

Meeting Minutes for June 18th, 2020 Transportation Technical Committee

Attendees:

- Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County Department of Economic Development
- Stephen Shanley, Allegheny County Department of Public Works
- Darin Alviano, Armstrong County Planning Commission
- Joe West, Beaver County Planning Commission
- Joel MacKay, Butler County Planning Commission
- Arthur Cappella, Fayette County Zoning, Planning and Community Development
- Jeremy L. Kelly, Greene County
- Amy McKinney, Lawrence County Planning Commission
- Jeffrey W. Leithauser, Washington County Planning Commission
- Daniel Carpenter, Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development
- Connor Shapiro, Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development
- Jeff Skalican, City of Pittsburgh
- Mavis Rainey, Oakland Transportation Management Association
- Kathryn Schlesinger, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
- Lynn Manion, Airport Corridor Transportation Association
- Kevin McCullough, PennDOT Central Office
- Dan Keane, PennDOT Central Office
- Harold Swan, PennDOT District 10-0
- Rob Miskanic, PennDOT District 11-0
- Stephanie Spang, PennDOT District 11-0
- John Quatman, PennDOT District 11-0
- Josh Theakston, PennDOT District 12-0
- Angela Saunders, PennDOT District 12-0
- Jessica Setmire, PennDOT District 12-0
- Andy Waple, SPC Transportation Director
- Ryan Gordon, SPC Staff
- Domenic D'Andrea, SPC Staff
- Chuck Imbrogno, SPC Staff
- Lillian Gabreski, SPC Staff
- Greg Shermeto, SPC Staff
- Lucinda Beattie, Western Pennsylvanians for Passenger Rail

- Indicates TTC voting member

1. Call to Order

Andy Waple called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. An introduction to SPC's new Executive Director Vincent Valdes was made to the TTC, in which he addressed TTC, providing his background and his thoughts on the importance of transportation planning in the region. This was followed by a roll call that was conducted to confirm a quorum of voting members.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Action on the May 14th TTC Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Joe West and seconded by Jeremy Kelly to accept the May 14th TTC meeting minutes as presented. The TTC approved.

4. FHWA/PennDOT Central Office, Program Center Report from Kevin McCullough, PennDOT Central Office

A. PennDOT Multimodal Program Update

Kevin McCullough first spoke about the reauthorization efforts for the FAST Act. There is some legislation that is being passed around, but due to the upcoming election it is expected that the FAST Act will be extended instead. There is also discussion of a fourth round for the CARES Act, which could give additional funding for infrastructure. There will be more discussion about any additional funding in the future. There have been no changes made to the multimodal program. Projects already with funding attached will not be affected; however the next funding round for the multimodal program will be postponed until funding can be appropriated.

B. PennDOT ARLE Program (Handout 2)

Kevin McCullough discussed the ARLE program, and let the TTC know that all currently funded projects will continue to be fully funded. The next round will more than likely be reduced for funding opportunities due to a drop in traffic volume. All pending grant applications for Year 6 of the Green Light Go Program for 2020 will not be awarded funding. Projects that were awarded in prior rounds that have not begun work will also be terminated. All projects that have design work can continue and finish design, but will have to wait for construction funding when it is available. Any projects in construction can finish to completion.

Dominic D'Andrea asked if Central Office will correspond with the municipalities about the status of these Green Light Go projects. Kevin mentioned some issues of communication with Green Light Go projects and municipalities which needs to be fixed. Dominic D'Andrea said he would also help to reach out to some of those project recipients. Andy Waple asked about municipalities reaching out to the County leaders about these applications. Joe West mentioned that nobody in Beaver County has reached out. Jeff Skalican also confirmed that nobody in the City of Pittsburgh has reached out either. Ann Ogoreuc mentioned she can speak to Port Authority, who is waiting to hear about their project. Darin Alviano asked about timeframes for multimodal projects, who should hear something relatively soon on those projects. Kevin mentioned that everything is still in a holding pattern but will keep everyone at SPC up to date if anything changes.

5. Action on Modifications to the 2019-2022 TIP

A. PennDOT District 10-0

Harold Swan went over the one administrative action for District 10-0. The action was for a roadway slide repair along SR 1032 in Boggs Township, Armstrong County. The district requests to add \$22,152 into the construction phase for FY 2020 for construction inspection costs. The source will be the SPC District 10 Highway/Bridge Line Item.

B. PennDOT District 11-0

Rob Miskanic went over six administrative actions for District 11-0. The first administrative action was for slide remediation at PA 588, Segment 0100, Bennett Run Road, North Sewickley Township, Beaver County. They are adding funds to initiate utility coordination. The second administrative action was for slide correction at SR 2017, Blythedale Road at segment 90 in Elizabeth Township, Allegheny County. They

are adding funds to initiate utility coordination. The third administrative action was for slide correction at SR 3059, North Road at segment 30 in North Fayette Township, Allegheny County. They are adding funds to initiate utility coordination.

The fourth administrative action was for bridge repairs and replacement along various District 11 routes. They are increasing construction to cover added work. The fifth administrative action was for slide correction at SR 4032 Fern Hollow Road/Little Sewickley Creek at segment 20 in Edgeworth Borough, Allegheny County. This is adding construction phase to the current TIP. Design is already on the current TIP and construction was funded on the 2021 draft TIP. The sixth administrative action is for a bridge replacement on McClelland Road over Deer Creek in Indiana Township, Allegheny County. This is a retro bridge project that is adding funding in 2020 to capture via reimbursement agreement. It is adding planning, engineering, final design, right of way and construction phases.

Ann Ogoreuc made a motion to approve the modifications to the TIP, which was seconded by Joe West, and the TTC approved the modifications as requested by Rob Miskanic.

C. PennDOT District 12-0

Lillian Gabreski mentioned that there were no modifications for District 12-0 for this month.

D. Transit Operators Committee TIP Modification Summary

Dave Totten mentioned that there was one TIP amendment added by the TOC. The Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority requested Bus Enhancements, which allots \$100 thousand (80% federal 20% state/local) for the addition of passenger amenities and bus technology, including adding usb ports to the seats and electronic digital signage.

6. Endorsement of the 2021-2024 TIP/Long Range Plan Update

A. Public Involvement Summary

Ryan Gordon first thanked everyone for their involvement in developing the TIP and the Long Range Plan over the past year and a half. Ryan mentioned that SPC will be reviewing and responding to all comments made during the public involvement phase, and will also be looking for candidate projects for the 2023 TIP, which will begin work shortly. Currently there are around 55 comments which need to be addressed, which may increase as some comments will be split into multiple comments. SPC has split up specific comments into each organization and was sent out last week, in which Ryan asked for each organization to review and send back answers to the comments to SPC in a timely manner.

Andy Waple discussed some of the struggles with the development of the Long Range Plan, due to a reduction of funds from the continuation of the FAST Act and the NHPP Funds, and thanked the TCC for their help with the development of the TIP and the Long Range Plan. Andy then gave a presentation of the 2021 TIP, which began with workgroups and financial projections for the upcoming years in the summer of 2019, leading into project carryover and selection in the fall of 2019. After more public meetings, a draft of the TIP was presented for review in the winter of 2019/2020, and looks to be finalized after review by PennDOT Central Office and a 30 day comment window, which ended on June 12th.

Public involvement on the 2021 TIP update began in the spring of 2019 with the STC survey, in which over 600 comments were pulled, with almost 100 comments already being addressed from upcoming projects.

Results from these comments and the comments received on the Smart Moves Long Range Plan were reviewed by the TIP work groups during the candidate project development. There were 10 in-person public participation meetings across the region in the fall of 2019. During the formal draft TIP comment period three virtual public meetings were held. There was a TIP website that was created with the draft TIP mapping included, which brought in over 800 views, as well as a TIP StoryMap which had another 1,800 views. Andy then spoke about some of the consistent investment themes of the TIP, including Economic Development, Infrastructure Condition, Safety, Efficiency, and System Reliability, and Multimodal Options. This would create an investment of over \$5.6 Billion dollars in funding to the region, which may be reduced due to the stay-at-home order and the reduction of travel in the region.

Andy went into the details of the Infrastructure Conditions that would be worked on during this TIP period, including 332 bridges that would be rehabilitated or reconstructed, and 837 miles of roadway that will be rehabilitated or reconstructed, as well as \$382.5 million for fixed guideway capital maintenance, \$30 million for bus facilities and equipment, and \$32 million for bus signals and equipment. There will be \$326 million allotted for Operations and Safety Projects, including intersection improvements, traffic signal upgrades, slide remediation efforts, ADA accommodations, and railroad crossing safety projects. For Efficiency and System Reliability there will be \$524 million allotted for projects on transit routes, \$157 million for congestion management corridors, \$121 million for bus purchases, as well as Adaptive Traffic Signal Systems for major corridors, including US-19 and US-30, as well as others. Major multimodal projects in the region include the Bus Rapid Transit project from Downtown to Oakland, the Hoodlebug Trail – Mile Hill Section, Interstate Improvements along I-70, I-79, and I-376, the Three Rivers Heritage Trail – Breckenridge Section, and betterment projects for the downtown areas of Charleroi and Waynesburg.

An analysis of projects in Environmental Justice areas showed that 54% of bridge and highway investments will be in low income population areas, and 33% of bridge and highway investments will be in minority population areas of the region. Projects will also conform to the EPA standards of ozone air emissions for the region.

B. Self-Certification

Andy Waple asked for a motion to approve the Certification of SPC's Transportation Planning Process for the 2021-2024 TIP. Ann Ogoreuc made the motion to approve the self-certification, and was seconded by Jeffrey Leithauser. The motion was passed unanimously.

C. Air Quality Conformity

Andy Waple asked for a motion to approve the Adoption of the Air Quality Conformity Report for the 2021-2024 TIP. Joe West made the motion to approve the air quality report, and was seconded by Art Cappella. The motion was passed unanimously.

D. Endorsement of the Draft 2021-2024 TIP

Andy Waple asked for a motion to approve the draft for the 2021-2024 TIP, as well as the amendment that amends the financial projections, project costs and schedules. Art Cappella made the motion to approve the draft 2021-2024 TIP and was seconded by Joe West. The motion was passed unanimously.

7. Livability through Smart Transportation (SMART) Program

A. Selection of Recommended Projects

Ryan Gordon went over the current projects for the Smart Program, as well as the obligation of funds for all current smart projects. Most of the projects have funding obligated, but a few will be carried over to the 2021 TIP to secure funding. Non-programmed projects that are selected during the 2021 application period will be pre-approved for funding and placed into a line item in the TIP and will be added to the TIP on a project by project basis. Andy Waple then went over a list of the new Smart projects, which were scored by a number of technical and ancillary factors, as well as project deliverability. Andy then outlined two different funding options for the new projects, one of which funded an additional project in Indiana County in favor of a reduction of funds on a LVTIP project in Westmoreland County. Group discussion was in favor of funding the additional project, and Andy noted that the recommended scenario will be voted upon during the July SPC Executive meeting.

Andy Waple asked for a motion to approve the selection of recommended projects for the 2021 Smart program. Daniel Carpenter made the motion to approve the recommended projects and was seconded by Ann Ogoreuc. The motion was passed unanimously.

B. Funding Guidance

Ryan Gordon discussed the summer 2020 funding guidance brochure. SPC updates the funding guidance usually three times a year to help with finding useful links for project funding, and will be sent out early next week to the TTC.

8. Other Business/Status Reports

- A.** Tuesday, June 16, 10:00 AM-Safety Action Plan Steering Committee Mtg.
- B.** Monday, June 22, 9:00 AM-Safety Action Plan District 12 Stakeholder Meeting
- C.** Monday, June 22, 1:00 PM-Safety Action Plan District 11 Stakeholder Meeting
- D.** Tuesday, June 23, 10:00 AM-Safety Action Plan District 10 Stakeholder Meeting
- E.** Thursday, June 25, 10:00 AM-Transportation Operations and Safety Forum
- F.** Monday, July 13, 12:00 PM-Planning Directors Forum
- G.** Thursday, July 16, 10:00AM-Combined Transit Operators(TOC)/Transportation Technical (TTC) Meeting

Domenic D'Andrea mentioned that the safety action plan steering committee meetings will have breakout sessions with all the districts to discuss district crash data and confirm safety focus areas. They will also be discussing candidate safety projects for each of the districts. All safety action plan meetings will be virtual meetings. Andy Waple discussed next month's combined TOC/TCC meeting, in which we will have a number of interesting topics to discuss involving transit in the region.

9. Other Discussion

Kevin McCullough mentioned that Joe Szczur, the PennDOT District 12 Executive, will be retiring at the end of the month. Joe has been a big advocate for interstate and bridge projects in District 12 for the last number of

years and we wish him a warm goodbye.

10. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Joe West. The motion was passed unanimously and Andy Waple called for the adjournment of the meeting at 11:50 a.m.