Lebanon officials are developing their own regional CMP and are interested in using some of SPC's techniques and processes. Doug also reported on an initiative being undertaken by DVRPC (the MPO in the Philadelphia region) to meet with PennDOT District Project Managers to provide them with an overview of the regional CMP and to educate them on how the CMP can impact project development and project delivery. Doug offered to set up similar outreach work sessions with PennDOT Districts 10-0, 11-0 & 12-0. District 11-0 expressed an interest in conducting a session(s) with their Project Managers.

- John Rudiak provided a presentation on the benefits of traffic signal improvements in the S.R. 51 corridor in Allegheny County. This project involved 23 traffic signals in 6 different municipalities, which were divided into 4 signal systems. Among other things, the project included 22 new electrical services, 110 LED signal heads, 114 pedestrian signal heads, 132 pedestrian push buttons, 1,622 ft² of new signage, 15 new signal controller assemblies, and 2 spread spectrum radio systems. The total cost of the project was \$513,770 and the municipalities are projected to save \$118,800 per year in energy and bulb replacement savings alone with the switch from incandescent to LED signal heads. The project also resulted in the following travel time reductions:
 - 7.1% reduction NB in AM peak
 - 8.4% reduction NB in PM peak
 - 20.8% reduction SB in AM peak
 - 5.9% reduction SB in PM peak
- Dave Freudenrich gave a presentation of the draft outreach materials that have been developed as part of the first phase of the regional traffic signal program. This includes a pamphlet and a PowerPoint presentation to raise awareness of the benefits of traffic signal upgrades and maintenance. The target audience for these materials would primarily be municipal officials. Committee members suggested that Councils of Governments (COGs) could be an effective medium for conducting this outreach. The Maguire/URS team is looking for feedback/edits on the outreach materials from Ops & Safety Committee members.
- Bill Laubach provided an overview of Central Office's work to establish a Traffic Signal Asset Management System (TSAMS). SPC and Districts 10-0, 11-0 & 12-0 look forward to working with BHSTE on this effort.
- Doug Smith provided an overview of the multi-year regional traffic signal program outlined in SPC's UPWP and indicated that SPC and Maguire/URS will be looking for input from the Committee on how to structure the regional signal program beyond just the initial outreach initiatives.
- Bob Dudash provided a brief overview of the results of a traffic signal inventory questionnaire that was distributed to PennDOT Districts 10-0, 11-0, 12-0 and BHSTE.
- Doug Smith mentioned that SPC and PennDOT District 12-0 have been discussing opportunities to utilize the work of the Project Evaluation Subcommittee in helping to evaluate candidate safety projects in District 12-0.
- SPC has begun drafting job write-ups for next year's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Members of the Ops & Safety Committee are welcomed to suggest ideas for operations and safety-related planning studies and initiatives for consideration.
- The next meeting of the regional Transportation Operations & Safety Committee is tentatively scheduled for February 28, 2007. Possible topics for discussion include an update on ROP development, a progress report and work products from the regional traffic signal program, an update on CMP stakeholder activities, and information related to *Project Region*, SPC's new long-range plan.