

Meeting Minutes for February 13th, 2014
Transportation Technical Committee Meeting
SPC Offices
Two Chatham Center, Pittsburgh

Attendees:

- Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County Dept. of Economic Development
- Steve Shanley, Allegheny County Dept. of Public Works
- Chris Jaros, Armstrong County Dept. of Planning and Development
- Jim Camp, Beaver County Dept. of Public Works
- Dave Johnston, Butler County Dept. of Planning
- Joel MacKay, Butler County Dept. of Planning
- Amy McKinney, Lawrence County Dept. of Planning
- Patrick Hassett, City of Pittsburgh Dept. of Public Works
- *Chris Bova, Westmoreland County Dept. of Planning and Development
- Jeremy Kelly, Greene County Planning Commission
- * Kevin McCullough, PennDOT Central Office
- * Matt Smoker, Federal Highway Administration
- Kathy Frankel, PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
- Dave Cook, PennDOT District 10-0
- Kathy Reeger, PennDOT District 10-0
- Cheryl Moon-Sirianni, PennDOT District 11-0
- Rob Miskanic, PennDOT District 11-0
- Stephanie Spang, PennDOT District 11-0
- *Angela Saunders, PennDOT District 12-0
- Lynn Manion, Airport Corridor Transportation Association
- Mavis Rainey, Oakland Transportation Management Association
- J.D. Fogarty, Port of Pittsburgh Commission
- Stephen Patchan, City of Pittsburgh
- Eric Boerr, Bike Pittsburgh
- Chuck DiPietro, SPC Staff
- Sara Walfoort, SPC Staff
- Tom Klevan, SPC Staff
- Chuck Imbrogno, SPC Staff
- Darin Alviano, SPC Staff
- Ryan Gordon, SPC Staff
- Matt Pavlosky, SPC Staff
- Dom D'Andrea, SPC Staff

- (Indicates Voting Member)
- * Participated by telephone

Chuck DiPietro called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He notified attendees of changes to the preliminary agenda, which included a revised FCC and narrative for PennDOT Districts 10-0 and 11-0, addition of a handout for item 5(e), and addition of items 7(a) “Regional Traffic Signal Program” and 7(b) “SPC 2040 Plan Update”. Lastly, Chuck announced that the meeting is being recorded for minute taking purposes only.

1. Action on January 16th Minutes (Attachment A)

Motion was made by Amy McKinney and second by Ann Ogoreuc to accept the January meeting minutes with no revisions. TTC approved.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. FHWA/Central Office Reports

a) State Updates

Chuck DiPietro and Kevin McCullough commented on the below issues.

County Liquid Fuels and Act 44 Funding – Unlike municipalities, counties are not going to see an increase in their liquid fuels allocation, as a result of Act 89. However, as referenced in an email from Kevin McCullough, “Counties did not lose their bump up in funding that they received as part of the Act 44 allocation that went to the counties (which was a concern). They are being made whole with Act 89 through the liquid fuels allocation. In addition, counties will be able to take advantage of the 50% match for the new signals program, local bridge bundling and the option to raise registration fees by \$5.00 – all as a result of Act 89 being passed”.

Recreational Trails Program – RTP is an assistance program of the Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Federal transportation funds benefit recreation by making funds available to the States to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. In Pennsylvania, the RTP is administered by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). PennDOT's role in the program is to review environmental documentation, add the RTP projects to the STIP, DBE requirements, fiscal processing (4232s) and provide assistance to DCNR in the administration of the program. Two projects in the region received funds through the 2013 program: Allegheny Valley Land Trust received \$82K for the Armstrong Trail-Templeton Connection, and the Montour Trail Council received \$392K for the Montour Trail Phase 30 Extension to Coraopolis.

Public-Private Partnership for Bridges – A news release on PennDOT's P3 initiative was shared. Five teams have submitted statements of qualification for the Rapid Bridge Replacement Project. PennDOT will review the statements of qualification and, after evaluating them, invite the highest scoring teams to submit proposals for the project this spring. The statements outline the proposers' ability to meet the requirements of

the project. The department will make a best-value determination based on cost and technical approach in selecting a proposal, with the goal of beginning construction in 2015. The selected team will manage the bridges' design, construction and maintenance under one contract to streamline design and construction activities. The selected team will also maintain the bridges for a yet-to-be-determined number of years, though PennDOT will continue to own the bridges and department staff will perform routine maintenance such as snow and debris removal. In addition, the contractor will be responsible for financing the effort but PennDOT will make performance-based payments for the work at yet-to-be-established milestones.

First Quarter TIP Progress Reports (Attachment A) – Attachment A, which was the first quarter TIP obligations report was highlighted. In general the first quarter is always relatively quiet. At this point, targets have yet to be established for the fiscal year; federally set obligation authority limit determines the target levels and that limit has yet to be established for 2014.

b) Federal Updates

Chuck DiPietro and Matt Smoker provided comment on the below issues.

2013 Certification Draft Final Report – FHWA has completed their portion of SPC's 2013 Certification Review; FTA is still completing their portion. SPC should be receiving the draft final report shortly for its review of FHWA and FTA comments.

Transportation Funding Bill – House Transportation Committee met on January 14th. Chairman Rep. Bill Shuster (R-Pa.) said he wants the House to pass a new transportation funding bill by August; a six-year bill preferably. His hope is to get reauthorization done on time. The Committee hopes to take action in the late spring or early summer with the goal to be on the House floor before the August recess; this way there will be time to conference the House bill with the Senate's bill.

Highway Trust Fund (Attachment C) – US DOT announced a new [Highway Trust Fund \(HTF\) ticker](#) on its website. The ticker tracks the cash balance of the HTF on a monthly basis to display the solvency of the fund. About 85 percent of the HTF is funded by federal fuel taxes, which have not been increased in more than 20 years. Therefore, without a large transfer from the General Fund, the ticker projects the HTF to be insolvent sometime in August 2014. Congress already receives reports about the HTF. The ticker seeks to increase public awareness about the challenges the HTF faces.

Ominous Bill – President Obama signed the bill into law on January 17th. The bill includes \$17.8 billion in discretionary appropriations and allows \$53.5 billion in non-discretionary "obligation limitation" funding for the Department of Transportation. This is \$164 million below the fiscal year 2013 enacted level. For the **Highway Program**, The bill provides almost \$41 billion in obligation limitation funding (the same level authorized in the MAP-21 transportation authorization legislation, which expires on

September 30, 2014). This is an increase of \$557 million from the fiscal year 2013 level. For the **Transit Program**, the bill contains \$2.15 billion for the FTA, a decrease of \$100 million below the fiscal year 2013 enacted level. In addition, the bill provides \$600m for the **TIGER Program**. Passenger and rail freight transportation projects are now eligible and there is a \$35 million set-aside for planning, preparation, or design of eligible projects.

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

a. District 10-0 (Attachment D, Handout 1)

Dave Cook of PennDOT District 10-0 reviewed the requested amendments and administrative actions to the current TIP. Jim Camp's motion was seconded by Amy McKinney and TTC approved the amendments and administrative actions requiring TTC approval, as presented.

b. District 11-0 (Attachment E)

Rob Miskanic of PennDOT District 11-0 reviewed the requested amendment and administration actions requiring TTC approval to the current TIP. It was noted that the amendment request to include the I-376/SR 18 Interchange Project, per SPC's TIP Revision Procedures, be classified as a Major TIP Amendment (project exceeds the \$10M threshold). Therefore, no action would be taken by TTC today on the request. Chuck DiPietro provided detail on the agreed directive course of action by SPC, PennDOT, and FHWA pertaining to the I-376/SR 18 Interchange Project TIP request, proposed by Shell Corporation. The request, being a Major TIP Amendment, requires a 30-day public comment period and Commission approval. Public comment will run simultaneously with the 2015 draft TIP (May/June) public comment period and be brought forth for current TIP inclusion consideration to the Commission at its June 30th meeting, concurrent with consideration of the 2015 TIP adoption. Jim Camp's motion was seconded by Ann Ogoreuc and TTC approved the administrative actions requiring TTC approval, as presented.

c. District 12-0 (Attachment F)

Angela Saunders of PennDOT District 12-0 reviewed the requested administration actions requiring TTC approval to the current TIP. Jeremy Kelly's motion was second by Ann Ogoreuc and TTC approved the administrative actions requiring TTC approval, as presented.

5. Advance 2015-2018 TIP Update

a. 2015 Financial Guidance & Final Schedule

Chuck DiPietro stated that SPC is awaiting Final Financial Guidance Document (includes schedule) from PennDOT Central Office. SPC staff has shared the statewide Draft guidance and schedule with the three TIP Development Work Groups at the TIP Update work sessions. The TIP is being developed based upon the draft guidance.

b. TIP Development Work Group Schedule

Chuck DiPietro reported that TIP Work Groups recently met to review and discuss a preliminary draft list of projects. If any issues need resolved, planning departments were to contact their respective PennDOT District by February 21st. The schedule is to submit a preliminary draft TIP to PennDOT Central Office by the end of February for review and comment.

c. Air Quality Conformity

Chuck Imbrogno reported preparations for the air quality conformity assessment will begin in late February. Air quality emissions modeling procedures will be reviewed and updated as needed. Staff will soon begin the required interagency consultation process with PennDOT, EPA, PaDEP, FHWA, and FTA to confirm the planning assumptions and analysis years for SPC's conformity analysis.

d. Transit Operators Committee Work Group

Tom Klevan reported that staff will be transmitting draft program of projects listings to the PennDOT Bureau of Public Transportation and the PennDOT Program Center in early March for review and comment. Program of project listings are being compiled according to PennDOT Bureau of Public Transportation guidance and Program Center Financial guidance received in February. Draft program of projects will be submitted on behalf of Beaver County Transit Authority, Butler Transit Authority, Fayette Area Coordinated Transportation, Indiana County Transit Authority, Mid-County Transit Authority, Mid-Mon Valley Transit Authority, New Castle Area Transportation Authority, Port Authority of Allegheny County, Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, City of Washington Transit and Westmoreland County Transit Authority.

e. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) (Handout 2)

Sara Walfoort reviewed a Transportations Alternative Program handout. The handout contained information pertaining to: Program Guidance, Proposed SPC Regional TAP Evaluation Committee, Milestones, Funding Availability, and Link to TAP Application. Sara indicated that if there was no objection, Steve Patchan, Ped/Bike Coordinator for the City of Pittsburgh, will be added to the evaluation committee. The TTC members concurred. As stated at past TTC meetings, PennDOT Central Office will administer the statewide call for TAP candidate projects. MPO's/RPO's will screen candidates by individual region and submit their recommendations to PennDOT Central Office. Applications for funding are being accepted through PennDOT's website. Applications are due by Friday, April 4th to PennDOT Central Office.

f. Review of Current TIP Modification Procedures

Darin Alviano informed TTC that a review of SPC's TIP Modification/Amendment Procedures for the 2015 TIP program will begin in March. The work group will consist of SPC staff along with: Ann Ogoreuc, Chris Bova, Angela Saunders, Dave Cook, Rob Miskanic, Kevin McCullough, and Matt Smoker. TOC member, Ed Typanski of Port Authority will also be participating on the work group. The goal of the work group is to collaboratively produce a "clean" document; streamlining the modification process,

while at the same time protecting the interests of all stakeholders. The work group will present a draft TIP Modification Procedures to the TTC at its April meeting.

g. Public Participation (Attachment G)

Matt Pavlosky reminded TTC that SPC is holding a 30-day public comment period for amendment requests to the current TIP and Long Range for the following projects: Birmingham Bridge Rehabilitation (\$40.9 Million, City of Pittsburgh), Route 50 to Washington County Line Resurfacing (\$16.25 million, Allegheny County) and PA Route 906 Rockfall Repair (\$11.25 million, Westmoreland County). Public Comment began January 29th, and will conclude March 3rd. Public meetings were scheduled in Allegheny County on February 11th and in Westmoreland County on March 19th. These projects are being requested for inclusion to current TIP by PennDOT using Act 89 funds. The Commission will be considering action on these amendment requests at their March 10th meeting.

6. Fall Annual Planning Partners Meeting: FHWA Update PowerPoint

Chuck DiPietro reviewed a presentation from the Statewide Fall Planning Partners meeting on an FHWA Update concerning MAP-21. MAP-21 creates a performance based/multimodal program. It focuses on six elements: the Establishment of National Goals; the establishment of national measures, using those measures to set targets (some targets established by law and others to be set by the States); and developing plans to identify how targets will be achieved; reporting on progress toward the achievement of targets; and then a level of accountability and transparency in how performance is integrated into the program and decision-making. US DOT will be implementing this through nine rulemakings released in several phases. In order to address the challenges for planning and programming to influence more performance-based decision-making, FHWA and FTA have been supporting dialogue to help transportation agencies learn from each other and share information on best practices. Activities have included a series of national and regional (multi-state) workshops in coordination with industry stakeholders, and the development of resources focused on performance-based processes, such as the PBPP guidebook, the congestion management process guidebook, and other performance related outreach efforts.

7. Other Business/Status Reports

a. Regional Traffic Signal Program – LED Conversion Program

Dominic D’Andrea reported that SPC has been provided funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's Automated Red Light Enforcement Program to implement projects that involve traffic signal LED conversions. SPC is inviting local governments to submit applications for this program. Successful applicants will receive fully funded assistance to retrofit or convert their traffic signals to LED. Preference will be given to applications from municipalities that are fiscally or economically distressed. The Program Guidelines and Application Instructions document as well as application downloads for the program (April 11, 2014 submission deadline) can be found at http://www.spcregion.org/trans_ops_traff.shtml.

b. SPC 2040 Plan Update

Chuck DiPietro stated that for the Long Range Plan update, utilization of the SPC/District is anticipated. The goal would be to seek input on transportation related items, using existing database/mapping to identify connections.

SPC staff highlighted both recent and upcoming meetings listed below.

- c. February 4 – SPC Freight Forum
 - o Regional Freight Plan
 - o May 21 SPC Annual Freight Forum (Attachment H)
 - o May 21-22 SPC to Host PA Rail Freight Committee
- d. February 6 – CommuteInfo Partners
- e. February 12 – Transit Operators Committee
- f. February 25 – Operations & Safety Committee/ITS Roundtable
- g. February 25 – 2014 DCNR Grant Workshop at Wexford
- h. March 11-13 – Connellsville US 119 Road Safety Audit
- i. March 12 – Ped/Bike Committee
- j. March 10 – Commission Meeting
- k. March 20 – Next TTC