

Meeting Minutes for August 18, 2016
Transportation Technical Committee Meeting
SPC Offices
Two Chatham Center, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Attendees:

- Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County Department of Economic Development
- Steve Shanley, Allegheny County Department of Public Works
- Tom Swisher, Armstrong County Planning and Development
- Tammy Frank, Beaver County Liquid Fuels Department
- Joel MacKay, Butler County Planning Commission
- Arthur Cappella, Fayette County Zoning, Planning and Community Development
- Jeremy Kelly, Greene County Planning Commission
- Amy McKinney, Lawrence County Planning and Community Development
- Patrick Hassett, City of Pittsburgh Public Works
- Justin Miller, City of Pittsburgh Department of City Planning
- Chris Bova, Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development
- Jeffrey Leithauser, Washington County Planning Commission
- Ed Typanski, Port Authority of Allegheny County
- Kevin McCullough, PennDOT Central Office
- Matt Smoker, Federal Highway Administration
- Dave Hutchinson, City of Pittsburgh Office of Management and Budget
- Steve Shadle, Allegheny County Department of Public Works Consultant
- *Doug Dupnock, PennDOT District 10-0
- Cheryl Moon Sirianni, PennDOT District 11-0
- Robert Miskanic, PennDOT District 11-0
- John Quatman, PennDOT District 11-0
- Louie Nguyen, PennDOT District 11-0
- Bill Beaumariage, PennDOT District 12-0
- Angela Saunders, PennDOT District 12-0
- Josh Theakston, PennDOT District 12-0
- Mavis Rainey, Oakland Transportation Management Association
- Jina O'Neil, Oakland Transportation Management Association
- Lucinda Beattie, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
- Lynn Manion, Airport Corridor Transportation Association
- Sara Hansel, Fisher Associates
- Doug Smith, SPC Transportation Director
- Kirk Brethauer, SPC Information Systems Director
- Andy Waple, SPC Staff
- Darin Alviano, SPC Staff
- Chuck Imbrogno, SPC Staff
- Dom D'Andrea, SPC Staff
- Ryan Gordon, SPC Staff
- Tom Klevan, SPC Staff
- Matt Pavlosky, SPC Staff
- Evan Schoss, SPC Staff
- Sara Walfoort, SPC Staff
- Leann Chaney, SPC Staff
- Dan Alwine, SPC Staff
- Paige Bogats, SPC Intern

- Indicates voting member
- * Participated by telephone

1. Call to Order

Doug Smith called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Action on the July 14th Meeting Minutes (Handout 1)

A motion was made by Amy McKinney and seconded by Art Cappella to accept the July 14th TTC meeting minutes as presented. The TTC approved.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. FHWA/PennDOT Central Office Reports

Doug Smith, Matt Smoker, and Kevin McCullough discussed the below items.

*A. Notice of Proposed Rulemaking – National Performance Measures
PennDOT Draft Comments (Handout 2)*

Handout 2 contains a draft compilation of various comments and recommendations from Planning Partners (MPOs, RPOs) and PennDOT on FHWA’s Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) regarding the proposed national performance management measures to assess Performance of the National Highway System, Freight Movement on the Interstate System, and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program. USDOT has received comments from over 60,000 individuals and organizations on this rule making.

*B. Notice of Proposed Rulemaking – MPO Coordination
PennDOT Draft Comments (Handout 3)*

Handout 3 contains a draft compilation of various comments and recommendations from Planning Partners (MPOs, RPOs), PennDOT and neighboring states on FHWA’s Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform. The proposed revisions to the transportation planning regulations are to promote more effective regional planning by States and MPOs. The goal of the proposed revisions is to result in unified planning for each urbanized area even if there are multiple MPOs designated within that area. There has been significant opposition by planning organizations, state DOTs, lawmakers and other groups who feel that the proposed rules are an overreach of authority by USDOT and are likely to be counterproductive.

C. TIGER Awards (Handout 4)

Handout 4 contains a list of recipients from the latest round of TIGER grants. Nearly \$500M was awarded amongst 40 applicants. The Sports and Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County was awarded \$19M to help fund construction of the I-579 Cap Urban Connector Project.

D. 2017 STIP Submission

The 2017 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) has been submitted to the appropriate federal agencies for their review and approval. The STIP includes \$20.2 billion (\$11.6 billion for Highway/Bridge and \$8.6 billion for Transit) in federal, state, local and private resources over the four year period. The STIP submission includes Transportation Improvement Programs and program supporting documentation as adopted by each planning partner.

E. PA Act 101 – Enhancements to Green Light-Go Program (Handout 5)

The legislation lowers the local match for the Green Light-Go Program grants from 50% to 20% and expands the types of local financial assistance such as federal, state, regional, local and private funds with a goal to improve traffic signal safety, function and traffic mobility. Metropolitan or rural planning organizations may also apply for the funds to manage the application of municipalities within that region.

F. Planning & Engineering 360

A new initiative from PennDOT Secretary of Transportation Leslie Richards is called “*PennDOT Connects*” (formerly referred to as “*Planning and Engineering 360⁰*”). *PennDOT Connects* will focus on early consideration of community needs when planning for transportation projects. Collaborations with municipalities to learn the contexts surrounding each project will help to better clarify the details unique to individual project locations prior to developing project scopes, schedules and cost estimates. PennDOT is currently formulating policy guidance associated with this effort.

At the upcoming County-City/ PennDOT District Work Sessions *PennDOT Connects* will be discussed including strategies for the region’s approach to this initiative. Also to be discussed will be regional Active Transportation planning, FASTLANE & ACTMTD Strategies, and the regional HSIP program.

5. Action on Modifications to 2015-2018 TIP (Handout 6)

A. PennDOT District 10-0

PennDOT District 10-0 had no TIP modification requests requiring TTC approval.

B. PennDOT District 11-0

Rob Miskanic of PennDOT District 11-0 reviewed the requested TIP modifications. There was one amendment and three administrative modifications requiring TTC action (as highlighted in handout 6). Ann Ogoreuc made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Amy McKinney, and the TTC approved the modifications as presented.

C. PennDOT District 12-0

Angela Saunders of PennDOT District 12-0 reviewed the requested TIP modifications. There was one amendment and one administrative modification requiring TTC action (as highlighted in handout 6). Chris Bova made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Jeff Leithauser, and the TTC approved the modifications as presented.

6. CMAQ/TAP/SMART – Program Status Report (Handout 7)

Darin Alviano provided a status update on current CMAQ, TAP, and SMART programs of projects. Handout 7 detailed the obligation of 2015 and 2016 federal funds for each project in the discretionary programs. Darin has been working closely with SPC member planning departments, project sponsors, and PennDOT programming to ensure that the region secures and utilizes all federal funds programmed.

7. PennDOT ECMS Training – Local Projects Consultant Selection Process (Handout 8)

Andy Waple notified TTC members of upcoming ECMS training opportunities as outlined in handout 8. The ECMS Local Projects training program will instruct participants in the usage of ECMS to automate the creation, development and execution of Consultant Agreements to assist participants in transitioning from paper based agreements to electronic agreements.

8. PennDOT MPMS IQ Demonstration

Josh Theakston gave a demonstration on the capabilities of PennDOT's online MPMS IQ. MPMS IQ is a web-based GIS mapping application for accessing highway and bridge project data for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

9. Freight Rail Emerging Issues

Sara Walfoort gave a presentation on freight rail emerging issues. The ability of a rail line to accommodate “double stack” trains, or trains on which containers are loaded two high, is a large determinant in the carrying capacity of that rail line. In order to be considered “double stack capable” a rail line generally must have a continuous vertical clearance of 22 feet from the top of the track to the lowest point of any bridge or other structure (there are exceptions in the case of side obstructions, and within the confines of some buildings.)

The Pittsburgh region is served by two double stack cleared rail lines: The Norfolk Southern Mon Line and the CSX Main Line, both running on the south side of the Monongahela River. Norfolk Southern’s Mon Line has experienced significant service restrictions as a result of landslides in 2004 in the West End, and in July of 2016 in the vicinity of Station Square.

To provide service redundancy and efficiency in container movement through the region, Norfolk Southern is exploring options for the double stack clearance of their Pittsburgh Line. This line runs through the North Side of Pittsburgh, crosses the Allegheny River near the Convention Center, and then heads east along the Port Authority’s Martin Luther King, Jr., East Busway. Not all the roadways, pedestrian walkways and building structures that cross the NS Pittsburgh Line currently offer 22 ft. vertical clearance. The current practice of addressing vertical clearance limitations on a bridge-by-bridge basis is time consuming and inefficient. NS has drafted a preliminary plan for the comprehensive elimination of vertical clearance restrictions along this corridor. It is anticipated that they will seek public funding assistance through the PA Multi-Modal Fund(s), TIGER, FASTLANE or other programs in the coming funding cycles.

10. Regional Aerial Photography

Evan Schoss and Kirk Brethauer provided an overview of SPC’s 2015-16 Regional Aerial Photography Project. Aerial imagery was acquired for 40% of the region in Spring 2015 with the remaining 60% of the region being acquired in April 2016. The 2015 imagery covers Indiana County and portions of Armstrong, Fayette and Westmoreland, while the 2016 imagery covers the remaining SPC counties.

Deliverables from the project include digital orthophotographs with true and near-infrared color bands at a 6-inch pixel resolution. The orthophotographs are in

GeoTIFF format and use the same tile index as the 2006 PAMAP imagery from PA DCNR. SPC will also have county-wide mosaics of the images in MrSID format. Other deliverables include an updated digital elevation model and GIS files of breaklines and breakpoints used in the rectification process.

SPC expects to receive all of the imagery and other deliverables in September 2016 and will distribute the aerials to GIS staff at PennDOT and member counties.

SPC will also share the imagery with municipalities, public utilities, public agencies and other planning partners. In house, the imagery will assist SPC in updating the region-wide land use / land cover inventory, to assist the Water Resource Center with stormwater plans and projects and increase the accuracy of numerous GIS data layers. Mr. Schoss showed examples of the new aerial imagery in ArcGIS and demonstrated how using image processing software can aid in classifying different types of land cover and differentiating between pervious and impervious surfaces.

11. Other

Doug Smith highlighted upcoming meetings including:

- A. August 23rd – State House Transportation Committee
- B. September 14th – Transit Operators Committee
- C. September 15th – Transportation Technical Committee
- D. County-City/ PennDOT District Work Sessions
 - District 10 – September 20th
 - District 11 – September 21th
 - District 12 – September 22nd
- E. September 26th – Southwestern PA Commission