



Mapping the Future: The Southwestern PA Plan

The Southwestern PA Plan The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) is currently updating its long range plan to meet the needs of the region to the year 2040. The regional long range transportation and development plan is the mechanism for connecting the Regional Vision to the region's official, coordinated implementation program of projects and actions.

Updated every four years, the transportation element of the plan is a long range (20+ years) guide for the effective investment of public funds in transportation assets within the context of the regional vision. The transportation plan provides the context from which the region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), a short range program for implementing transportation projects, is drawn. The economic development element addresses economic opportunities also in the context of the overall regional vision. SPC engages its members, partners and the public in a federally-mandated planning process to update its plans for the region.

Laying the Foundation SPC conducted Project Region, which established a Regional Vision with associated policies/goals. Scenario planning techniques were used to evaluate alternative transportation and development options to determine which option best helped achieve the vision. The Regional Vision and the policies/goals, which are comprised of activities, places, and connections, continue to be reaffirmed through their use. The Commission uses the policies/goals directly as part of project evaluation, overall program guidance, and program development.

The Regional Vision

Transportation and land use that supports and enhances the regional economy and the communities within it.

The scenario supporting this vision is characterized by policies/goals addressing the public interest in mutually supportive regional activities, places, and the connections among them.

Planning for Performance As we update the Southwestern PA Plan, we will focus on performance-based planning and the use of performance metrics to track progress in achieving the regional vision. Performance-based planning and programming involves measuring progress toward meeting goals, and using information on past and anticipated future performance trends to inform investment decisions. Performance metrics will be developed in collaboration with SPC's members, planning partners and Public Participation Panels, along with input from the general public. Aligned with the Regional Vision and policies/goals, performance metrics, strategies and investment priorities will be used to develop the Southwestern PA Plan.

Stay Informed Check out www.SouthwesternPAPlan.org where you can get updates, give feedback and take surveys. The ongoing public input and plan update process will include a formal 30-day public comment process in Spring 2015 to adopt the recommended Southwestern PA Plan in Summer 2015.

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