

Meeting Minutes for November 15, 2018
Transportation Technical Committee
SPC Conference Center
Two Chatham Center, Pittsburgh PA 15219

Attendees:

- Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County Department of Economic Development
- * Darin Alviano, Armstrong County Department of Planning and Development
- Mark Gordon, Butler County Planning Commission
Joel MacKay, Butler County Planning Commission
- Arthur Capella, Fayette County Zoning, Planning and Community Development
- Jeremy L. Kelly, Greene County
- * Dr. Jeff Raykes, Indiana County Office of Planning and Development
- Jeffery Leithauser, Washington County Planning Commission
- Daniel Carpenter, Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development
Victoria Baur, Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development
- Jeff Skalican, City of Pittsburgh
Sofie Yarish, City of Pittsburgh
Lucinda Beattie, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
Mavis Rainey, Oakland Transportation Management Association
- * Kevin McCullough, PennDOT Central Office
- * Michael Sherman, Federal Highway Association
- * Dave Cook, PennDOT District 10-0
Rob Miskanic, PennDOT District 11-0
Leigh Anne Shubert, PennDOT District 11-0
Josh Theakston, PennDOT District 12-0
Jessica Setmire, PennDOT District 12-0
Angela Saunders PennDOT District 12-0
Lynn Manion, Airport Corridor Transportation Association
Dan Laird, CDR Maguire
Dr. James Hassinger, SPC Executive Director and CEO
Andy Waple, SPC Transportation Director
Ryan Gordon, SPC Staff
Tom Klevan, SPC Staff
Dan Alwine, SPC Staff
Abby Stark, SPC Staff
Domenic D'Andrea, SPC Staff
Chuck Imbrogno, SPC Staff
Lillian Gabreski, SPC Staff

- Indicates TTC voting member
- * Participated via telephone

1. Call to Order

Andy Waple called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

2. Action on the October 18th TTC Meeting Minutes (Handout 1)

A motion was made by Jeffery Leithauser and seconded by Jeremy Kelly to accept the October 18th TTC meeting minutes as presented. The TTC approved.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. FHWA/FTA/PennDOT Central Office Reports (Handout 2)

A. PennDOT Report Card

Kevin McCullough briefly summarized the PennDOT Report Card, which is PennDOT's report to Federal Highway showing baselines for all performance measures with two year and four year targets. A summary of these figures can be found on page 3 of the handout. Any additional questions on the PennDOT Report Card can be directed to Kevin McCullough.

B. DCED and PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund Awards

Kevin McCullough briefly noted PennDOT's [previous announcement](#) of the projects approved for the FY 2018-2019 Multimodal Transportation Fund. Four projects in the region were approved for funding. The PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund FY 2019-20 application period closes today, November 15th.

Dan Alwine noted that an announcement for the DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund Awards was scheduled for the November 14th Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) Board Meeting. However, due to a rescheduling of the CFA meeting, applicants can now expect awards to be announced at the next CFA Board Meeting on December 19th.

Mike Sherman, the new FHWA Planner assigned to the SPC region, introduced himself. Mike will take over the duties of Matt Smoker for the Southwestern Pennsylvania region. Matt has been reassigned to another portion of Pennsylvania.

5. Action on Modifications to 2019-2022 TIP (Handout 3)

A. PennDOT District 10-0

There were no modifications requiring action.

B. PennDOT District 11-0

Rob Miskanic reviewed the requested TIP modifications. There were two groupings of administrative modifications requiring TTC approval (as highlighted in Handout 3).

Jeffery Leithauser made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Arthur Capella, and the TTC approved the modifications as requested.

C. PennDOT District 12-0

Angela Saunders reviewed the requested TIP modifications. There was one amendment and thirteen groupings of administrative modifications requiring TTC approval (as highlighted in Handout 3).

Daniel Carpenter made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Arthur Capella, and the TTC approved the modifications as requested.

6. Long Range Plan Update

Andy Waple briefly reiterated that SPC is in the process of honing down on three emerging long range plan themes: connected mobility, resilient communities, and a globally competitive economy. SPC staff along with Michael Baker International has also been continuing work on scenario reports that sum up all of the expert panel activities and discuss how the input gathered will be used in developing the long range plan. These reports will be distributed at the December Commission meeting.

A. Public Participation Panel Meetings Recap

Abby Stark gave a brief overview of the public participation panel and public meetings, which started in early October and concluded in mid November. Each had four stations: one was for input on potential LRP projects and areas of concern, one was for input on strategies identified by the expert panels, one was for input on investment categories, and one looked at the draft Active Transportation Plan.

There were a few overlapping topics in public feedback, including roadway/corridor bridge improvements, active transportation, transit, and areas with development potential which would have transportation implications. All comments received were included in a handout that Abby Stark distributed at the meeting.

The next steps are to process data collected from the other input activities and to organize the data in a useful way for both internal and external processes.

Abby Stark thanked the committee for their participation and support.

B. Project List Development Sessions Recap

Ryan Gordon thanked the committee for their preparation for and participation in the project list development sessions. At each work group, districts went over investment needs and present and future project needs. SPC is currently working to fill in the gaps on candidate projects, including cost estimates, project categories, identifying performance measure networks, and gaining additional project information. After this, the screening of candidate projects will begin. A working first cut will be put together of the fiscally constrained project list. At the second round of work group sessions, further input will be collected to make necessary adjustments and put out the next version of the project lists.

Ryan Gordon requested that districts hold the following dates for the second round of work sessions:

District 10 – January 15th, 2019

District 11 – January 23rd, 2019

District 12 – January 24th, 2019

The need for a potential third round of work group sessions will be determined after these second round meetings.

Andy Waple requested that any counties who have not already, please follow up with their respective transit providers to ensure any projects they would like to include on the list are captured.

7. Route 30 Corridor Operations Planning Study

Domenic D’Andrea presented the Draft Route 30 Corridor Operations Planning Study in Westmoreland County, which was originally requested by PennDOT District 12-0. He noted that SPC’s corridor operations planning studies are a hybrid between traditional traffic studies and the road safety audit process, which results in a more holistic look at both operations and safety and how they impact one another along the corridor.

The study area includes a three mile stretch of Route 30 in Hempfield and Unity Townships, Westmoreland County, in the vicinity of the Westmoreland Mall. Route 30 is a major route connecting places like Greensburg and Latrobe to Pittsburgh. At the request of PennDOT D-12 the study area also included a section of Donahoe Road from Route 30 to Georges Station Rd. As a result, in total the study area covers about five miles.

Key persons interviewed included representatives of Westmoreland County planning, PennDOT D-12, local business owners, PA State Police, Hempfield Township, and Westmoreland County Transit. These interviews were used to get feedback on operational and safety issues along the corridor.

Background information on the study corridor was provided by Westmoreland County Transit, PennDOT District 12-0, PennDOT C-DART, Westmoreland County Conservation District, and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission. The assessment team conducted site visits to observe the weekday AM, Midday, PM, off-peak, and night time periods in the 4 day period of Tuesday, June 19-Friday, June 22, 2018. New traffic counts were performed by SPC staff, including new turning movement counts and new automatic traffic recorder (tube) counts.

The team also looked at Westmoreland County Planning Department’s Comprehensive Plan. Some priorities they identified for corridor were smarter traffic signals, intelligent transportation systems (ITS), encouraging vehicular connection between compatible developments, complete road improvements designed to reduce and manage congestion and promote safety on Route 30, and encouraging the addition of park and ride lots along major corridors.

The team made numerous preliminary observations that underscored safety and operational concerns. These included a lack of connectivity between parcels, a lack of adequate storage in some left turning lanes, dark pedestrian facilities, outdated pedestrian facilities, a lack of pedestrian facilities in places where there were pedestrians, a need for better traveler information services, a disregard for posted speed limits, a lack of park and rides for local bus lines, problem intersections, traffic queuing, and excessively delayed traffic signals.

More information on these observations and the preliminary suggestions for how to remediate the safety and operational problems can be found in the final U.S. 30 from East Pittsburgh Street to Village Drive Corridor Operations Planning Study. For more information on this study please contact Domenic D'Andrea at SPC.

8. Northern Washington County – Small Area Corridor Plan

Andy Waple presented the Northern Washington County Corridor Based Transportation Plan. The purpose of the study was to evaluate the study corridors and intersections within the study area to identify short-term and long-term improvements. The study area was Northern Washington County.

The process started in late 2016, when PennDOT District 12-0 called a meeting with Washington County, its municipalities, and SPC to discuss the explosive economic and residential growth that's happened over the past twenty years, and its effect on transportation in the region. With the build out of Southpointe, the potential Cool Springs Development coming online in 2021, and the Southern Beltway from Route 22 to I-79 coming out right in this area, there's potential for some major traffic and mobility issues.

As a result, the group met to determine a strategy for short, medium, and long term recommendations for mitigating development risks and potential traffic problems. Until the Mon-Fayette Expressway is complete, the lack of connection in Northern Washington County will cause a potential for major safety and operational issues. Access from Peters and North Strabane were major issues looked at in the study. Overall, the team looked at forty intersections and significant development areas were identified.

The major goals and objectives of the study were to improve safety, reduce congestion, improve connectivity, mitigate deficiencies, integrate signal improvements, and identify funding options. Through the study process, the team analyzed existing and future conditions, identified safety concerns, evaluated mobility and accessibility, recommended short-term and long-term improvement projects, and identified potential funding sources and strategies.

Two stakeholder meetings were held, in January and August of 2018, and two public meetings were held. Stakeholders gave input on safety concerns, mobility and accessibility, and other potential problems.

A small area model was created for the study area, which took the larger regional area model and zoomed in on the project areas. The team also looked at streetlight data to study travel

patterns in and out of the study area. Significant growth in a number of the study corridors was identified. Existing levels of service were also studied, including bicycle and pedestrian facilities and transit service.

Safety improvements were evaluated, which included geometric improvements, unsignalized intersection mitigation, and access management strategies.

The Transit Development Plan for Washington County was being developed at the same time as this study, which allowed the team to take a holistic look at transportation connections in the county. These included reallocating services to areas of more demand, developing a service spine between the City of Washington and Canonsburg, adding a new Downtown Canonsburg Transfer center and an additional Park and Ride facility, and piloting an on demand, shared ride "Micro transit" service to replace some local service.

Ten areas were identified for conceptual improvements – Andy Waple requested that those seeking more information on those detailed areas reach out to him directly.

Conceptual Engineering Improvements were identified including additional turn lanes, roadway widening, raised median for access management, signage and lighting improvements, signal improvements, new signal or stop signs, jug handle, and connector roads.

Multimodal improvements included the reallocation of some midway and evening metro service from Downtown Pittsburgh to South Hills Village, the addition of a local "c" service between Southpointe and Canonsburg, and aligning operational and safety improvements along Route 19 with proposed future transit improvements. Overall, there were four near term improvements (<\$100,000), seven short term improvements (\$100,000-\$1mil), eight medium term improvements (\$1mil - \$10mil), and six long term improvements (>\$10mil).

Next steps include identifying funding strategies, incorporating public comments, and finalizing the study report by the end of this calendar year. Any further questions can be directed to Andy Waple. Detailed drawings are also available. Jeffery Leithauser added that this will be eventually incorporated into the County Comprehensive Plan.

9. Other Business / Status Reports

Andy Waple highlighted recent and/or upcoming meetings/events listed below:

- A. *December 5th – Transit Operators (TOC) and Active Transportation Forum*
- B. *December 6th – Transportation Technical (TTC)*
- C. *December 10th – SPC Executive Committee, Commission, and Corporation Members*

10. Adjourn

Jeffery Leithauser made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Arthur Capella, and the TTC approved adjournment of the meeting at 11:32 p.m.