

Meeting Minutes for April 16, 2015
Transportation Technical Committee Meeting
SPC Offices
Two Chatham Center, Pittsburgh

Attendees:

- Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County Department of Economic Development
Stephen Shanley, Allegheny County Department of Public Works
- Thomas Swisher, Armstrong County Dept. of Planning and Development
- Joel MacKay, Butler County Planning Commission
- Jeremy Kelly, Greene County Planning Commission
- Jeff Raykes, Indiana County Department of Planning and Development
- Amy McKinney, Lawrence County Planning Department
- Patrick Hassett, City of Pittsburgh Department of Public Works
- Chris Bova, Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development
- Jeffrey Leithauser, Washington County Planning Commission
- Kevin McCullough, PennDOT Central Office
Matt Smoker, Federal Highways Administration
Dave Cook, PennDOT District 10-0
Kathy Reeger, PennDOT District 10-0
Cheryl Moon-Sirianni, PennDot District 11-0
Robert Miskanic, PennDOT District 11-0
John Quatman, PennDOT District 11-0
Angela, Saunders, PennDOT District 12-0
Josh Theakston, PennDOT District 12-0
Lynn Manion, Airport Corridor Transportation Association
Lucinda Beattie, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
Steve Shadle, Allegheny County Consultant
Brent Lahaie, Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh
Martin Kaminski, Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh
Charles Miller, Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh
Jim Hassinger, SPC Executive Director & CEO
Doug Smith, SPC Transportation Director
Andy Waple, SPC Staff
Darin Alviano, SPC Staff
Dominic D'Andrea, SPC Staff
Chuck Imbrogno, SPC Staff
Tom Klevan, SPC Staff
Ryan Gordon, SPC Staff
Kathy Stefani, SPC Staff
Matt Pavlosky, 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 March 26th Minutes (Handout 1)

A motion was made by Jeff Leithauser and second by Jeremy Kelly to accept the March 26th meeting minutes as presented. The TTC approved.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Staff Profile – Andy Waple, Transportation Program Development Manager

Andy Waple is the new Transportation Program Development Manager for SPC, overseeing implementation of the LRTP and development of the TIP and special planning studies, as well as project programming and delivery. Prior to Andy’s employment at SPC, he served for 9 years in various capacities, most recently as the MPO Administrator/Director of Transportation Planning, at the George Washington Regional Commission in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Andy was also employed for 4 years in the private sector as a consultant, preparing municipal comprehensive plans and ordinances throughout central and western Pennsylvania.

Andy is a native of the State College, PA area and holds a Bachelors Degree in Urban/Regional Planning from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

5. FHWA/PennDOT Central Office Reports

a. [2015 TIGER Grant Program](#)

Matt Smoker notified members of the 2015 TIGER Grant Program. \$500M will be made available. The grant program will focus on capital projects that generate economic development and improve access to reliable, safe and affordable transportation for disconnected both urban and rural, while emphasizing improved connection to employment, education, services and other opportunities, workforce development, or community revitalization. The Pre-Application deadline is May 4, 2015. The Final application deadline is June 5, 2015

b. [Transportation Performance Management, Notice of Proposed Rule Makings](#)

Matt Smoker reiterated that MAP-21 transformed the Federal-aid highway program by establishing new requirements for performance management to ensure the most efficient investment of Federal transportation funds. Performance management increases the accountability and transparency of the Federal-aid highway program and provides for a framework to support improved investment decision making through a focus on performance outcomes for key national transportation goals.

On January 5, 2015, FHWA published a NPRM in the Federal Register to propose performance management regulations related to assessing the condition of bridges on the National Highway System (NHS), pavements on the Interstate, and pavements on the non-Interstate NHS, as required by MAP-21. The public is encouraged to review the NPRM and submit comments to the [Comment Docket](#). The comment period closes on May 8, 2015

c. *Other*

i. *State Multi-Modal Selected Projects*

Kevin McCullough indicated that agreements for the state's multi-modal projects are being finalized. These projects are going to be placed on Planning Partners TIPs. Cheryl Moon-Sirianni shared her concerns over the administration of these projects. There is no money set aside for the management of these projects. Staffing is going to be a hardship on the PennDOT Districts.

ii. *Statewide Financial Guidance Work Group*

Doug Smith provided an update from the April 15th Statewide 2017 TIP Financial Work Group meeting. Topics discussed included: shifting more NHPP funding to the interstate system; funding split for the Rapid Bridge Replacement Program (50/50 between Central Office and Planning Partner after the first four years, which is covered by Central Office); and, no longer providing PennDOT District targets as part of financial guidance (will require additional coordination during TIP Update).

6. Smart Transportation Program Status Update

Darin Alviano provided an update on SPC's Livability through Smart Transportation Program. He mentioned that the recommended projects for advancement by the TTC were approved by the Commission at their March meeting. Project narratives and fiscal constraint charts are included for informational purposes within Handout 3. The funding for projects has been

programmed in the year in which they are anticipated to move (based upon discussion at the meetings SPC had with project sponsors and PennDOT Districts) and to utilize the \$1.5M available through the Smart Transportation Program for both 2015 & 2016. Darin pointed out that this is a start to get projects on the TIP in order to begin administrative processes (reimbursement agreements) and that we may need to adjust programming as we move along in assisting project sponsors in advancing their projects.

7. CMAQ Program Status Report & Process Update (Handout 2)

As requested by the TTC at their last meeting, staff has reached out to all CMAQ candidate project sponsors notifying them of the additional CMAQ money that has become available in 2015. Staff also contacted current project sponsors to obtain a status update. Responses for both are contained in Handout 2. As part of this effort, staff received unsolicited requests for CMAQ funding for a couple of projects that have not gone through the region's CMAQ project selection process, but appear to be eligible project types. These projects are contained in Handout 2 as well.

Staff is developing a strategy for using all of the available CMAQ funds. Confirming that projects are "ready to go" with the following;

- Deliverable scope of work;
- Match funding in hand;
- Solid budget; and,
- Can be under contract by mid-summer.

Staff will discuss this subject with SPC's Executive Committee on April 27 and will have a recommendation for action at the May 14 TTC meeting.

8. Action on Amendments & Modifications to 2015-2018 TIP ([Handout 3](#))

a. PennDOT District 10-0

Dave Cook of PennDOT District 10-0 highlighted a couple of TIP modifications for informational purposes only; no TTC actions required.

b. PennDOT District 11-0

Rob Miskanic of PennDOT District 11-0 reviewed the requested TIP modifications. There were two amendments and two administrative actions requiring TTC action (as highlighted within Handout 3). Jeff Leithauser's motion to approve was second by Jeff Raykes and the TTC approved the amendments and administrative actions requiring TTC action, as presented.

c. District 12-0

Angela Saunders of PennDOT District 12-0 reviewed the requested TIP modifications. There were two administrative actions requiring TTC action (as highlighted within Handout 3). Jeff Leithauser's motion to approve was second by Jeremy Kelly and the TTC approved the administrative actions requiring TTC action, as presented.

9. Mapping the Future: The Southwestern PA Plan

a. Plan Overview/Layout

Doug Smith shared with members an overview/layout of the Region's Long Range Plan. The document is being framed around the following sections:

- 1.0 Intro / Background / Planning Context
- 2.0 Foundation of Mapping the Future
(Public Process, Scenario Development, Regional Vision, Goals & Objectives)
- 3.0 Regional Geography / Existing Conditions
- 4.0 Performance Based Planning Framework
- 5.0 Aspirations
- 6.0 Plan Implementation
- 7.0 Monitoring Performance

b. Companion Documents

Doug also mentioned that a number of other documents will accompany the region's LRP including the Human Services Coordinated Transit Plan, Regional Operations Plan & ITS Architecture, Transportation Safety Action Plan, Air Quality Conformity Report, Environmental Justice Report, Planning & Environmental Linkages Report, and Public Participation Report. A Regional Freight Plan and Active Transportation Plan will be developed as implementation steps of the current long-range plan.

Presentations by SPC staff were delivered highlighting some of the plans mentioned above. Summaries of each can be found below.

Human Services Coordinated Plan

Kathy Stefani, the Program Manager for SPC's Alliance for Transportation Working in Communities (ATWIC), gave a brief presentation on the region's updated Coordinated Transportation Plan, which will be presented to the Commission for approval in June. The Alliance defines 'coordinated transportation' as "an integrated network of transportation services that, *through successful collaboration and resource sharing*, provides affordable, reliable, and accessible mobility for all." In developing the Plan, a consultant team assessed

existing transit services relative to regional destination locations and completed a demographic and socioeconomic analysis that focused specifically on seniors, persons with disabilities, and low income households. Based on input from 217 human service professionals representing 83 different agencies across the ten-county region, along with feedback from 54 individuals who rely on transit and/or shared ride transportation to access jobs and services, five barriers were identified as being most prevalent. These barriers are: 1) Public Funding; 2) Availability & Accessibility; 3) Cost & Affordability; 4) Public Policies & Regulations; and 5) Education & Information. The Alliance developed objectives and strategies to address each of the five barriers; these are included in the plan as well. Once the plan is approved by the SPC Commission, ATWIC will help direct plan implementation efforts.

Regional Operations Plan, Transportation Safety Action Plan

Dom D'Andrea provided an overview of two of the companion documents to the Long Range Plan. First, the Regional Operations Plan, or the ROP, which is a key initiative of the SPC's Transportation Operations and Safety Committee, is being updated this year. While many of the priority areas identified in previous years are continued with this update, the updated ROP has an increased emphasis on: 1) Performance measures that SPC and its planning partners can use to track progress in meeting operational objectives; and 2) Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) solutions that address needs in each of the priority areas. Advancing technology is anticipated to significantly transform the future improvements to our transportation infrastructure.

Secondly, the Regional Safety Action Plan is being developed. SPC's current initiatives such as Road Safety Audits and Traffic Incident Management teams address issues that are of vital importance to our stakeholders. These efforts have culminated with the inaugural Regional Safety Action Plan. The Regional Safety Action Plan identifies regional safety issues, develops priority safety focus areas, and outlines a proposed new regional implementation program to address the focus areas.

Both the Regional Operations Plan and the Regional Safety Action Plan are being developed with the input of members of our Transportation Operations and Safety Committee as well as other stakeholders.

Planning & Environmental Linkage Addendum

Ryan Gordon presented elements of the Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) Addendum to the SPC long range plan. Ryan noted that this work and subsequent document

are to comply with the Federal PEL requirements for MPO long range plans. Ryan reviewed the PEL regulations associated with MPO LRP and reviewed the SPC approach to meeting these requirements. An outline of the PEL addendum was presented including discussion on the major sections of the report including: Regulatory Context, Agency Consultation Activities, Resource Inventory, Existing Conservation Plans and Maps, Regional Ecosystem Framework, Environmental Screening of projects, Potential Environmental Mitigation, and associated planning tools. Some further presentation of the developed planning tools may be a subject for a future TTC. Ryan noted that consultations associated with complying with the PEL requirements will culminate in a presentation to the statewide Agency Coordination Meeting in Harrisburg at the end of May.

c. Plan Public Participation Panel Meetings Schedule (Handout 4)

Matt Pavlosky highlighted upcoming meetings and milestones. Details are listed below.

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| May 13th (Wednesday) | 30 Day Public Comment begins |
| May 20 th (Wednesday) | (*Public Meetings begin) ➤ Washington County LRP Public Meeting (3-5pm, Courthouse Annex) |
| May 25 th (Monday) | <i>Memorial Day</i> |
| May 26 th (Tuesday) | ➤ Butler County Public Meeting (3-5pm) |
| May 27 th (Wednesday) | ➤ Beaver County Public Meeting (3-5pm) |
| May 28 th (Thursday) | ➤ Westmoreland Public Meeting (5-7pm, Courthouse) ➤ Armstrong Public Meeting (6-8pm, Courthouse) |
| June 4 th (Thursday) | ➤ Allegheny/City of Pittsburgh Public Meeting (6-8pm, SPC) |
| June 9 th (Tuesday) | ➤ Fayette County Public Meeting (3-5pm) |
| June 11 th (Thursday) | ➤ Lawrence County LRP Public Meeting (2-4p, Courthouse) (*Public Meetings end) |
| June 12th (Friday) | 30 Day Public Comment Ends |
| June 15-19 th | Staff & Partners Summarize / Responds to Comments |
| June 22 nd (Monday) | LRP Comment Summaries to SPC Commissioners |
| June 29th (Monday) | SPC Commission Meeting / Consideration of LRP & Companion Documents |

Event Notes:

TBA: Greene County & Indiana County

- Meetings will be Open House format
- Public Comment will be accepted at meetings
- Stations for PennDOT, County, Transit and SPC Staff
- Save-the-Date notices: starting Friday, April 17
- Advertisements in newspapers, SPC website, PPP Portal
- Resource Material online (SPC website, Regional Library Network)
- Panel members and Planning Partners: Please help spread the word in your network!

10. Decision Lens Planning Tool

Doug Smith and Kevin McCullough shared their thoughts on the decision making software Decision Lens and how SPC may benefit from its use. PennDOT uses Decision Lens for all capital planning and asset management decisions across the state of Pennsylvania including interstates, bridges, and IT investment decisions. They were able to: Save 75-80% of the time spent on the process; Ensure that limited budgets are directed to the highest value projects; Focus on projects that will have the most impact in the shortest time frame. SPC staff is looking into this planning tool to help possibly assist in future transportation investment decisions.

The following video was shown at TTC <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FoAomdhOT3k>

11. Other Business/Status Reports

Doug Smith quickly highlighted both recent and upcoming meetings listed below.

- a. April 15 – Transit Operators Committee*
- b. April 15 – 2017 TIP Financial Guidance Work Group*
- c. April 27 – Executive Committee Meeting*
- d. May 6 & 7 – Transit Triennial Review*
- e. May 13 – Ped/Bike Committee*
- f. May 14 – Transportation Technical Committee*