



SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION

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Southwestern Pennsylvania Active Transportation Forum

Wednesday, September 5, 2018

10:00 AM – Noon

North Meeting Room, 4th Floor

Two Chatham Center, 112 Washington Place

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

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PA Dept. of Community &
Economic Development
Johnna A. Pro

PA Dept. of Transportation
James D. Ritzman

Executive Director
James R. Hassinger

Meeting Summary

Attendance

First	Last	Organization
Allison	Robinson	UPMC
Andrea	Elcock	Port Authority
Anna	Tang	BikePGH
Betsy	Aiken	Murrysville Trail Alliance, Western Land Trust
Betsy	Zang	McCormick Taylor
Bill	Lesterick	PennDOT D-11
Carol	Reichbaum	University of Pittsburgh/WalkWorks
Courtney	Mahronich	Friends of the Riverfront
Daniel	Carpenter	Westmoreland County
Darrell	Rapp	Swissvale Borough
Doniele	Russell	Lawrence County
Donna	Green	Regional Trail Corporation
Eric	Boerer	BikePGH
Hannah	Hardy	Allegheny County Health Department (Live Well Allegheny)
Jerry	Green	Northside Bike Ped
Jessica	Belouich	Michael Baker
Jina	O'Neill	Oakland Transportation Management Agency (OTMA)
Joe	Rusiewicz	Transystems
Joel	Mackay	Butler County
John	Turack	Penn State Extension / Smart Growth
Josh	Grimm	PennDOT D-11
Josh	Krug	Indiana County
Joy	Ruff	Johnson, Mirmirman & Thompson
Kaitlyn	Roth	Friends of the Riverfront
Kathryn	Schlesinger	Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group
Laurie	Lafontaine	C & I Trail Council
Linda	Gwinn	Blairsville Community Development Authority (BCDA)
Lindsay	Angelo	CONNECT
Lynn	Manion	Airport Corridor Transportation Association
Mary	Shaw	Trail Volunteer Fund, Free Wheeling Easy

Mike	Zizan	Skelly and Loy
Nicole	Pollock	Cranberry Township
Ron	Steffey	Steffey Trail Connections
Roy	Weil	Trail Volunteer Fund, Free Wheeling Easy
Sabina	Deitrick	University of Pittsburgh
Steven	Stuart	Michael Baker
Valerie	Beichner	Friends of the Riverfront
Zubin	Coleman	Allegheny County Economic Development

Staff

First	Last	Title
Anthony	Hickton	CommuteInfo
Chuck	Imbrogno	Models & Data Analysis Manager
David	Totten	Transit Planner
Kathy	Stefani	ATWIC Program Manager
Kim	Beaver	Grant Manager
Leann	Chaney	Transportation Planner
Sara	Walfoort	Freight Planning Manager
Tom	Klevan	Manager, Multimodal Planning

Welcome & Introductions

Leann opened the meeting and, before asking for introductions from those in attendance, encouraged attendees to participate in an upcoming “Forces of Change & Our Region’s Future” workshop that SPC is sponsoring on September 14, 2018 and complete SPC’s “Forces of Change” survey. She shared that the registration link and the survey can be accessed on SPC’s website (spcregion.org). Tom Klevan expanded on these opportunities and explained that they were being offered as public input opportunities for the update of SPC’s Long Range Plan.

Presentations

Friends of the Riverfront/Update: Valerie Beichner, executive director of Friends of the Riverfront, provided an overview of activities that the organization is involved in, which include building and developing trails (Three Rivers Heritage Trail and Three River Water Trails); maintaining and enhancing trails; and raising awareness to engage people on the trails. Valerie stated that their busiest corridor, at this time, is along the North Shore with activity underway to extend the trail in this area. She elaborated on more specific activities their work involves, including support from partners and dedicated commitment from approximately 1,500-2,000 trail stewards and volunteers that participate in ongoing trail-related activities or one-time events per year. She also highlighted numbers from a 2014 Trail User Study that was completed for the Three Rivers Heritage Trail and reviewed their planned goals for the next three years. Per

the User Study, the estimated total annual economic impact of the Three River Heritage Trail is \$8.3 million. Valerie shared that the organization is in the process of developing various technological solutions to identify trail system assets and deficiencies; focusing on greater community engagement, access and equity; and development of a deferred maintenance plan. Technological solutions include working with Metro 21 to virtually capture trail system assets and deficiencies via phone camera scans, and launching a pilot phone app that allows users to point to a neighborhood and have signs pop up showing restaurants and other community amenities. Valerie stated that this app also supports the organization's community and economic development efforts by helping drive trail traffic into towns and neighborhoods and encouraging trail users to visit local businesses.

Public Transit-Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan Update; Kathy Stefani, SPC/Alliance for Transportation Working in Communities (ATWIC)

Kathy Stefani, ATWIC program manager, presented on the update of the region's Coordinated Transportation Plan. Kathy shared that the regional goal is to, "Develop a regional **multimodal transportation network** which, through the use of robotics, automation, and shared mobility, can create **seamless travel chains in urban, suburban and rural environments** for in-county and cross-county trips that anyone, **regardless of ability or income**, can take advantage of in order to access healthcare, jobs, education, quality nutrition, and social activities." She elaborated on highlighted topics addressed within the regional goal and provided additional details on the planning process. Planning activities include data gathering; Alliance expertise; outreach across the region; and research on transportation technology, service types and emerging trends. These activities will inform development and writing of the plan which will be adopted as a component of the Region's long range plan. Following the presentation, Kathy and Dave Totten conducted a card exercise to gather input from the Forum on the following topics: options, integration, land use and people first. Kathy also reviewed ATWIC work groups working on plan development and invited others interested in participating to join the Alliance.

SPC Pilot Non-Motorized Data Collection Program/Update; Leann Chaney, SPC

Leann provided a summary of SPC's bike count activities to date, which included collecting cyclical counts at various locations and working with Pittsburgh's Department of Mobility + Infrastructure (DOMI) to collect counts using SPC's automated bike counters in several locations throughout the city. SPC count sites, to date, include the Eliza Furnace Trail, North Shore Trail (Chateau section), Strip District Trail, Blairsville Riverfront Trail, Ghost Town Trail and the Panhandle Trail. Counts in mixed traffic settings include sites along Neville Road and Pearce Mill Road.

Strava Metro bicycle and pedestrian GPS data services/Video Conference; Lee Peters, Strava Metro

Lee Peters presented on Strava Metro services, via a Zoom video conference, to provide information on the value of Strava data and utilization options for those who may be interested

in purchasing this data. Lee reviewed various Strava Metro features that are available as key GIS layers. These products include streets + trails, origin + destinations, intersections and heat maps, as well as a web portal that includes an interactive webpage that is easy to use for non-GIS professionals. Lee also shared that Strava Metro data can be used to augment existing count programs and help communities analyze travel patterns by month, day and time of year; visualize popular (and unpopular) routes; and compare counts on road segments and intersection crossing times.

Education & Advocacy

Roundtable updates

Prior to the roundtable updates, Leann asked that attendees highlight any flooding or land slide issues they may be having on local trails. Responses included: Steel Valley has had significant flooding; not so much flooding and landslides for the Armstrong Trail, but drainage is an issue; sink hole issues on “Eagle Lake”; and the Ghost Town Trail has experienced significant flooding and uprooted trees.

Other roundtable updates included: Strip District Trail should be re-opening soon; an invitation to a “Wild Open Spaces Party” being held by the Westmoreland Land Trust on September 22; a BikePGH update on three Open Streets activities that were held this summer, as well as this year’s Pedal Pittsburgh event, which was the largest to date; an update on progress working with PAAC to implement TOD at major fixed guideways; Penn State webinar opportunities; nearing completion on study of Allegheny County roadways to identify opportunities that may exist for installing bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure; update on the RT 22 pedestrian bridge project and public plans display; and the Hoodlebug Trail was extended across Rose Street.

Upcoming Events

- Laurel Highlands Trail Summit; September 18, 2018 (Ebensburg, PA)
- Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition Summit; October 2-3, 2018 (Morgantown, WV)
- APA/PA Annual Conference; October 14-16, 2018 (Erie, PA)
- Rail-Volution; October 21-24, 2018 (Pittsburgh, PA)

Future meeting dates

- December 5, 2018
- ~~March 6, 2019~~
- March 7, 2019
- June 5, 2019
- September 4, 2019 (tentative)