

**Meeting Minutes for September 23, 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
- Sally Conklin, Armstrong County  
Chris Jaros, Armstrong County
- Tammy Frank, Beaver County
- Joel MacKay, Butler County
- Patrick Hassett, City of Pittsburgh Dept of Public Works  
Marcelle Newman, City of Pittsburgh Dept of Public Works
- Arthur Cappella, Fayette County
- Jeremy Kelly, Greene County  
Crystal Simmons, Greene County
- Jeff Leithauser, Washington County Planning Commission
- Jeff Raykes, Indiana County
- Chris Bova, Westmoreland County Planning Department
- Kevin McCullough, PennDOT Central Office  
Matt Smoker, FHWA  
Dave Cook, PennDOT District 10-0  
Doug Dupnock, PennDOT District 10-0  
Jim Andrews, PennDOT District 10-0  
Rob Miskanic, PennDOT District 11-0  
John Quatman, PennDOT District 11-0  
Angela Saunders, PennDOT District 12-0  
Josh Theakston, PennDOT District 12-0  
Mavis Rainey, Oakland Transportation Management Association  
Lucinda Beattie, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership  
Lynn Manion Airport Corridor Transportation Association  
J.D. Fogarty, Port of Pittsburgh Commission  
Brian Fischbach, Fisher Associates  
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  
Doug Smith, 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 reviewed the agenda and highlighted changes from the advance agenda. All three PennDOT Districts had updated FCC's (Districts 10-0 and 12-0 as handouts 1 and 2, and District 11-0 as a walk-in). Item 4d was added, as well as a handout for Item, 5, 7a, 7e, and 7h. Chuck announced that the meeting is being recorded for minute taking purposes only.

1. Action on July 18<sup>th</sup> Minutes – Attachment A  
The July meeting minutes were approved with no revisions.

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 TIP Adjustments – As discussed at the June Statewide Planning Partner's meeting, funding code changes are required for the 2013-2016 TIP in FFY's 2014, 2015 and 2016 to reflect the changes from SAFETEA-LU to MAP-21. This effort is underway and will not only align the current TIP with MAP-21, but it will also serve as a basis for the 2015 TIP update.

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

STC Pilot Public Participation Plan - The Pennsylvania State Transportation Commission (STC) has launched a new initiative to modernize how public feedback is collected on Pennsylvania's transportation needs. As part of this initiative, the STC has created a website that includes an easy to understand look at our transportation system as well as several convenient ways for the general public to provide feedback. The website can be found at the following address <http://www.talkpatransportation.com/tellus.html>.

3rd Quarter Reports (Attachment B) - SPC region obligation numbers slightly behind compared to previous years. SPC numbers still ahead when compared to rest of the state. 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.

Act 26 Eligible Counties (Attachment C) – Lawrence, Armstrong, and Fayette counties are the Act 26 eligible counties within the SPC region. Act 26 counties are classified as being economically distressed. Under Act 26, the state funds the local share of those eligible counties local highway/bridge projects.

b. Federal Updates

Matt Smoker and Chuck DiPietro provided updates on the following items:

MAP-21 compliance

FHWA and FTA will be releasing a notice of proposed rulemaking this fall; soliciting comments on draft planning/environmental regulations under MAP-21. A 30-60 day public comment period will commence, with final guidance following 9 -12 months after. FHWA is having PennDOT convert current funding codes on the current STIP, that no longer exist, to reflect the funding levels and streams coming into the state under MAP-21. 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 not as much funding for the lower system, so it will be a severe challenge for them to maintain their roadway network. The state is working with MPO's/RPO's through the Statewide Financial Guidance Work Group to best accommodate all areas, while still meeting Federal financial targets set for Pennsylvania, FHWA is asking that the state be MAP-21 compliant by the beginning of October this current year.

Federal Lands Access Program – The Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division (EFLHD) of FHWA is opening a Call for Projects for the Federal Lands Access Program (Access Program) from Sept 3, 2013 to October 4, 2013. The Access Program was authorized under MAP-21 and is intended to improve transportation facilities that provide access to, are adjacent to, or are located within Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA) lands. FLMAs in Pennsylvania include the National Park Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, US Forest Service and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

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 amendment and administrative actions to the current TIP. Jeff Raykes's motion was seconded by Jeff Leithauser, and TTC approved the amendment 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 administrative actions to the current TIP. Patt Hassett's motion was seconded by Ann Ogoreuc, and TTC approved the amendment and administrative actions requiring TTC approval as presented.

c. District 12-0 – Attachment F, Handout 2

Angela Saunders of PennDOT District 12-0 reviewed the requested administrative actions to the current TIP. Jeff Leithauser's motion was seconded by Art Cappella, and TTC approved the administrative actions requiring TTC approval as presented. District 12-0 had no amendment requests.

d. Lower Hill District Street Grid – Public Comment/Update – Handout 3  
Chuck DiPietro highlighted the public comment received during the 30-day public comment period pertaining to The Sports & Exhibition Authority’s (SEA) Lower Hill District Street Grid project. An amendment request by the SEA to add the project to SPC’s TIP and LRP is being brought before the Commission at their September 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

5. Follow-up to June DOT Certification Team Visit

a. TTC Future Agenda Design Survey

Darin Alviano and Ryan Gordon highlighted the results of the TTC future agenda design survey. Overall, TTC members are satisfied with the design and format of the current agenda structure. However, a periodic presentation on a project of regional significance was seen as a value added addition to future TTC agendas by a large majority of members.

b. Advancing/Monitoring Local Projects – Handout 4

Chuck DiPietro highlighted handout 4 which included local facility issues that were brought to SPC’s attention. Those included: Local Project Delivery, Available Non-TIP Funding for Local Bridges, and Removal of Non-Essential Local Bridges Policy. SPC’s intent is to have a facilitated discussion, possibly one hour on these topics at next month’s TTC. Members agreed that these local issues deserve time for discussion. Chuck noted that SPC would use an in-house staff person to facilitate this agenda item at the October meeting.

6. Regional Operations Plan Update

Doug Smith gave a presentation for the Regional Operations Plan (ROP) update. In 2007, SPC developed its first ROP. The ROP became an integral part of the Long Range Plan (LRP). With the LRP to be adopted in 2015, an update of the ROP is to soon begin. Following is a link to SPC’s ROP webpage [http://www.spcregion.org/trans\\_ops\\_rop.shtml](http://www.spcregion.org/trans_ops_rop.shtml).

7. Advance 2015-2018 TIP Update

a. Work Group schedule – Handout 5

Chuck DiPietro directed members attention to Handout 5, which compared draft schedules for the 2015 TIP Update; one being the original (similar to previous updates) the other being a revised schedule proposed by PennDOT Central Office which shows a three month delay in TIP adoption. If the latter is accepted, TIP Work Groups will adjust accordingly to coincide with critical dates.

b. SharePoint – WG Meeting 3 Prep work

Ryan Gordon reminded members to visit the TIP SharePoint site in preparation for third round of work sessions to get the latest information; such as: agendas and candidate project status and evaluation spreadsheets.

c. Round 3 WG Meetings

1. District 10-0 – Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>
2. District 11-0 – Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>
3. District 12-0 – Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>

Ryan Gordon added that at the Round 3 Work Sessions candidate projects that had Level 2 screening forms and project evaluations completed will be reviewed. Also a review of work-in-progress version of the current TIP carryover analysis will be completed. Lastly, an approach to the Fall PPP meetings will also be presented for Work Group refinement.

d. August 6 Financial Guidance WG

Chuck DiPietro and Darin Alviano provided a brief overview of the August 6<sup>th</sup> statewide Financial Guidance Work Group meeting. Four issues were discussed: 1) Highway program formulas for financial guidance, 2) New PennDOT projections of state highway funds, 3) Map-21 TIP Conversion, and 4) TIP Schedule tentative delay by 3 months.

e. CMAQ Update – Handout 6

Chuck Imbrogno provided an update on CMAQ applications. 46 CMAQ candidate project applications were received by the end of the application period on September 3. Total CMAQ funding requested was nearly \$165 million. Less than \$50 million is expected to be available for new CMAQ projects on the 2015-2018 TIP. A summary of the applications was provided to the CEC members. Staff has begun the technical review of the candidate CMAQ projects.

f. Regional Signal Program Cycle 3 Candidates

Dom D’Andrea provided a status update on the Regional Signal Program cycle 3 candidates. SPC received 25 municipal applications valued at \$6.6 million. SPC will be screening 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 will screen the candidates and produce a list worthy of further investigation. This list will be shared at an upcoming TTC meeting.

g. TAP Update/TE Backlog

Darin Alviano provided a summary report on the status of backlogged Transportation Enhancement Projects (TE). SPC will not solicit candidate projects under the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) until the backlog of TE projects are completed. It is SPC’s desire that if funds can be obligated and let dates established for projects, than hopefully SPC can move forward with its TAP “call for candidate projects in spring of 2014. Several TE projects remain. They include: (Washington) CBD Revitalization Phase 3; Sheepskin Trail (North) Phase 2; George C. Marshall Phase 2 Downtown Uniontown Revitalization; Neshannock Creek Trail; and the Montour Trail Library Viaduct. Darin noted that the (Washington) CBD Revitalization Phase 3 and the George C. Marshall Phase 2 Downtown Uniontown Revitalization are progressing. Both were added to the TIP today (construction phases) as part of District 12-0’s modification requests.

- h. PPP scheduling/agenda – Fall meeting dates & STC Pilot Participation/Coordination – Handout 7

Chuck DiPietro briefly highlighted Handout 7. He notified the county planning partners that Matt Pavlosky will be contacting them in the very near future to coordinate the fall PPP meetings. Referring to the STC's public input process as described earlier in the meeting, Chuck added that public input received from SPC's online form for the 2015 TIP Update will be provided to the STC.

- i. August 7<sup>th</sup> Ped/Bike Committee – Early Screening Coordination for Active Projects

Chuck DiPietro provided a recap of the August Ped/Bike Committee. Much discussion was had at that meeting on transportation project coordination and how pedestrian and bicycle issues can be brought to the attention of PennDOT early enough into the process. The Ped/Bike Committee also looked at projects on the current TIP that are still in that stage where input could be accepted.

- j. October 22-23 DM1 LPN Training at District 10-0

Ryan Gordon mentioned that District 10-0 will be hosting DM-1 series training on Linking Planning, NEPA and Design on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### 8. Other Business/Status Reports

Staff announced the following schedule of upcoming meetings:

- a. September 23 & October 28 – Commission
- b. September 27 – CMAQ Evaluation Committee
- c. October 1– SPC Freight Forum
- d. October 9 – Ped/Bike Committee
- e. September 26 – OTMA 1<sup>ST</sup> Annual Transportation Fair
- f. October 17<sup>th</sup> – TTC