

Meeting Minutes for May 18, 2017
Transportation Technical Committee
SPC Offices
Two Chatham Center, Pittsburgh PA 15219

Attendees:

- Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County Department of Economic Development
Stephen Shanley, Allegheny County Department of Public Works
- Tom Swisher, Armstrong County Department of Planning and Development
- Mark Gordon, Butler County Planning Commission
Joel McKay, Butler County Planning Commission
- Arthur Cappella, Fayette County Zoning, Planning and Community Development
- Jeremy Kelly, Greene County Planning Commission
- Jeff Raykes, Indiana County Office of Planning and Development
- Amy McKinney, Lawrence County Department of Planning and Development
- Jeff Skalican, City of Pittsburgh Office of Public Works
Mike Beauer, City of Pittsburgh Office of Public Works
- Daniel Carpenter, Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development
- Jeffrey Leithauser, Washington County Planning Commission
- Kevin McCullough, PennDOT Central Office
Matt Smoker, Federal Highway Administration
Dave Cook, PennDOT District 10-0
Robert Miskanic, PennDOT District 11-0
John Quatman, PennDOT District 11-0
Cory Klems, PennDOT District 11-0
Angela Saunders, PennDOT District 12-0
Josh Theakston, PennDOT District 12-0
Mavis Rainey, Oakland Transportation Management Association
Lucinda Beatty, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
Steve Shadle, CDR Maguire
Sara Hansel, Fischer Associates
Dr. James Hassinger, SPC Executive Director
Doug Smith, SPC Transportation Director
Andy Waple, SPC Staff
Darin Alviano, SPC Staff
Tom Klevan, SPC Staff
Ryan Gordon, SPC Staff
Leann Chaney, SPC Staff
Dan Alwine, SPC Staff
Kathy Stefani, SPC Staff
Abby Stark, SPC Staff
Ronda Craig, SPC Staff
Dan Bernazzoli, SPC Staff

- Indicates voting member

1. Call to Order

Doug Smith called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Action on the April 20th Meeting Minutes (Handout 1)

A motion was made by Jeff Leithauser and seconded by Amy McKinney to accept the April 20th meeting minutes as presented. The TTC approved.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. FHWA/PennDOT Central Office Reports

A. \$5 Vehicle Registration Fee

Kevin McCullough gave a presentation on the “\$5 fee for Local Use and Local Bridge Bundling” that was delivered at the recent Spring Planning Partners Meeting.

PennDOT will work with county governments to establish a program making opportunities available for counties who have taken steps to enhance their transportation networks by passing resolutions to collect the \$5 Vehicle Registration Fee which was enabled by Act 89. This initiative supports the 6,485 locally owned bridges statewide, 2,115 of which are structurally deficient. Initially, \$2 million will be reserved for each county that has passed a resolution, with a 50% local match commitment of non-traditional transportation monies required to secure the program funding. It was noted that liquid fuels monies are not eligible to be used as match. Any remaining funds after an initial offering would be made available to the rest of those same counties again. If any funds remain after that offering, they would be used for other Local Bridge Bundling programs.

B. Green Light-Go Awards (Handout 2)

It was announced that 109 municipalities across Pennsylvania would receive \$12M to fund traffic signal upgrades. Made possible by Act 89, the state’s transportation funding plan, the Green Light-Go program establishes partnership agreements between municipalities and PennDOT through which municipalities request up to 80-percent funding for traffic-signal projects. Handout 2 contained a list of 21 projects in the SPC region that received a total of nearly \$4.7M in funding through the Green Light-Go program.

C. Other

Matt Smoker informed everyone that on May 12th President Trump signed legislation to repeal a final U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) rule aimed at reforming Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) coordination and boundaries. The USDOT rule, which was issued in December 2016 by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration, had required consolidation of MPOs operating within a single

urbanized area or development of joint TIPs and long-range plans.

Matt also reviewed handout 7, the “Draft Preliminary Agenda for the upcoming Certification Review”. He stated every four years, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation must certify that each metropolitan planning organization serving a transportation management area (TMA) – a designation by USDOT of an urbanized area with a population over 200,000 as defined by the Bureau of the Census or smaller urbanized areas on request by the Governor and MPO – is carrying out the metropolitan planning process in adherence with federal statutes and regulations. FTA and FHWA conduct a review of the metropolitan planning process within each TMA and jointly issue this certification on behalf of the DOT Secretary. The Pittsburgh TMA certification review will be conducted June 13th through June 15th.

5. Action on Modifications to 2017-2020 TIP (Handout 3)

A. PennDOT District 10-0

Dave Cook of PennDOT District 10-0 reviewed the requested TIP modifications. There was one administrative modification requiring TTC approval (as highlighted in handout 3). Jeff Raykes made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Arthur Cappella, and the TTC approved the modification as presented.

B. PennDOT District 11-0

Rob Miskanic of PennDOT District 11-0 reviewed the requested TIP modifications. There was one amendment and one administrative modification requiring TTC action (as highlighted in handout 3). The amendment involved the removal of the “West Washington Street Bridge” project in Lawrence County from the TIP. The railroad company who owns the bridge is unable to participate in their share of funding. Arthur Cappella made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Jeff Leithauser, and the TTC approved the modifications as presented.

C. PennDOT District 12-0

There were no TIP modifications requiring TTC action.

6. 2019 TIP Development

A. TIP Work Groups Schedule

- June 9th – District 10-0
- June 12th – District 12-0
- June 19th – District 11-0

Ryan Gordon conducted a presentation reviewing ongoing work with TIP work group members in identifying priority TIP candidate projects. The presentation reiterated the procedures, schedule, and preparation material for candidate project development. The

presentation also reviewed key milestones for this TIP update, public involvement activities, public participation panel activities, and TIP work group meetings and activities.

B. General and Procedural Guidance (Handout 4)

Andy Waple delivered a presentation on Pennsylvania's 2019 Transportation Program General and Procedural Guidance. The purpose of this General and Procedural Guidance document is to provide consistent guidance for the 2019 Transportation Program development process within the context of multiple inter-related, intergovernmental planning functions. Separate processes for the development, adoption, and administration of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the Twelve Year Transportation Program (TYP) have been coordinated and streamlined over the years. This guidance informs and directs a unified planning process covering both programs.

This guidance contains information related to the general planning process, along with policies, requirements and guidance directly related to Program development and administration. One of the milestones in the Transportation Program development process is adoption of the Program by October 1, 2018. This guidance describes the schedule, procedures and documentation necessary to complete this task. The resulting Transportation Program meets the varied requirements of state and federal law, and ensures that public investment in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's transportation system is effectively managed to produce a practical set of transportation projects and services.

The General and Procedural Guidance document is a collaborative product jointly developed by the Pennsylvania Planning Partners – MPOs, RPOs, FHWA, FTA, the State Transportation Commission, and PennDOT.

C. Public Participation

- Panel Meetings Update (Handout 5)

Doug Smith gave an update on the Public Participation Panel meetings. Five meetings have already been held with five remaining. Doug stated there are really three opportunities for public engagement throughout the TIP development process: presently SPC is collecting community needs and project candidate ideas; in the Fall SPC will share a status report on the Draft TIP; and then in the spring the public will be given an opportunity to comment on the Draft TIP.

- New SPC Staff: Abby Stark

Abby Stark introduced herself to the TTC. Abigail is the new Public Involvement Specialist at SPC. Abby has been with SPC for four years and previously worked as a Development Specialist and a Water Resource Planner at SPC. Abby is a University of Pittsburgh GSPIA graduate with a Master of Public Administration focused on Urban and Regional Affairs. She earned her B.A. degree in Social Science from Waynesburg University.

D. PennDOT Connects Status Check

Angela Saunders stated that District's 12-0 has invited municipalities to all scoping field view meetings. Municipal turnout has been low. To catch up on projects currently programmed, the District is planning to have four big meetings (one per county) and to invite all of the stakeholders involved in the collaboration process to those meetings. The District will be using a consultant to assist in this effort. For larger complex projects this process will serve as an initial meeting and the District will have additional collaboration meetings. At some point the District would like to hire a planner.

Dave Cook stated District 10-0 has utilized a consultant to meet with municipalities along with PennDOT staff for current 2017 TIP projects programmed. The consultant also is completing PennDOT Connects initiation forms. Municipal participation at meetings has varied per project. Some meetings were conducted by phone where warranted. Moving forward, the District is looking to complete PennDOT Connects related items in-house. If needed, the District has made plans for consultant support.

Rob Miskanic stated that District 11-0 is using scoping field view meetings as an opportunity to invite municipalities and counties to discuss PennDOT Connects initiatives. Rob complimented the counties for their participation. Presently, the District is utilizing in-house staff but does intend to hire a planner.

Jeff Raykes shared his thoughts on PennDOT Connects and its importance in the transportation planning process.

7. ACMTD Funding Opportunity Attachment (Handout 6)

Doug Smith highlighted the "Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment Initiative" Notice for Federal Funding Opportunity. Up to \$60 Million in Federal Funding available to provide grants to eligible entities to develop model deployment sites for large scale installation and operation of advanced transportation technologies to improve safety, efficiency, system performance, and infrastructure return on investment. For those interested the application due date is June 12th.

8. SPC Regional Freight Conference Recap

Sara Walfoort provided a recap of the May 11th Regional Freight Conference, an all day exposition of freight planning and operations activities in the SPC region. Morning activities included a slate of speakers on key regional issues, including the late summer 2017 opening of the CSX Pittsburgh Intermodal Rail Terminal in Allegheny County; current efforts to modernize air operations at Pittsburgh International Airport and make the facility more competitive for passenger and air cargo services; the state of Connected and Autonomous Vehicle research and implementation in western Pennsylvania; and regional planning efforts affecting our region. The afternoon session featured a hands on look at traffic incident

management tools and techniques, a key operational strategy for keeping freight moving, with a tour of the Traffic Operations Center in Cranberry Township; a drone operations demonstration by the Pennsylvania Turnpike, and an exhibit of highway response vehicles, including a heavy duty tow truck and Freeway Service Patrol Vehicles. Speaker presentations and related material from the event have been posted to the SPC Website. A new video highlighting freight planning activities and the value of freight planning in the SPC region was debuted at the Regional Freight Conference and is now available on the SPC website. There were more than 125 registered participants from six states at the Regional Freight Conference.

9. Other Business / Status Reports

Doug Smith provided a quick review/preview for previous and upcoming meetings

- A. May 11th – Regional Transportation Freight Conference
- B. Jun 14th – Transit Operators Committee
- C. June 15th – Transportation Technical Committee
- D. June 13th-16th – US DOT Certification Review (Handout 7)
- E. June 26th – Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission Executive Committee
- F. June 26th – Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
- G. June 29th – Transportation Operations & Safety Committee