

Meeting Minutes for April 17th, 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
- Tammy Frank, Beaver County Dept. of Public Works
- Joel MacKay, Butler County Dept. of Planning
- Arthur Cappella, Fayette County Zoning, Planning and Community Development
- Jeremy Kelly, Greene County Planning Commission
Crystal Simmons, Greene County Economic Development
- Zach Norwood, Indiana County Planning and Economic Development
- Amy McKinney, Lawrence County Dept. of Planning
- Pat Hassett, City of Pittsburgh Dept. of Public Works
Marcel Newman, City of Pittsburgh Dept. of Public Works
- Jeff Leithauser, Washington County Planning and Economic Development
- Chris Bova, Westmoreland County Dept. of Planning and Development
- Kevin McCullough, PennDOT Central Office
Matt Smoker, Federal Highway Administration
Dave Cook, PennDOT District 10-0
Cheryl Moon-Sirianni, PennDOT District 11-0
Rob Miskanic, PennDOT District 11-0
Stephanie Spang, PennDOT District 11-0
Joshua Theakston, PennDOT District 12-0
Amy Mathieson, Airport Corridor Transportation Association
Mavis Rainey, Oakland Transportation Management Association
Lucinda Beattie, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
Jim Hassinger, SPC CEO and Executive Director
Chuck DiPietro, SPC Staff
Sara Walfoort, SPC Staff
Chuck Imbrogno, SPC Staff
Tom Klevan, SPC Staff
Darin Alviano, SPC Staff
Ryan Gordon, SPC Staff
Cort McCombs, SPC Staff
Kathleen Colbert-Gibson, SPC Staff
- (Indicates Voting Member)

Chuck DiPietro called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He notified attendees of changes to the preliminary agenda, which included an addition of a handout for items 3ai, 5b, and 5g; addition of item 7a “TIM Emergency Responder Training” and addition of item 7b “LED Traffic Signal Applications”. Lastly, Chuck announced that the meeting is being recorded for minute taking purposes only.

1. Action on March 20th Minutes (Attachment A)

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

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. FHWA/Central Office Reports

a. State Updates

Kevin McCullough and Chuck DiPietro shared updates on the below topics.

i. Multimodal Transportation Fund Programs – DCED, PennDOT (Handout 1)

The Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) announced that the Commonwealth Financing Authority will begin accepting applications for the Multimodal Transportation Fund on March 21st with the **application period closing on June 20th**. Based on projections, the CFA is anticipated to receive \$40 million in Fiscal Year 2014-15. The MTF will provide financial assistance to municipalities, councils of governments, businesses, economic development organizations, public transportation agencies, rail freight and ports to enhance communities, pedestrian safety and transportation assets. Financial assistance under the MTF must be matched by local funding in an amount not less than 30 percent of the non-federal share of the project cost. To apply for funding, the applicant must submit the electronic on-line DCED Single Application for Assistance located at www.esa.dced.state.pa.us.

PennDOT is also accepting applications for funding for transportation improvement projects under the Multimodal Transportation Fund created by Act 89. PennDOT can make available \$20 million in Fiscal Year 2014-15 to distribute to successful applicants. Eligible projects can cost between \$100,000 and \$3 million and they require a 30 percent match from local sources. PennDOT will evaluate the applications and make selections based on such criteria as safety benefits, regional economic conditions, the technical and financial feasibility, job creation, energy efficiency, and operational sustainability. Besides the \$20 million in unrestricted funds to be distributed, PennDOT may award grants from the dedicated budget categories in the Multimodal fund for aviation, rail freight, ports and bicycle-pedestrian projects. **The application period closes on June 30th.**

ii. Dirt and Gravel Road Program

Act 89 of 2013 has increased funding for Pennsylvania's Dirt and Gravel Road Program from \$4 million to \$28 million annually. Also, paved low traffic roads are now eligible for funding. For more information please click on the following link: [Dirt and Gravel Road Program Increase](#)

iii. Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program

Act 13 of 2012 establishes the Marcellus Legacy Fund and allocates funds to the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) for planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation and repair of greenways, recreational trails, open space, parks and beautification projects using the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (GTRP). **The application deadline for the program is July 21, 2014 for consideration at the November 20, 2014 CFA board meeting.** Projects which involve development, rehabilitation and improvements to public parks, recreation areas, greenways, trails and river conservation. Grants shall be awarded to eligible applicants for projects that do not exceed \$250,000. A 15% local match of the total project cost is required.

iv. Inactive Obligations

Obligation authority is federal authorization to disperse federal funds on a project. Inactive obligations are those projects that have received authorization but are not advancing. If obligation authority is tied up in projects that are not moving, that means projects that are ready to move may not, because there may not have enough obligation authority. PennDOT has developed new metrics to continue to monitor projects and to manage funds as efficient as possible.

v. 2014 Capital Budget Submission

State Legislature is looking for capital budget approval in June. Any project that is to utilize state funds must have capital budget approval. Legislators are requesting from their constituents a list of priority structures for capital budget approval. It was recommended to Planning Departments to work with their respective PennDOT District to ensure their critical local priorities are on the list. PennDOT has already submitted a project list to the Legislature that are currently not on the Draft TIP, Regional Transportation Plan or Decade of Investment. It was noted that once a highway/bridge structure receives capital budget approval, it remains on the list.

vi. [Pennsylvania Traffic Fatalities Reduction](#)

The number of highway deaths on Pennsylvania roads tumbled to a record low last year when 1,208 were recorded, the lowest number since recordkeeping began in 1928. For more information please click on the above link.

b. Federal Updates

Matt Smoker and Chuck DiPietro shared updates on the below topics.

i. [TIGER](#)

The TIGER program enables US DOT to examine a broad array of projects on their merits, to help ensure that taxpayers are getting the highest value for every dollar invested. In each round of TIGER, US DOT receives many applications to build and repair critical pieces of our freight and passenger transportation networks. Applicants must detail the benefits their project would deliver for five long-term outcomes: safety, economic competitiveness, state of good repair, livability and environmental sustainability. The deadline for applications for the 2014 TIGER program is April 28th. For more information please click on the above link.

ii. Highway Trust Fund

US DOT has updated its Highway Trust Fund Ticker, and the Handout 2 charts shows that the Highway Trust Fund shortfall could now be as early as the end of July. US DOT notes that the HTF “will encounter a shortfall before the end of fiscal year (FY) 2014,” adding that “the surface transportation program continues to outlay at a greater pace than receipts are coming in” and that the balance has dropped by nearly \$3.3 billion since \$9.7 billion was transferred from the General Fund after the start of the fiscal year. By the end of February, the Highway Account cash balance stood at \$8.6 billion. To view the Highway Trust Fund Ticker, [click here](#).

iii. Transportation Reauthorization

U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx is traveling across the country, to showcase the importance of transportation investment, at a time when the nation’s transportation bill is set to expire and the Highway Trust Fund is rapidly running out of funds. The *Invest in America, Commit to the Future* bus tour will visit communities that have created jobs and new opportunities by investing in transportation, as well as communities with transportation projects that are waiting on needed funding. As he travels through eight states, beginning in Columbus, Ohio, and ending in Dallas, Texas, Secretary Foxx will make the case for a robust multi-year Federal investment as proposed by the Obama Administration that will address the current shortfall and meet the country’s future needs, all without adding to the deficit.

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

a. District 10-0 (Attachment B)

Dave Cook of PennDOT District 10-0 reviewed the requested amendment and administrative actions to the current TIP. Amy McKinny’s motion was seconded by Chris Jaros and TTC approved the amendment and administrative actions requiring TTC approval, as presented.

[PennDOT District 10-0 April TTC TIP Modifications](#)

b. District 11-0 (Attachment C)

Rob Miskanic of PennDOT District 11-0 reviewed the requested administration actions requiring TTC approval to the current TIP. Ann Ogoreuc's motion was seconded by Amy McKinney and TTC approved the administrative actions requiring TTC approval, as presented.

[PennDOT District 11-0 April TTC TIP Modifications](#)

c. District 12-0 (Attachment D)

Josh Theakston of PennDOT District 12-0 reviewed the requested administration actions requiring TTC approval to the current TIP. Art Cappella's motion was second by Jeff Leithauser and TTC approved the administrative actions requiring TTC approval, as presented.

[PennDOT District 12-0 April TTC TIP Modifications](#)

5. Advance 2015-2018 TIP Update

Chuck DiPietro announced that Commission consideration for TIP adoption has been moved from June 30th to July 28th. SPC was unable to meet the June 30th date, primarily due to not having spike decisions and Interstate projects. Both are required before SPC can conduct air quality conformity.

a. Final 2015 Financial Guidance Document

Final 2015 Financial Guidance was released by Central Office. Slight changes in numbers; nothing substantial compared to the draft guidance. The document will be posted to the SPC TIP SharePoint site.

b. Draft TIP Modification Procedures (Attachment E)

Darin Alviano and Ryan Gordon presented the recommendations of the TOC/TTC 2015 Draft TIP Modification Procedures Sub Committee. The modification procedures are outlined in a draft MOU between SPC and PennDOT, which is laid out similar to the STIP MOU between PennDOT, FHWA, and FTA. SPC's draft 2015 TIP Modification Procedures for TTC consideration only differ slightly than the current TIP Modification Procedures. Examples of recommended changes included:

- Certain types of projects (i.e. preservation, rock slides/rock falls) with costs greater than \$10 million will not have to follow procedures associated with major TIP amendments. This benefit will streamline non-controversial maintenance activities, and provide cost savings through efficiency.
- Process for 100% non-federal funded projects will be streamlined. These types of projects do not require Federal approval (as long as there is no impact on air quality), and will be processed solely through SPC.
- TIP modification request submission deadlines are further detailed, and the establishment of quarterly TIP implementation meetings is added. Both

additions will allow for greater transparency and will help in advancing SPC's Plan initiatives.

- One page visual "TIP Guidance for Processing TIP Modification Procedures", will be included as part of the MOU. This one page guidance is an excellent tool for stakeholders to use to assist them in understanding SPC's TIP modification process. Matt Smoker added FHWA, FTA and PennDOT are still finalizing the statewide STIP MOU, and once finalized he will provide SPC with a copy.

c. Draft Program of Projects Checks/Closure

Darin Alviano reiterated Chuck DiPietro's comments from earlier that SPC is still waiting for spike decisions and an Interstate project list. Both are needed prior to coming to closure on an agreed upon draft project list.

d. Air Quality Conformity Final Inputs

Chuck Imbrogno emphasized that in order to run air quality conformity for the region SPC needs review of all projects by the state interagency air quality review group (IGA). SPC is still waiting on an Interstate project list, a final project list from District 11-0, and potential projects as a result of spike decisions. Once received, those projects will be forwarded for review to the IGA.

e. Public Comment Period/PPP Meetings Coordination

Chuck DiPietro informed the TTC that because of the revised TIP adoption schedule, SPC will be rescheduling all Public Meetings. It is anticipated that a Public Meeting will be held in each of the ten counties sometime between mid June and mid July. Matt Pavlosky will be in contact with member Planning Departments to schedule a date that is convenient to each county.

f. Draft Program of Projects for Documentation/Various Required Technical Analysis

Darin Alviano stated that as part of SPC's TIP documentation submission, a list of major projects implemented for TIP years 2013 and 2014 is required. Also required are any major projects that were planned to be implemented for those TIP years but have experienced significant delays. SPC's three PennDOT Districts will provide Darin with the above information.

g. Transportation Alternatives Program (Handout 3)

Sara Walfoort reviewed TAP applications received for the SPC region. Applications for funding were accepted through April 4th on PennDOT's website. SPC region received 25 applications, requesting a total of \$16.6 million for the two-year program. SPC Region has \$3.4 million in TAP funds available. SPC's TAP Evaluation Committee will hold their initial meeting on April 22nd to establish evaluation criteria and rule settings.

6. Small Structure Inventory Program – Armstrong County Presentation

Chris Jaros gave a presentation on a Small Structure (bridge/culvert) Inventory Program that he is conducting for Armstrong County. Chris is building upon GIS small structure location data provided to him from SPC's Local Bridge Data Collection Program. Chris is working with municipalities to verify all small structures. Upon verification, Armstrong County's engineer will complete a brief inspection of all known structures, providing each structure with a rating of good, fair, or poor. This information will be displayed visually on municipal maps. The program is designed as a planning tool for municipalities, to assist them with making informed decisions about the future of each structure.

7. Other Business/Status Reports

a. TIM Emergency Responder Training (Handout 4)

As part of a statewide initiative to raise the awareness of TIM across Pennsylvania, the Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, and Philadelphia regions have teamed to provide National TIM Emergency Responder Training opportunities. All TIM responders are encouraged to participate. Dates for training in SPC region are as follows:

- Monday, May 12, Moon Township Fire Company, Moon Township (6:00-9:00 PM)
- Tuesday, May 13, PennDOT District 11-0, Bridgeville (6:00-9:00 PM)
- Thursday, May 15, PennDOT District 10-0, Indiana (9:00 AM-noon)

b. LED Traffic Signal Applications

SPC received 31 applications from municipalities requesting approximately \$1 million. SPC has only \$150,000 available in funding.

SPC staff highlighted both recent and upcoming meetings listed below.

c. April 16 - TOC at MMVTA

d. April 21 & June 30 - Commission Meetings

e. April 23 - Regional TIM Steering Committee

f. April 23 - ACTA ACT 89 Implementation Forum

g. April 29 - US DOT/ITS PA Integrated Corridor Management Decision Support System Workshop at SPC

h. May 14 - Ped/Bike Committee

i. May 8 - CommuteInfo Partners

j. May 15 - next TTC Meeting

k. May 21 - SPC Annual Freight Conference at Station Square

l. May 22 - PA Annual Rail Freight Conference at Station Square