

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of
October 30, 2006 – 4:30 p.m.
Regional Enterprise Tower – 425 Sixth Avenue, 31st Floor – Pittsburgh, PA 15219

The fifty-ninth meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission was called to order by Chairman, Bracken Burns.

Commission members present were: Tom Balya, Stephen Bland, Bracken Burns, Charles Camp, Tom Ceraso, Daniel Cessna, Dave Coder, Steve Craig, Richard Fink, Patrick Ford, Jim Gagliano, Jr., Lynn Heckman, David Johnston, James Kennedy, Ellen Kight, Patricia Kirkpatrick, Allen Kukovich, Phil Light, Scott Lowe, Larry Maggi, Robbie Matesic, Kevin McCullough, Larry Morris, Andrew Quinn, Carmen Rozzi, Daniel Santoro, James Scahill, Michael Silvestri, Pam Snyder, Joe Spanik, Gealy Wallwork and Norma Wintermeyer.

Commission members absent were: Glenn Anderson, Karen Bennett, Andrew Boni, Susan Borinsky, Orlando Capretto, Eric Carlson, James Cheatham, Robert DeLotto, Dan Donatella, Joseph Dubovi III, Edward Fosnaught, David Frick, John Gardner, Joseph Hardy, Dana Henry, Larry King, Mark Lay, Terry McMillen, Henry Nutbrown, David Miller, Dan Onorato, William Peduto, Luke Ravenstahl, Dennis Regan, Rodney Ruddock, Mark Schneider, Richard Shaw, Mark Snyder, Anthony Spossey, Byron Stauffer, Jr., Joe Szczur, Vincent Vicites, Daniel Vogler, Jake Wheatley, and Angela Zimmerlink.

Others: Rich Feder, Port Authority of Allegheny County; Karen Rollins-Fitch representing Honorable Jake Wheatley, Jr.; David McGuirk, Citizen; John Smith, Citizen; and John Verbanac, SPC Consultant.

Staff: Jim Hassinger, Kirk Brethauer, Jill Byers, Jamie Colecchi, Chuck DiPietro, Linda Duffy, Chuck Imbrogno, Vince Massaro, Marge Nalesnick, Shannon O'Connell, Evan Schoss, Kay Tomko, Debbie Tritsch, Carol Uminski and Lew Villotti.

1. Action on Minutes of the September 25th Meeting

The minutes of the September 25, 2006 meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission were approved on a motion by Commissioner Snyder which was seconded by Commissioner Craig. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

2. Public Comment

Mr. David McGuirk, representing the Citizens for Alternatives to New Toll Roads, appealed to Commission members to lobby Harrisburg, along with Pennsylvania's other MPO's, to remove any future Oil Franchise appropriation for the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission. In a second appeal, he urged SPC to say "No More" to Oil Franchise Taxes going to the Turnpike Commission. Copies of these two appeals were distributed to the Commission members.

3. Financial Report

Mr. Massaro explained that the report was for the fiscal period ending September 30, 2006 and was for the Corporation, the Commission, and the operations of the Regional Enterprise Tower.

Total Project Revenues recognized and recorded to date were \$1,695,363 vs. the annual budget of \$10,622,925 or 15.96% of the budget utilized for the reporting period. Of the 78 projects within the 2006-07 UPWP and Economic Development Program areas, a total of 56 or 72% of the projects are in progress and are proceeding as budgeted for the reporting period.

A few of the larger projects that have a material effect on the financials are at various stages and they are as follows:

- **Transportation Model Development project years 4, 5, and 6:** \$1,119,000 budgeted. This project relates to the completion of the Regional External Cordon Intercept Survey (\$320,611) which is 80% completed in the field and we anticipate receipt of the contractors invoices within the next sixty days and in addition the Regional Public Transportation Surveys (\$600,000) both of which are in progress and are expected to be completed by the end of FY 2006-07.
- **BREP Calling Program:** \$559,130 budgeted of which \$90,950 has been expended to date or 16.3% of the project budget.
- **Port of Pittsburgh Water Transit:** \$587,315 budgeted of which \$0 have been expended to date. Project is on hold pending receipt of a revised project scope of work from the Port of Pittsburgh Commission.

Revenues related to the Operations of the Regional Enterprise Tower to date have a total of \$1,349,323 in rents recorded or 25.50% of the budget which is in line with the projected budget. The building tenant occupancy is at 86.4%. Expenses related to the operations of the Regional Enterprise Tower, before depreciation and amortization expense are \$1,041,942 vs. the annual budget of \$4,570,440 or 22.80% of the budget utilized for the reporting period. Conference Center rentals continue to be strong in relation to the budget. Cash Flow from operations remains positive for the reporting period. To date, NO funds have been drawn down from the building Endowment Fund.

Mr. Massaro also reported that the audit has been completed with no reportable findings. The audit report will be presented to the Board at the December 4th meeting.

4. Presentation on PA Mobility Plan

Mr. Kevin McCullough, MPO Coordinator for PennDOT, gave a presentation on the PA Mobility Plan. He explained that the plan is Pennsylvania's statewide long-range transportation plan for 2006 – 2030. It was developed to be responsive, supportive, strategic, unified, system-oriented, collaborative and focused. It involved a broad base of Pennsylvanians, a 75-member Development Team and numerous other stakeholders.

The Mobility Plan's purpose is to collaboratively establish a transportation direction to guide transportation planning and investment statewide. The plan sets a broad direction that can be flexibly implemented by the various modes (multimodal freight and passenger facilities,

operations, and services including air, rail, transit, water ports, highways/bridges, and bicycle-pedestrian). The Mobility Plan provides a multimodal framework for collaboration and partnership so that the vision of a “best performing system” can be realized.

The Plan’s vision is to provide the best performing transportation system for people, business, and places. Its goals are to: 1) move people and goods safely and securely; 2) improve quality of life by linking transportation, land use, economic development, and environmental stewardship; 3) develop and sustain quality transportation infrastructure; 4) provide mobility for people, goods, and commerce; and 5) maximize the benefit of transportation investments.

Mr. McCullough said the next steps include implementation, monitoring and reporting. Additional details on the PA Mobility Plan can be found at www.pamobilityplan.com.

5. Update on Project Region

Mr. Villotti reported that the first meeting of the Project Region Regional Partners was held on October 27, 2006. There were about 400 registered participants from public, private, civic and philanthropic sectors; municipal, county state and federal governments and agencies; school districts, community groups, economic development agencies, transportation providers; and citizens from the ten counties of southwestern Pennsylvania. It was explained that those in attendance were chosen for their diverse experience, knowledge, skill and perspective. They were asked to participate in setting a course for the future of the region and to provide input into the policies that will be used to help define the next regional plan. The participants were asked to partake in an exercise that would rank various policies. These policy areas included: Regional Places, Regional Activities and Regional Connections. The next meeting for the Project Region Regional Partners is scheduled for December 8, 2006.

6. Staff Report/Other Business/Announcements

Dr. Hassinger introduced two new staff members: Evan Schoss, GIS Technician, reporting to Kirk Brethauer and Jill Byers, Development Specialist, reporting to Jamie Colecchi.

Commissioners Burns announced that the next meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission will be December 4, 2006.

Mr. Colecchi provided a history on the eCOMMONwealth Program. This program is an effort of seven Local Development Districts (LDDs) to research the existing state of broadband, examine connectivity technologies, and create models to increase access to broadband. A needs assessment was conducted by Spotts Stevens and McCoy and was completed in July. An extensive survey was conducted to: 1) determine where broadband service offerings currently do and do not exist; and 2) establish top priority areas recommended for early deployment efforts. A total of 23 priority areas were identified. The criteria in determining these areas consisted of: 1) greatest potential for return of investment resulting in new or increased employment opportunity and/or base; 2) greatest aggregation of demand per capita; 3) specialty needs areas; i.e. schools, hospitals, airports; and 4) remaining rural areas.

Ms. Byers presented the results of the survey responses for the SPC region. Of the 935 total responses, 16% accounted for residential and 16% accounted for business. Ms. Byers reviewed

the residential and business findings for the region. She announced that a Broadband Planning Workshop will be held on November 3 to address the priorities of the findings, and she urged everyone to attend.

7. New Business

None

8. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles A. Camp
Secretary-Treasurer