

ARMSTRONG COUNTY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PANEL JUNE 28, 2006

Public Meeting to Collect Testimony on the 2007 – 2010 Draft Transportation Improvement Program, Air Quality Conformity Determination for the TIP, and the Long-Range Regional Plan Amendment Request

Meeting Held:

Belmont Complex, 415 Butler Road, West Kittanning
7:00 p.m., June 28, 2006

In Attendance:

Panel members:

Dick Clever, PPP Co-Chair
Tom Bradigan, PPP Co-Chair
James Seagriff, Freeport Borough
M.R. Johnston, Town & Country Transit

Panel resource persons:

T.L. Ralston, Armstrong County Planning

Other attendees:

Patrick Shuster, Leader Times
Jim Scahill, Armstrong County Commissioner

SPC Staff: Ken Flack
Doug Smith

Meeting notes:

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Dick Clever opened the meeting, welcoming all attendees. He introduced himself as well as the SPC Staff, and a few other members of the audience. SPC staff member Ken Flack was introduced and the meeting was turned over to him so he could provide an overview of the TIP and Air Quality Conformity process as well as the Long Range Plan amendment request for the North Shore LRT project.

2. Statement of Purpose of the Meeting

Ken Flack started off by reinforcing that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the draft update of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission's TIP, Air Quality Conformity document and LRP amendment. This is not the meeting to testify for new projects to be added to the TIP.

3. Basic Review of the TIP Update, Air Quality Conformity, and LRP Amendment Request

Mr. Flack then provided an overview of the process now underway to update the 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program. The TIP represents the highest priority transportation projects (both highway and transit) in the ten county southwestern region of Pennsylvania for federal fiscal years 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. In the summer of 2005, the Public Participation Panel held a public meeting to receive testimony regarding candidate projects for consideration on the 2007-2010 TIP. The draft TIP has been under development since then and is now up for review. A 30-day comment period is being conducted June 27 through July 27, 2006 to provide the public with an opportunity to review the program information and submit comments to SPC and its planning partners. Comments may be submitted via oral comment at one of the ten public meetings, written comment, e-mail submission to (comments @ spcregion.org), completing the website response form @ (spcregion.org), fax (412-391-9160) and/or letter. Public comments are then reviewed and responded to as appropriate in a Public Participation Report: Response to Public Comment document prepared by SPC.

Other draft documents also offered for comment include the Air Quality Conformity Assessment of the draft 2007-2010 TIP and an amendment request to the 2030 Long Range Plan.

Air Quality Conformity Assessment is a requirement of the clean air act to demonstrate that the region would meet federal air quality standards with implementation of the projects in the TIP. Essentially, we must prove that by adopting the TIP, the quality of the air in the region will be improved.

The amendment request to the 2030 Plan is sponsored by Port Authority and revises the financial plan to the North Shore Connector LRT to a revised total project cost of \$435 million.

All of these proposed actions will be presented at the July 31, 2006 Commission meeting for consideration of approval. The 2007-2010 TIP Update, if approved, will replace the current TIP (2005-2008) program and become effective October 1, 2006.

4. Public Comment

There were no individuals in attendance who wished to submit public comment at this time and the meeting was closed at approximately 8:00 PM.