

**BUTLER COUNTY**  
**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PANEL**  
**JULY 10, 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

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**Meeting Held:**

Public Meeting Room, County Government Center, West Diamond Street, Butler  
7:00 p.m., Monday, July 10th

**In Attendance:**

Panel members:

Don Surrena, ICC, Inc., PPP Co-Chair  
Marnie Repasky, Zelenople-Harmony Area Chamber of Commerce, PPP Co-Chair  
Cindy Davis, Butler Township  
Charles Stowe, Allegheny Township  
Ken Brennan, Seneca Valley School District  
Tom Rummell

Panel resource persons:

David Johnston, Butler County Planning  
Doniele Andrus, Butler County Planning  
Gary Antonella, BTCJMTA  
Tim Jablunovsky, PENNDOT District 10-0

Other attendees:

Scott Lowe, Butler County Commissioner  
Albert Roenigk, Buffalo Township  
Dan Przybylek, Buffalo Township  
Kenneth Harris, Slippery Rock Borough  
Rebecca Fike, Butler County  
Dan Santoro, Cranberry Township  
Ray Steffler, Senator Mary Jo White's office  
John Wolf, Butler County Planning intern  
Jeff Andrasovsky, Butler Eagle  
Bruno Morelli, Senator Jane Orié's office  
Amanda Peerizen, Credco  
Eric Lamm, Credco  
Scott Smith, Langholz-Wilson

SPC Staff: Chuck DiPietro  
Doug Smith

## Meeting notes:

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

PPP Co-Chair Don Surrena opened the meeting, welcoming all attendees. He introduced himself as well as the panel resources and a few other members of the audience. SPC staff member Chuck DiPietro 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

Chuck reinforced 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

Chuck provided an overview of the process now underway to update the transportation improvement plan. The TIP represents the highest priority transportation projects (both highway and transit related) 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 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 26, 2006 to provide the public with an opportunity to review the program information and submit comments to SPC and its planning partners. Public comments are then reviewed and responded to as appropriate in a Public Comment Response Document prepared by SPC.

Other draft documents also offered for comment include the Air Quality Conformity Assessment, and an amendment request to the 2030 Long Range Plan.

Air Quality Conformity Assessment is a requirement 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 not be degraded, and hopefully will be improved.

The amendment request to the 2030 Plan is sponsored by Port Authority and due to a \$42 million cost increase to the North Shore Connector LRT for a total project cost of \$435 million. The funds to cover this cost increase have already been secured from sources outside the TIP.

All of these proposed plans will be presented at the July 31<sup>st</sup> 2006 Commission meeting for anticipated approval. If approved, the TIP Update and Air Quality Conformity documents will replace the current plans and become effective October 1, 2006.

#### 4. Public Comment

Al Roenigh, Buffalo Township Supervisor

Praised PennDOT for the work that has been done along Route 28, Route 228, Route 356 and other roadways in the area, including an expedited bridge replacement necessitated by Hurricane Ivan flooding. Highlighted additional needs in the Route 228 and Route 356 corridors including the addition of turning lanes and traffic signals to more effectively manage traffic. Submitted written testimony with detailed list of needs in this area.

Ken Harris, Slippery Rock Borough Mayor

Highlighted need for operational improvements in and around Slippery Rock Borough in order to accommodate growth and university-related traffic. Indicated that Slippery Rock has a very active and dynamic group of community partners interested in preserving and enhancing the quality of life in the community. Will submit more detailed written testimony.

David Johnston (for Commissioner Jim Kennedy), Butler County

With Interstate Maintenance funds now being controlled by PennDOT Central Office, the County feels that they are being unfairly penalized because Interstate money is now being focused in areas that have not adequately maintained their Interstate mileage and Butler County and District 10-0 have focused significant funding from the regional TIP on Interstates in recent years in order to adequately maintain those roads.

The County would like to move phases of the McFann Bridge (T-384) project to earlier years on the TIP. Will submit more detailed written testimony.

Ken Brennan, Seneca Valley School District

Endorsed the Hartman Road bridge, Seneca Valley missing ramps project, and SR 3027/SR 68 intersection improvements. Feels that the bridge over I-79 that will be part of the Seneca Valley missing ramps project should be a 4-lane bridge. Will submit more detailed written testimony.

With the last public comment received and no other person wishing to speak, PPP Co-Chair Don Surrena closed the meeting.