

Meeting Minutes for September 15, 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
- Joel MacKay, Butler County Planning Commission
- Arthur Cappella, Fayette County Zoning, Planning and Community Development
- Jeremy Kelly, Greene County Planning Commission
- Jeff Raykes, Indiana County Department of Planning and Development
- *Amy McKinney, Lawrence County Planning and Community Development
- Justin Miller, City of Pittsburgh Department of City Planning
- Dave Hutchinson, City of Pittsburgh Office of Management and Budget
- 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
- Dave Cook, PennDOT District 10-0
- H.D. Cessna, PennDOT District 11-0
- Stephanie Spang, PennDOT District 11-0
- John Myler, 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
- Amy Mathieson, Airport Corridor Transportation Association
- Sara Hansel, Fisher Associates
- Brent Lahaie, Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh
- Doug Smith, SPC Transportation Director
- Andy Waple, SPC Staff
- Darin Alviano, SPC Staff
- Chuck Imbrogno, SPC Staff
- Ryan Gordon, SPC Staff
- Tom Klevan, SPC Staff
- Sara Walfoord, SPC Staff
- Leann Chaney, SPC Staff
- Dan Alwine, SPC Staff
- David Totten, SPC Staff

- 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 August 18th Meeting Minutes (Handout 1)

A motion was made by Jeff Leithauser and seconded by Art Cappella to accept the August 18th TTC meeting minutes as presented. The TTC approved.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. FHWA/PennDOT Central Office Reports

Doug Smith and Matt Smoker discussed the below items.

A. Notice of Proposed Rulemaking – MPO Coordination – PennDOT Comments (Handout 2)

Handout 2 contains PennDOT's comments 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 intended to promote more effective regional planning by States and MPOs, although there has been much discussion as to whether they will actually accomplish that. 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. PennDOT has experienced long-term success with partner agencies, and feel their relationship with partners serves as a model of regional coordination and cooperation between Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Rural Planning Organizations (RPOs), and adjacent states. PennDOT believes these proposed rules run counter to the purposes and objectives of regional planning, and would serve to undermine the successful structures and practices already in place.

PennDOT's comments on the Proposed Rule on MPO Coordination and Planning Area Reform, developed in consultation with the Commonwealth's twenty-three MPOs and RPOs, have been submitted to the docket.

B. August Redistribution – Additional Federal Obligation Authority

Pennsylvania received \$123M of additional authority which will be immediately invested in Advance Construct conversions throughout the state. The SPC region received \$31M; 25% of the statewide total.

5. Action on Modifications to 2015-2018 TIP (Handout 3)

A. PennDOT District 10-0

Dave Cook reviewed modification requests for informational purposes only. No

modification requests required TTC Action.

B. PennDOT District 11-0

Stephanie Spang reviewed modification requests for informational purposes only. No modification requests required TTC Action.

C. PennDOT District 12-0

Angela Saunders reviewed modification requests for informational purposes only. No modification requests required TTC Action.

6. Hulton Bridge Presentation – John Myler, PennDOT District 11-0

John Myler discussed the unique challenges involved in constructing the new Hulton Bridge, a completely new river crossing in Allegheny County. It had been over 30 years since PennDOT District 11-0 had last built a new river crossing in the County and many things have changed, from environmental conditions to new technologies and construction methods. Despite these unique challenges, the project was completed on time and within 2% of original bid price.

7. Regional Freight Plan

Sara Walfoort provided an overview of the regional freight plan. SPC is currently working with PennDOT to identify Critical Urban Freight Corridors and Critical Rural Freight Corridors in accordance with federal guidelines. These designations are intended to help guide decision making and investment. Sara shared examples of freight networks from the Chicago, Charlotte, and Atlanta regions as well as the state of Iowa's network. Sara then shared with TTC members freight data for the three PennDOT Districts, highlighting areas with high freight activities.

8. SPC Long Range Transportation and Development Plan Performance Measure Update

Doug Smith provided an update on the performance measures identified in "Mapping the Future: The Southwestern PA Plan" (Plan). It has been over a year since the Plan was adopted (June 2015) and SPC staff has updated the performance measures to see how the region is doing. Doug highlighted measures pertaining to transportation including Bridge and Pavement Conditions, Safety, Congestion, Transit.

For those who would like detailed information on the status of the Plan's Performance Measures, SPC will make more detailed information available upon request.

9. FHWA Invest Tool (Long-Range System Planning Module Update)

Doug Smith explained the FHWA Invest Tool and how SPC is utilizing it. FHWA's INVEST (Infrastructure Voluntary Evaluation Sustainability Tool) is a web-based self-

evaluation tool comprised of voluntary sustainability best practices, which cover the full lifecycle of transportation services, including system planning, project planning, design, and construction, and continuing through operations and maintenance. FHWA developed INVEST for voluntary use by transportation agencies to assess and enhance the sustainability of their projects and programs. SPC utilized the planning module of this tool to evaluate the previous Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) a few years ago and recently used it to evaluate “Mapping the Future: The Southwestern PA Plan” (Plan). The assessment of the previous LRTP identified areas that could be improved and allowed SPC to address these areas while developing *Mapping the Future*. SPC’s previous Plan received a Silver rating and an overall score of 116, while Mapping the Future received a Platinum rating and an overall score of 164. Key improvements were made in the areas of safety planning, performance measure tracking, freight planning, and Linking Planning & NEPA. Areas targeted for future improvements include resiliency planning, asset management analyses, and additional enhancements related to performance measure tracking and target setting.

10. Other

A. *City/County/District Roundtable Discussion*

TTC members shared with one another current initiatives that they are undertaking. Multiple counties are or will be updating their County Comprehensive Plans and will be looking to SPC to assist them with transportation related elements.

B. *County-City/ PennDOT District Work Sessions (Handout 4)*

- District 10 – September 20th
- District 11 – September 21th
- District 12 – September 22nd

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.

C. *September 26th – Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission*

D. *September 29th – FHWA Congestion Pricing Workshop*

E. *October 3rd – SPC Commissioners’ Workshop*

F. ~~October 4th~~ – *Freight Forum (postponed until November)*

G. *October 20th – Transportation Technical Committee*

H. *October 27th – Transportation Operations and Safety Committee*