

**PPP Regional Partners Forum, 12.08.11**  
**Flip Chart Note Summary**

**PPP Input Process**

- SPC used a new outreach approach this fall, with direction mailing to PPP members and then coordinated with PPP chairpersons to develop early input into 2013-2016 TIP. Was this an effective method of outreach? Discussion on early input approach SPC took this Fall
  - In this case when funding is short it seems ok – Alex Graziani
  - Not in every case because at times an unknown project pops up and I don't understand where it comes from – Cindy Davis
    - Example, Route 68 from Butler to Route 528 needs to be looked at
    - It's the next 228 > how do you keep it from moving in same direction
  - Funding for Studies is tough with no LUPTAP and other funding sources that have been eliminated – Alex
    - Does PennDOT have any funding options to offer such as the earlier Land Use Initiatives funds option
- It seems like local and regional government have less of a voice now. Lots of changes over the years. Very different than 10 years ago. – Tom Bradigan
  - PennDOT was asked what is happening with Transportation Funding Advisory Commission (TFAC) recommendations? -
  - Who was on it?
  - How was input gathered for it? – Statewide process, public meetings, TFAC website etc.
  - Didn't have SPC input > No MPO or LDD's at the table

## **2013 – 2016 TIP PPP Input**

- Check display maps to be sure projects are located correctly
- All projects aren't on TIP now, some are projects that will be new to this TIP
- Allegheny has very specific projects on their list that were not displayed

## **Background & Elements of TIP**

- Explanation of Act 44
  - A statement was made that the existing PA Turnpike Commission customers are paying for statewide improvements. If true, it isn't fair. Toll other highways to generate funding for improvements.
- What is the distinction between the bridge state funding and bonding program
  - The last year of the bonding programming is 2013
  - The administration made the decision to discontinue borrowing for now
- How do the percentages of projects compare to 10 years back? – Alex Graziani
  - Much lower

## **Transit**

- David Wohlwill noted that the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project is funded for study (only) , with a broad range of stakeholders and support due to need (for transit service enhancements between downtown and Oakland)
- The Smart Card project is funded and well underway. It is in the first stage of implementation which is the testing phase using University of Pittsburgh students. By this time next year it will be up and running for all users.
- Kevin McCullough responded to questions on the TFAC recommendations:
  - It is in the Governor's hands with no movement expected until maybe Spring 2012
  - All transportation modes are covered in the report
  - Public input was gathered from previous studies
  - There is House bill on the table to advance TFAC, but the committee is not moving it yet
  - Senator Corman introduced it at the Senate level
  - Economic factors are playing a role in the decision to implement the TFAC recommendations)

- Kevin McCullough responded to the earlier question regarding other funding programs that may be available for planning:
  - Supplemental land use funding may be available in the future
  - Important to keep planning efforts moving in event that funding does become available
  - Very little funding is there now, and what is available is provided through the annual SPC work program
  - Some funding will be there through the Linking Planning and NEPA program
- Transit Planning Process
  - Northshore Connector is part of a Downtown plan and BRT is part of a Comp Plan

Other General Discussion Elements:

- Regional Smart Transportation Initiatives
  - Should we be talking to our legislators in support of new funding; yes, and focus on visits to your own legislator first for the most impact.
  - Write to the Governor directly
- In response to earlier questions regarding how highway, bridge and transit projects get funded without PPP input it was noted:
  - It does not happen often in this financial environment
  - Partnerships are helpful to some projects but PPP input is very important to help us make the most of what we have
  - PPP's could be used as advocates for concepts like tolling eg:I-70 at state line > all state lines >
  - Use PPP's for meaningful discussions
- The idea of merging the PA Turnpike Commission and PennDOT was raised
- There is a need for more regional PPP discussions like this
  - Attendance could be poor at this meeting due to timing
  - We get too bogged down in the legal process and miss the mark on meaningful dialogue and workshops
  - Process is not engaging for general public
- Meeting once or twice a year is not enough
- What communications tools are best:
  - E-mail – Access to email should be a prerequisite to being a committee member
  - Don't use newspaper it doesn't reach many like younger demographic
  - Need clarity on flexibility of meetings and when
  - Use counties to distribute PPP information as a network

- Would you like more in-county meetings or regional planning work shops
  - Regional meetings are great as long as they aren't wasted on FYI and more time is made available so that participants can roll up sleeves and work
- Roles and responsibilities are clear but expectations and accountability is needed. Establish consistent operating procedures for all PPPs such as:
  - Must have e-mail
  - Must attend a certain number of workshops
    - If you don't show you are out
- There's no link to everyday SPC work with PPP's. There are no SPC committee seats for PPP members. It is difficult to keep up with progress and have meaningful input without being included
  - Work happens at committees and PPP's are not part of it
  - Have an open slot for rotation on committee
- SPC could have a Facebook page
- Have another workshop before the next round of TIP meetings only if there is meaningful work to be done
- SPC could schedule a workshop on how to communicate
  - Should be regional
  - Have all PPP members or chairs
  - Did get together once before but there was no follow thru with results
- There needs to be more strategic planning types of meetings
- Charge panel chairs with going out and getting feed back on communications pros and cons for a follow-up meeting
- Establish policies and procedures for PPP's that includes distribution of meeting summaries
- Organize a dialog around electronic media
- Is there some kind of survey we can do?