

Meeting Minutes for October 17, 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
- Amy McKenney, Lawrence County
- Patrick Hassett, City of Pittsburgh Dept of Public Works
- Arthur Cappella, Fayette County
- Jeff Leithauser, Washington County Planning Commission
- Jeff Raykes, Indiana County
- Chris Bova, Westmoreland County Planning Department
- Kevin McCullough, PennDOT Central Office
Dave Cook, PennDOT District 10-0
Jim Andrews, PennDOT District 10-0
Rob Miskanic, PennDOT District 11-0
Dan Cessna, PennDOT District 11-0
Cheryl Moon-Sirianni, PennDOT District 11-0
Victor DeFazio, PennDOT District 11-0
Rick Lambert, PennDOT District 11-0
Stephanie Spang, PennDOT District 11-0
Angela Saunders, PennDOT District 12-0
Patrick Richter, PennDOT District 12-0
Josh Theakston, PennDOT District 12-0
Joshua Zakovitch, PennDOT District 12-0
Lucinda Beattie, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
Lynn Manion Airport Corridor Transportation Association
J.D. Fogarty, Port of Pittsburgh Commission
Joe Logan, Fisher Associates
Chuck DiPietro, SPC Staff
Sara Walfoort, SPC Staff
Chuck Imbrogno, SPC Staff
Darin Alviano, SPC Staff
Ryan Gordon, SPC Staff
Matt Pavlosky, SPC Staff
Domenic D'Andrea, SPC Staff
David Totten, SPC Staff
Kathy Stefani, SPC Staff
- (Indicates Voting Member)

Chuck DiPietro called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Chuck announced that the meeting is being recorded for minute taking purposes only.

1. Action on September 12th Minutes – Attachment A

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

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. FHWA/PennDOT Central Office Reports

a. State Updates

Kevin McCullough and Chuck DiPietro provided status reports on the following items:

MAP-21 Pending TIP Adjustments – Central Office Programming Center has completed funding code changes for the 2013-2016 TIP in FFY's 2014, 2015 and 2016 to reflect the changes from SAFETEA-LU to MAP-21. This effort will align the current TIP with MAP-21, and serve as a basis for the 2015 TIP update.

STIP REVISED schedule – As mentioned last month, statewide financial guidance on the distribution of federal and state transportation monies have not yet been agreed upon. Subsequently, submittal of the draft TIP to Central Office expected to be delayed by approximately 3 months. Draft TIP typically would be submitted to Central Office at the end of December.

State Transportation Bill – Dan Cessna highlighted a positive conference call he participated in with PA Transportation Secretary Schoch. He noted that prevailing wage is a key new element affecting closure on a new bill. As part of any eventual package, the Republican majority in the state House wants Pennsylvania's prevailing wage law, which requires the use of a union pay scale on public projects that cost more than \$25,000 be raised to \$100,000. In addition, they would like the definition of maintenance to include activities such as: resurfacing, base repairs, and microsurfacing. These items should not be classified as construction items, being subjected to prevailing wages. Both these changes would benefit rural local governments, who are struggling to afford transportation infrastructure related costs.

October 30-November 1 Fall Planning Partners – At the statewide meeting in Mechanicsburg, the 2015 TIP financial guidance, general and procedural guidance, and TIP adoption schedule are expected to be finalized. SPC staff will present this anticipated TIP update closure, along with additional information from the Fall Planning Partners meeting, to the TTC at the November 14th meeting.

b. Federal Updates

Chuck DiPietro and Kevin McCullough provided updates on the following items:

Highway Trust Fund – The current Highway Trust Fund projections continue unstable. Starting in federal fiscal year 2015, the trust fund will have insufficient resources to meet all of its obligations, resulting in steadily accumulating shortfalls. Historically SPC’s obligation limitation is approximately 87%. Come 2015, if no action is taken, the limitation level may drop to under 50%, severely crippling the delivery of region’s transportation program.

MAP-21 Compliance – MAP-21 places greater emphasis on the highest transportation system (Interstate, enhanced NHS); a large percentage of overall transportation funding is being directed towards it. This is a challenge for areas of the state that do not have many miles of the higher system. There is dramatic reduction in funding for the lower system, so it will be a severe challenge for them to maintain roads and bridges on the STP network.

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

a. District 10-0 – Attachment A

Dave Cook of PennDOT District 10-0 reviewed the requested administrative actions to the current TIP. Jeff Raykes’s motion was second by Jeff Leithauser, and TTC approved the administrative actions requiring TTC approval as presented.

b. District 11-0 – Attachment B

Rob Miskanic of PennDOT District 11-0 reviewed the requested amendment and administrative actions to the current TIP, including the Sports and Exhibition Authority’s I-579 “Cap” project. TTC discussed SEA’s request to add the project’s PE phase to the TIP in 2014 with deobligated TCSP funds from the project’s Study phase.

SPC staff highlighted the following concerns:

- Estimated \$30 M project cost exceeds the threshold in the established SPC TIP Modification Procedures that requires the action be processed as a Major TIP Amendment.
- It is not typical to add a project to the TIP (excluding Study phases) unless full commitment of funds to complete the entire project is demonstrated. At this time, only PE funds are committed. Subsequent phases are not identified on the TIP or Long Range Plan, and confirmed funding sources for the project cannot be fiscally demonstrated. If the project does not advance past PE, the SEA would be responsible for paying back the TCSB funds expended. PennDOT clarified that the SEA fully understands the payback possibility.

TTC concluded that any future request to further program phases beyond PE on the I-579 “Cap” project would be processed as a Major TIP Amendment, which requires a 30-day public comment period, review of financial plan, and commission approval.

Art Cappella’s motion was second by Anne Ogoreuc , and TTC approved the amendment and

administrative actions requiring TTC approval; with the understanding that a future request to add subsequent phases to the I-579 “Cap” project would be processed as a Major TIP Amendment.

c. District 12-0 – Attachment C

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

5. Coordinate/Advance Local Projects Facilitated TTC Discussion

Matt Pavlosky facilitated discussion among TTC members on the coordination and advancement of Local Projects. Topics included:

- a. Local Project Delivery
- b. Local Bridge Non-TIP Funding Options
- c. PennDOT Removal of Non-Essential Local Bridge New Policy – Attachment E
- d. Analysis of Locally Owned Federal Roads
- e. How to Advance Effective Local Input to Active PennDOT Projects
- f. Other Local Project Areas/Issues

Attached is the PowerPoint with notes reflecting TTC feedback on today’s Local Project Discussion.



Local Project
Delivery_notes.pdf

6. Advance 2015-2018 TIP Update

a. Round 3 WG Meetings: Summary/Follow-ups

Third round of Highway TIP Development Work Group sessions have concluded. The Work Groups discussed: MAP-21 TIP compliance and adjustments, Federal Aid Highway Networks and the shifting of funds to the Enhanced National Highway System, 2013 TIP carryover projects, and 2015 new candidate projects. Work Groups are to review 2013 TIP carryover projects and potential financial implications, as presented at third round of work sessions.

b. October 8th Financial Guidance Work Group

The Statewide Financial Guidance Work Group met on October 8th. Items discussed included: Possible PennDOT Central Office management of the enhanced National Highway System (similar to PennDOT’s Current Management of Interstate Program), Map-21 TIP compliance and TIP adjustments, Highway program formulas for financial guidance, Revised TIP Schedule, and upcoming Fall Statewide Planning Partners meeting.

c. October 16th CMAQ Evaluation Committee

A meeting of the CMAQ Evaluation Committee (CEC) was held on October 16th at SPC. Committee members are evaluating the candidate projects against ten scoring factors.

The CEC's questions and requests for additional information about individual projects have been forwarded to project sponsors. The air quality benefit of each candidate project is being modeled by SPC staff, for review by the CEC at its November 6th meeting.

- d. October 30th-November 1st PA Planning Partners Fall Meeting
As discussed earlier in the meeting, SPC staff will present information coming out of the Fall Planning Partners meeting to the TTC at the November 14th meeting.
- e. PPP Fall Meeting Dates/Agenda
 - o November 12, Beaver County, 3pm (Beaver County Courthouse)
 - o November 12, Greene County, 6pm (Margret Bell Middle School Cafeteria)
 - o November 18, Armstrong County, 6:30pm (Armstrong County Courthouse)
 - o November 20, Indiana County, 6pm (Location TBD)
 - o November 22, Lawrence County, 12pm (Location TBD)
 - o November 25, Allegheny County/City of Pittsburgh, 2pm (Two Chatham Center, SPC, South Meeting Room)
 - o December 4, Washington County, 3pm (Courthouse Square, Room 104)
 - o December 10, Butler County, 2pm (Butler Government Center)
 - o December 12, Westmoreland County, 5pm (County Courthouse, Commissioners Room)
 - o Fayette County, soon to be scheduled

7. Other Business/Status Reports

Staff announced the following upcoming meetings:

- a. October 28th & December 16th – Commission
- b. November 14th & December 12th – TTC
- c. November 6th – CMAQ Evaluation Committee #3
- d. November 7th – CommuteInfo Partners
- e. November 19th – Operations & Safety Committee
- f. December 4th – TOC