

Meeting Minutes for December 6th, 2012
Transportation Technical Committee Meeting
SPC Offices
Two Chatham Center
Downtown Pittsburgh

Attendees:

- Bernie Rossman, Allegheny County Dept. of Public Works
- Steve Shanley, Allegheny County Dept of Public Works
- Arthur Cappella, Fayette County
- Jeremy Kelly, Greene County
- Amy McKinney, Lawrence County
- Pat Hassett, City of Pittsburgh
- Jeff Leithauser, Washington County Planning Commission
- Chris Bova, Westmoreland County Planning Department
- Kevin McCullough, PennDOT Central Office
- Keith Lynch, FHWA, PA Division
- Dave Cook, PennDOT District 10-0
- Doug Dupnock, PennDOT District 10-0
- Rob Miskanic, PennDOT District 11-0
- Rachel Duda, PennDOT District 12-0
- Jeremy Shaneyfelt, PennDOT District 12-0
- Lynn Manion, Airport Corridor Transportation Management Association
- Lucinda Beattie, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
- Jim Hassinger, SPC Staff
- Darin Alviano, SPC Staff
- Chuck DiPietro, SPC Staff
- Ryan Gordon, SPC Staff
- Chuck Imbrogno, SPC Staff
- Matt Pavlosky, SPC Staff
- Lew Villotti, SPC Staff
- Sara Walfoort, SPC Staff
- (Indicates Voting Member)

Chuck DiPietro called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

Jim Hassinger welcomed the TTC members to the new and highlighted the improved meeting space at the SPC offices and some of the technological advantages of the Chatham 2 conference rooms. Jim emphasized that committee work, like that of the TTC, is the heart of what SPC does. He thanked all the members of the TTC for their continued hard work and commitment to transportation planning and programming.

1. November 2012 TTC Meeting Minutes (Attachment A)

The November meeting minutes were approved with no revisions.

2. Public Comment

No comments.

3. SPC Regional Transportation Initiative (Handout 1)

Lew Villotti reviewed the status of the SPC Livability through Smart Transportation Program. Lew reviewed the following aspects of the new program:

- Program Objectives
- Program Structure
- Application Phase
- Concept Study Phase
- Project Implementation
- Eligible areas and project types
- Applications
- Next Steps

Lew stated that when this program was being put together, the formation committee was hoping that MAP-21 would have more funds in it for this type of a program. The program was established as a way to capture future anticipated funding on livability themes. Lew stated that the shortfall in anticipated funds is changing the project rollout and project selection strategy. At this time, Lew is modeling the process for the Smart Transportation Program similar to the process used by the Appalachian Regional Council to select projects. There would be no call for projects; instead SPC will work directly with the county planning departments to identify potential application projects. Lew referred TTC members to Handout 1, which was a detailed program description of the SPC Livability through Smart Transportation Program.

Keith Lynch asked if there was a maximum amount of funds that a project could receive through this program. Lew replied that there are caps at \$250,000 for planning/design and \$1,000,000 for construction. Pat Hassett asked if matching funds were required, and if they could be matched with other TIP funds. Lew replied that the program requires that successful applicants provide a non-federal match of 20%. Sara Walfoort questioned how the program was going to reach out to

non-county eligible sponsors. Lew noted that with respect to municipal outreach, he is concerned about expectation control since there are currently not a lot of funds available for this program. Amy McKinney asked for clarification on the County's role in project screening. Lew added that the role of the county is advisory in recommending what projects may be a good match for this program. Chris Bova asked if the program was only a two-year program. Lew replied yes, for now per the recently adopted 2013-2016 TIP, but hopefully it will be extended. Keith Lynch noted that although MAP-21 is to expire in two years, SAFETEA-LU was extended numerous times through continuing resolutions. The same may again be true with MAP-21. Kevin McCullough noted that this SPC program has a lot of potential overlap with MAP-2's new Transportation Alternatives program. Kevin noted that it would be nice if these two programs could grow together and have some significant crossover.

4. Advance 2015-2018 TIP Update Development Process (Attachment E)

Chuck DiPietro presented several PowerPoint slides pertaining to planning the next TIP update. The content of the presentation built on the previous month's presentation on enhancement areas for the next TIP update process. SPC staff requested TTC feedback and comment on the material presented by the end of December.

The presentation highlighted three key focus areas SPC has targeted for enhancement in the next TIP update.

- Increasing Planning Activities and Engagement within the District Project Development Work Groups
- Improving Key Stakeholder/Partner Communication
- Further Integrating Public Involvement

Next the presentation reviewed a detailed draft timeline of TIP development milestones. It highlighted the new aspects of the TIP update process that are linked to the three process enhancement areas. Under the first focus area, the chart detailed changes in the first three work group sessions including integration of Linking Planning and NEPA elements. Under the second focus area, the chart detailed new technology and new milestones associated with increasing key stakeholder communication. Highlights presented under the third enhancement area, the chart detailed the key changes in the public involvement process. Staff concluded by providing some of the anticipated next steps and asked for continued feedback from the TTC members.

Dave Cook expressed concern over the potential impact of the Governor's anticipated announcement of new transportation revenue on the proposed TIP timeline and TIP development process. This was acknowledged as one of many key factors that can affect the final details of the TIP update process now under design. Kevin McCullough noted recent Secretary Schoch comments indicating that he is optimistic that something will get done in the legislature soon.

Dave Cook asked on this timeline when will the asset management projects be submitted. Chuck asked Dave when would this input from the Districts be ready. Dave stated it is unknown at this time. Ryan Gordon responded that it would be ideal for the District to share the new asset management candidate projects at the second work session. Dave Cook next asked how it would

be determined that a level 1 form would be advanced to a level 2 form. Chuck DiPietro and Ryan Gordon both noted that these are the kind of questions that will be flushed out during development of the procedural framework for each of the Work Group sessions.

Jeff Leithauser noted that public involvement is an ongoing activity. Chuck DiPietro agreed, while also noting that general public input could be accepted on an ongoing basis, but a time frame must be placed on the 2015 TIP input so that other related, scheduled work can proceed. Darin Alviano added that periodic meetings of the Work Groups will likely be required even in non-TIP update cycles.

Rob Miskanic noted that the new aspects of the first three work group meetings associated with the screening forms allow candidate projects to be pre-qualified for consideration in the TIP and long range plan. Kevin McCullough noted that this process will allow the work groups to have an earlier idea of the mix of projects. Kevin added that the Districts are planning asset management far out, but it would be nice to show these in the LRP and 12-year plan so that we set up a effective and coordinated progression from the plan to the TIP.

5. Action on Amendments and Modifications to the 2011 to 2014 TIP

The current administrative action and amendment procedures guidance are attached following these meeting minutes.

a.) PennDOT District 10-0 (Attachment B)

Dave Cook of PennDOT District 10-0 reviewed the requested administrative actions to the current TIP. District 10-0 had no amendment request to the current TIP.

The TTC motioned and unanimously approved the PennDOT District 10-0 Administrative action requests to the current TIP.

b.) PennDOT District 11-0 (Attachment C, Handout 2)

Rob Miskanic of PennDOT District 11-0 reviewed the requested administrative actions to the current TIP. District 11-0 had no amendment requests.

Rob highlighted several of the administrative actions requiring TTC action:

- SR 60 Steubenville Pike – fund swap with roadway funds to bridge funds.
- Campbell’s Run Road – adding funding from the final design phase to cover advanced construct conversion preliminary design funds.
- Bunola Road Slide – removal of earmark funds.

Sara Walfoort noted that the Fleming Park Bridge project is of particular interest to the bicycle community due to its vicinity and usage associated with existing and planned trails in the area. Rob noted that the project is an Allegheny County project, but he will share Sara's input with the District's ped/bike coordinator.

The TTC motioned and unanimously approved the PennDOT District 11-0 administrative action requests to the current TIP.

c.) PennDOT District 12-0 (Attachment D and Handout 3)

Jeremy of PennDOT District 12-0 reviewed the requested amendment and administrative actions to the current TIP. District 12-0 had one amendment requests this month.

- o Removing Greene County Bridge 15 and adding Greene County Bridge 23.

The TTC unanimously approved the PennDOT District 12-0 amendments and administrative action requests to the TIP.

6. Additional Highlights from the Annual Planning Partners Conference

Chuck DiPietro reviewed one additional presentation from the October PennDOT Annual Planning Partners Meeting; "Urban Boundaries." Chuck noted that staff continue to present some of the highlights from the three-day conference most relevant to the TTC.

7. Other Business

a.) FHWA/PennDOT Central Office Reports

Keith Lynch provided a brief FHWA report. Keith reported that one of FHWA's PA Division goals is to increase outreach in terms of technical assistance and training. Keith noted that regional transportation planning staff is encouraged to maximize the use of FHWA as a resource by seeking technical assistance on a wide range of topics.

Keith Lynch also noted that preparations will soon be underway for the 2013 regional transportation planning certification review. The process begins with documentation through a desk review submission, followed by several days of a collaborative session between FHWA staff and transportation professionals from around the region. Keith stated that FHWA will be working with SPC staff to identify some key focus areas for the upcoming certification visit. Chuck DiPietro noted that the last SPC region certification review was in 2009.

Kevin McCullough reported that Secretary Schoch has been openly optimistic that there will be some movement early next year on the TFAC recommendations for new transportation funding. The Governor has recently indicated that there will be a detailed

proposal early next year on transportation infrastructure funding. Kevin added that new preliminary engineering phases will likely be included in the January TIP amendment requests to advance some design work in anticipation of new state funding. Any new funding will effect and input to the development of the 2015 TIP financial guidance.

Lucinda Beattie asked if the Governor's comments have included any closure detail on the \$30 million statewide funds previously committed to the Port Authority. Kevin responded that this is being discussed, but he has no specific detail to offer on the work going on to close on the Port Authority funding.

Art Cappella questioned what the sources were for the increased revenue for transportation infrastructure. Kevin replied that he is unaware of the specifics at this time, but the TFAC recommendations included a detailed list of options. It is assumed that it will be a mix of a few of the TFAC recommended actions.

Kevin also noted it is anticipated that there will be changes in the format and approach to the the State Transportation Commission public hearings and public comment period (due next year as part of the Twelve Year Plan Update.

b.) Transit Operators Committee (Attachment F & Handout 4)

Chuck DiPietro highlighted the December 5th TOC meeting. The meeting included a committee recommendation to add the East Liberty Transit Center TIGER project to the TIP/LRP. Matt Pavlosky reviewed the public comment period and public meeting that was held for the proposed TIP/LRP amendment. The public meeting on the amendment was held on November 13th and the comment period ended on December 4th. Matt noted that only one formal comment was submitted (it was in support of the overall project).

Chuck added that the TOC meeting included a presentation and discussion on transit planning collaboration through effective use of the Linking Planning and NEPA process. Chuck noted that FHWA, FTA, the PennDOT Bureau of Public Transit, and PennDOT Central Office Program Center were all active participants in this critical discussion.

c.) Road Safety Audits

Chuck reviewed the scheduled Road Safety Audits for next year:

- S.R. 136 in Westmoreland County – March 26-28.
- Indiana Borough and White Township – April 9-11 (specific corridor and limits still to be defined).

d.) Urban Boundary & Functional Classification System Update

Chuck DiPietro recapped progress to-date on the review and update of SPC's urban boundary and regional functional classification as follow-up to the 2010 Census. A meeting to review the urban boundary and functional classification in District 12-0 was held on November 27th. The following two upcoming meetings are also scheduled in order to meet the FHWA deadline to submit the update on the urban boundaries and functional class for the region:

- District 10-0 Work Session – December 14th
- District 11-0 Work Session – December 20th

Chuck added that it is anticipated that at next TTC, on January 17th, the TTC will be asked to recommend the updated urban boundaries and functional classification to be presented to the Commission for adoption on January 28th.

- e.) Turnpike Request to Amend the LRP & TIP to include the Southern Beltway, US 22 to I-79 (Handout 5)

Chuck pointed to Handout 5, which was a letter from the PA Turnpike Commission requesting addition of the Southern Beltway Project, U.S. 22 to I-79 to both the LRP and TIP.

- f.) November 27th Freight Committee

Sara provided a recap of the November 27th SPC Freight Committee and noted that SPC staff is seeking feedback on both the development of the next regional freight long range plan elements and the next SPC Annual SPC Regional Freight Forum (tentatively April 12, 2013).

- g.) January 28th – Commission Meeting

- h.) January 17th – TTC Meeting