

Meeting Minutes for November 14th, 2013
Transportation Technical Committee Meeting
SPC Offices
Two Chatham Center
Downtown Pittsburgh

Attendees:

- Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County
Steve Shanley, Allegheny County Dept of Public Works
- Chris Jaros, Armstrong County
- Tammy Frank, Beaver County
- Amy McKenney, Lawrence County
- Patrick Hassett, City of Pittsburgh Dept of Public Works
- Arthur Cappella, Fayette County
- Jeremy Kelly, Greene County
- Jeff Leithauser, Washington County Planning Commission
- Jeff Raykes, Indiana County
- Chris Bova, Westmoreland County Planning Department
- Matt Smoker, FHWA
- Dave Cook, PennDOT District 10-0
- Kathy Reeger, PennDOT District 10-0
- Rob Miskanic, PennDOT District 11-0
- Cheryl Moon-Sirianni, PennDOT District 11-0
- John Quatman, PennDOT District 11-0
- Angela Saunders, PennDOT District 12-0
- Josh Theakston, PennDOT District 12-0
- Lucinda Beattie, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
- Mavis Rainey, Oakland Transportation Management Association
- Lynn Manion Airport Corridor Transportation Association
- J.D. Fogarty, Port of Pittsburgh Commission
- Joe Logan, Fisher Associates
- Brian Fischbach, Fisher Associates
- Jim Hassinger, SPC President & CEO
- Chuck DiPietro, SPC Staff
- Ken Flack, SPC Staff
- Dan Bernazzoli, SPC Staff
- Doug Smith, SPC Staff
- Darin Alviano, SPC Staff
- Ryan Gordon, SPC Staff
- Matt Pavlosky, SPC Staff
- Domenic D'Andrea, SPC Staff

- (Indicates Voting Member)

Chuck DiPietro called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He notified attendees of changes to the preliminary agenda, which included: a handout added on FHWA's Performance Based Planning and Programming Guidebook, two handouts added for Local Projects Discussion/Direction, and a handout added for the revised TIP Update schedule. Chuck also informed attendees of four white papers, prepared by Ken Flack, available for reading on the table by the entrance door. These papers focus on transportation financial planning issues impacting the SPC region and state. Lastly, Chuck announced that the meeting is being recorded for minute taking purposes only.

1. Action on October 17th Minutes – Attachment A

Motion was made by Art Cappella and second by Jeff Leithauser to accept the October meeting minutes with no revisions. TTC approved.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. FHWA/PennDOT Central Office Reports

a. Federal Updates – Performance Based Planning (Handout 1)

Matt Smoker highlighted a summary of FHWA's Performance Based Planning and Programming (PBPP) Guidebook. Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) places increased emphasis on performance management within the Federal-aid highway program and transit programs, and requires use of performance-based approaches in statewide, metropolitan, and non-metropolitan transportation planning. PBPP is a strategic approach that uses performance data to support decisions to help achieve desired performance outcomes. Performance management is credited with improving project and program delivery, informing investment decision-making, focusing staff on leadership priorities, and providing greater transparency and accountability to the public. The following is the link to the FHWA PBPP web site: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/performance_based_planning/

b. State Updates

Chuck DiPietro provided status reports on the following items:

State Transportation Bill – At the recent PA Fall Planning Partners Meeting, PA Transportation Secretary Barry Schoch provided insight into what obstacles to passage remain; one being prevailing wage. He indicated that Legislature will be back in session on the 12th (this past Tuesday) and will be working hard on getting a transportation funding bill passed.

4th Quarter Progress Reports (Attachment B) – SPC region obligation numbers for bridges were down compared to previous years. SPC numbers still ahead when compared to rest of the state. Overall, the three PennDOT District Executives continue to be very aggressive at delivering the program for the SPC region, especially at the end of each Federal Fiscal Year.

HSIP Candidate Projects – Under MAP 21 the Highway Safety Improvement Program

doubles. To continue aggressively to improve safety in Pennsylvania, Central Office would like to program and obligate an additional \$30 million of HSIP in FFY 2014. They are looking for candidate projects that implement certain objectives, that can be let (and/or have funds obligated) by the end of June 2014. Chuck DiPietro indicated that all three PennDOT Districts are looking at potential candidates that would qualify for the funding. Deadline for each District to submit candidates to Central Office is Nov 15th.

4. Action on Amendments & Modifications to 2013-2016 TIP

a. District 10-0 (Attachment C)

Dave Cook of PennDOT District 10-0 noted that there were no amendment requests or administrative actions requiring TTC approval. Administrative actions were presented for informational purposes only.

<http://www.spcregion.org/pdf/TIP2013/mods/2013/D10%20FCC%20Nov.pdf>

b. District 11-0 (Attachment D)

Rob Miskanic of PennDOT District 11-0 reviewed the requested amendment and administrative actions to the current TIP. Jeff Raykes's motion was second by Art Cappella and TTC approved the amendment and administrative actions requiring TTC approval as presented.

<http://www.spcregion.org/pdf/TIP2013/mods/2013/D11%20FCC%20Nov.pdf>

c. District 12-0 (Walk-in)

Angela Saunders of PennDOT District 12-0 highlighted an administration action for informational purposes only. District 12-0 had no amendment requests or administrative actions requiring TTC approval.

<http://www.spcregion.org/pdf/TIP2013/mods/2013/D12%20FCC%20Nov.pdf>

5. Local Projects TTC Continued Discussion/Direction (Handouts 2,3)

Chuck DiPietro, as a continuation of last month's facilitated Local Projects discussion, provided a summary of what SPC staff heard (included in Handout 2). Under the issues, Cheryl Moon-Sirianni mentioned that assistance by TTC members in identifying an audience for PennDOT ECMS training would be a huge help to the Districts. PennDOT's Electronic Contract Management System is one of many PennDOT Next Generation efforts in improving efficiency by streamlining the contracting process. Pat Hassett added that any training, be it ECMS or project delivery standards, would be very beneficial to new staff that he has as well as any new sponsor advocates. Members were supportive of SPC staff's recommendation that educational material on non-TIP funding opportunities be developed. It was suggested that the content be fresh and up-to-date and also include a section on types of projects that should pursue non-TIP funding sources. Armstrong and Washington counties both expressed interest in having a bridge redundancy pilot study completed in the SPC region. However, both expressed concern with fully completing the ten step process identified in PennDOT's Design Manual. Elements of the final step, to perform implementation and mitigation strategies, that include a town meeting, press release and elected officials presentations, are potentially controversial. Chuck views the study as more of a planning pilot to better inform the selected pilot county and PennDOT of bridge transportation network options. Members

were also supportive of SPC's recommendations for addressing the locally owned federal aid roadways. Chuck mentioned that he will be taking what was discussed today to next week's SPC Planning Director's meeting to get their reaction. SPC staff is currently also considering the possibility of having a program identified in next year's UPWP that assists in addressing local transportation project delivery.

6. PA Fall Planning Partners Meeting

Chuck DiPietro highlighted the following coverage from the PA Fall Planning Partners Meeting: 2015 TIP Update, Asset Management & MAP-21, PennDOT P3 Rapid Bridge Replacement Project, ECMS for Local Projects, Statewide Traffic Signal Initiative, Functional Classification Updates, Statewide LRTP Update, PA Secretary Schoch Updates, FHWA Division Administrator Comments, PennDOT Next Generation/Bridge Bundling, Roundabouts, Transportation Alternatives Program, STC Public Outreach, LPN Update, Results-Oriented Planning.

Chuck then proceeded in presenting an extract from a PowerPoint on the Federal Highway Trust Fund's looming obligations fiscal cliff from the Fall Planning Partners meeting. Starting in federal fiscal year 2015 (Post MAP-21), the trust fund will have insufficient resources to meet all of its obligations. Approximately \$15 billion in additional revenue is required every year in order to keep funding flat. If this is not resolved, Pennsylvania will receive approximately \$8 million in FFY 2015 compared to approximately \$1.6 billion the state has previously received annually. Ken Flack provided further interpretation as detailed in his Part Four: US HTF Obligations Cliff of his multipart series on Transportation Financial Planning.

7. Advance 2015-2018 TIP Update

a. Direction from PA Planning Partners Fall Meeting

Chuck DiPietro noted that the PA 2015 Program Financial Guidance was agreed upon by Planning Partners at their fall meeting. Chuck strongly suggested the need for the TIP Work Groups to meet in December to review the Guidance and to discuss implications on county programs. Dates for these District meetings are being coordinated by SPC staff.

b. Revised Schedule (Handout 4)

Chuck highlighted the revised 2015 TIP Development schedule that was shared at the PA Planning Partners Fall meeting. Notable changes are that the preliminary Draft TIP is due to Central Office by the end February 2014, and that Final TIPs are to be approved by MPO's/RPO's by July, 2014. It was anticipated that Statewide 2015 STIP was not to be effective until January of 2015, but it now appears to be consistent with years past and will be effective on October 1st of 2014.

c. Transit Operators Committee Work Group

Chuck DiPietro provided an update on TOC TIP Update Work Group. The (Transit) 2015 TIP Update SharePoint site has been set-up and individual project sponsors' current programs of projects have been loaded on the site. Transit planning partners will be

given a “tour” of the site and project information collection will begin at the December 4th, regular TOC meeting. The PA Transit Financial Guidance numbers provided to statewide planning partners at this time are similar to 2013 TIP Update.

d. CMAQ Evaluation Committee (CEC)

Chuck DiPietro and Dan Bernazzoli provided an update on the CEC. A recent meeting of the CEC was held on November 6th at SPC. Committee members reviewed ancillary and air quality scoring of candidate projects. The CEC will complete its review of the candidate CMAQ projects, and develop its prioritized list of CMAQ recommendations for the 2015 TIP Update by late November for discussion with the TOC and TTC in early December. A presentation is expected to be made at the December 16th SPC Executive Committee meeting. Chuck added that the recent PA 2015 TIP Financial Guidance received late yesterday shows a 20% decrease in funding allocation to the SPC region. The decrease greatly impacts the amount of funding available for new projects.

e. PPP Nov/Dec Meetings/Agenda (Attachment E)

Matt Pavlosky provided an update on the SPC TIP Public Participation Process. Public Participation Panel (PPP) meetings, one in each county, are scheduled for mid November through mid December. The meetings will both focus on informing PPP’s on TIP Development Work Group progress to date, and allow for PPP input into the next TIP Development Work Group meeting.

8. Other Business/Status Reports

a. SPC Regional Signal Program Update

Domenic D’Andrea provided an update on the Regional Signal Program Cycle 3 projects that are to be further investigated. SPC received 25 municipal applications. SPC screened these candidate corridors utilizing project evaluation criteria such as congestion, daily traffic, transit significance, truck traffic, and safety. A Project Review Committee involving PennDOT and SPC screened the candidates and produced a list (Handout provided to TTC members) worthy of further investigation. These candidate projects included a total of 178 signals with a grand total cost of \$6.6 million.

Staff announced the following upcoming meetings:

- b. November 19th – SPC Operations & Safety Committee
- c. November 26th – CMAQ Evaluation Committee #4
- d. December 4th – Transit Operators Committee
- e. December 12th – TTC (& January 16th)
- f. December 16th – Commission Meeting