

**WASHINGTON COUNTY
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PANEL
JUNE 27, 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:

Room 103-104, Courthouse Square, 100 West Beau St., Washington
5:00 p.m., June 27, 2006

In Attendance:

Panel members:

Tom Casciola, Cecil Township/PPP Vice-Chair
Nancy Basile, Mid Mon Valley Transit
John Lignelli, Mayor of Donora Borough
Sheila Gombita, Washington County Transportation Authority
Philip A. Fiumara Jr., County Transportation Advisory Board and Disabled American Veterans
Mary Lynn Spilack, Washington County Services on Aging
Stephen Hall, Washington County Housing Authority
W. David Good, GG&C Bus Co.

Panel resource persons:

Jeffrey W. Leithauser, Washington County Planning
Alan Bailey, PENNDOT District 12-0
Stacey Rabatin, PENNDOT District 12-0

Other attendees:

J. Bracken Burns, SPC Commission Chairman
Joyce Popovich, Senator Stout's Office
Carol M. Saalbach
Christopher Saalbach-Walsh
Sam Bugaile, WJPA
Tim Thomassy, McDonald Borough
Mike Neville
Lori Atkinson, Washington County Transportation Authority
Sonya Sonson
Demo Agoris, Houston Borough

SPC Staff: Ken Flack
Karen Franks

Meeting notes:

1. Welcome and Introductions

Vice-Chair Tom Casciola 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

Sonya J. Sonson, Citizen

Lack of Public Transportation to & from Pittsburgh/Suburbs

A severe lack in public transportation from Washington County to Pittsburgh and the Northern Suburbs of Washington County.

Cannot get to jobs, doctors, dentist, banks, and shopping facilities.

Buses are not allowed to pick up anyone outside of the county that they originate in. A current lack of security at park and ride lots and bus stops along with unsafe traffic conditions at existing bus stops.

Unclear directions on where to catch a bus, with very few official stops marked. No public transportation to and from Pittsburgh and within the Washington County limits in the evening hours.

No taxi service unless you call one day in advance. A lack of air conditioning on most public buses. A severe lack of advertising for what transportation services are offered in Washington County.

Philip A. Fiumara Jr. of Washington County Transportation Advisory Committee

Maglev System Parallel to Major Highway Corridors

The construction of a high speed maglev type of commuter transportation system that could parallel major highway corridors throughout the region.

Congestion, Pollution, Regional Public Transportation

Philip A. Fiumara Jr. of Washington County Transportation Advisory Committee

Expand the "T" Subway System in the Downtown Area

There is a need to expand the existing subway system in the City of Pittsburgh to link the South Side near the new Steelers training facility, the Oakland area, and downtown.

Congestion, Pollution, Improved Regional Public Transportation

Philip A. Fiumara Jr. of Washington County Transportation Authority

Port Authority of Allegheny County Expanding Service

The Port Authority of Allegheny County should consider crossing county boundaries into neighboring areas to provide public transportation services.

Congestion, Pollution, Improved Regional Public Transportation, Eliminate Duplication of Services and Cutting Costs

Demo Agoris of Houston Borough, Councilman

New Interchange I-79 (Between SR519-Racetrack Rd)

There needs to be a new interchange constructed on I-79 between the existing Racetrack Road Interchange and the SR 519/Canonsburg Hospital Interchange.

Would eliminate congestion in Houston and create faster access to the Meadowlands gaming Facilities, as well as the developing outlet stores.

Even a partial interchange would be acceptable.

Demo Agoris of Houston Borough, Councilman

New Bridge on SR 19 at Racetrack Road Intersection

The construction of a bridge on SR 19 where it currently intersects with Racetrack Road.

The building of a bridge at this location would ease the current congestion by eliminating the traffic Light.

With the last public comment received and no other person wishing to speak, Vice-Chair Tom Casciola closed the meeting at approximately 6:11 PM.