

Meeting Minutes for August 20th, 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
Tammy Frank, Beaver County Planning Commission
- Mark Gordon, Butler County Planning Commission
- Joel MacKay, Butler County Planning Commission
- Arthur Cappella, Fayette County Zoning, Planning and Community Development
- Jeremy L. Kelly, Greene County
Austin McDaniel, Greene County
- Josh Krug, Indiana County Office of Planning and Development
- Amy McKinney, Lawrence County Planning Commission
- Jeffrey W. Leithauser, Washington County Planning Commission
Jason Theakston, Washington County Planning Commission
- Daniel Carpenter, Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development
Connor Shapiro, Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development
Kathryn Schlesinger, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
Kevin McCullough, PennDOT Central Office
Jamie Lemon, Federal Highway Administration
Mavis Rainey, Oakland Transportation Management Association
David Wohlwill, Port Authority of Allegheny County
Ed Typanski, Port Authority of Allegheny County
Lynn Manion, Airport Corridor Transportation Association
Dr. Jeff Raykes, City of Greensburg
Mark Szewcow, City of Greensburg
Harold Swan, PennDOT District 10-0
Rob Miskanic, PennDOT District 11-0
Angela Saunders, PennDOT District 12-0
Josh Theakston, PennDOT District 12-0
Jessica Setmire, PennDOT District 12-0
Vincent Valdes, SPC Executive Director
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

- Indicates TTC voting member

1. Call to Order

Andy Waple called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m with a roll call for all TCC members.

2. Action on the July 16th Joint TOC/TCC Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Jeremy Kelly and seconded by Ann Ogoreuc to accept the July 16th Joint TOC/TCC meeting minutes as presented. The TTC approved.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

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

A. STIP Approval by State Transportation Commission

Kevin McCullough and Jamie Lemon spoke about the approval of the STIP by the State Transportation Commission, which approves \$64.8 Billion over the next twelve years. In the next four years across the state, the STIP approves \$11.4 Billion in highway and bridge projects, \$9.4 Billion in public transit projects, \$321 million in multimodal projects, \$228 million in rail/freight projects, and \$138 million in aviation projects. Jamie mentioned that Federal Highway is currently working with EPA and looking over the STIP. This was the first full electronic submittal for projects, which meant that Central Office was able to get the projects out to FHWA quicker, in order to give them more time to review the projects for any issues. FHWA review is ongoing, and Ryan Gordon sent out an email to the TIP review groups this week asking for comments on the TIP process as well.

B. 2020 Rail Transportation Assistance Program (RTAP)/Rail Freight Assistance Program (RFAP)

August 28th is the submission deadline for the 2020 RTAP and RFAP. If anyone in the TTC has not been sent information on these projects, please let Kevin know so that he can send you this information.

Darin Alviano asked a question about projected liquid fuels allocation. He heard there may be a drastic decrease in the allocation of liquid fuels in the region. Kevin said that there has been talk due to reduction in revenues (up to \$900 million in losses across transportation), but will have to see since revenues seem to change on a monthly basis. Traffic is picking up on a freight basis, but the reduction of purchases of fuels still causing an impact in the region. Kevin said he can probably give a better update in a month.

5. Action on Modifications to the 2019-2022 TIP

A. PennDOT District 10-0

Harold Swan went over one amendment and one administrative action for District 10-0. The amendment was for the securing of \$20,000,000 from the US Department of Transportation from a BUILD grant, which will be allocated into construction funds for two projects, the Balls Bend relocation/realignment project (\$12,864,410) and the SR 3020 Haine School Road to Commonwealth Drive (\$7,135,590). The Balls Bend relocation/realignment project includes the addition of a travel lane in each direction and a center turn lane, construction of four new structures, and realignment of road connections along PA228 (Mars Crider Road) from approx. 25 miles east of SR 3007 (Three Degree Road to the intersection of PA 8 in Middlesex Township, Butler County). This project will also add \$2,171,800 in FFY 2020 in right-of-way funds due to land values being higher than originally anticipated.

The one administrative amendment was for a bridge replacement project beneath US 422 in Muddy Creek Township, Butler County. District 10-0 requests the addition of final design funds in FY 2020 and FY 2021 in the total of \$155,000 to meet new requirements and update design plans to bring it to current standards since the project was originally shelved in 2018. The sources for funding will come from surplus right-of-way funds from Saxonburg Boulevard Bridge #2 and SR 3007 over Marshall Run #1, as well as the SPC District 10 Highway/Bridge Line Item.

Joel McKay made a motion to approve the modifications to the TIP, which was seconded by Darin Alviano, and the TTC approved the modifications as presented by Harold Swan.

B. PennDOT District 11-0

Rob Miskanic went over two amendments and one administrative action for District 11-0. The first amendment was for the Brodhead Road feasibility study, located between the Shell Petro-Chemical Plant and the Pittsburgh International Airport in the city of Aliquippa, Center, and Hopewell Townships in Beaver County. This will look at safety and congestion improvements to Brodhead Road, and will advance the funding awarded from the SMART Transportation grant. The second amendment was for the Churchill Interchange Access study, which will examine possible access improvements to the I-376 Parkway East Churchill Interchange to accommodate traffic resulting from the redevelopment of Westinghouse Industrial Park adjacent to the interchange. The amendment adds the study phase to initiate interchange access study, and is 100% local funds.

The one administrative action is for a bridge replacement project for Deer Creek Bridge #9, which carries McClelland Road over Deer Creek in Indiana Township, Allegheny County. The project adds a utility phase for incurred costs in the total of \$24,846, which will come from the right-of-way funds from the same project.

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

C. PennDOT District 12-0

Angela Saunders went over the eight administrative actions for District 12-0. The first administrative action is for the installation of a flashing beacon at the PA 136/SR 1055 intersection in Somerset Township, Washington County. This is for the addition of a construction phase to FY 2020 and advance project for earlier letting. The second administrative action was for the reconstruction of PA 906 (Donner Ave) from the Valley Independent building to the Monessen Riverfront Business Park in the City of Monessen, Westmoreland County. This is for the addition of a utility phase to FY 2020 and the phase was obligated on a previous TUP and utilizes toll credits.

The third administrative action is for safety improvements in phase 1 of the Morrisville Corridor Reconstruction, which includes the widening of US 19 to 4 lanes, replacement of the 2-lane highway structure with the 4-lane structure and widening/replacing the rail structure to accommodate the additional lanes in Franklin Township, Greene County. This is for the addition of a construction phase in FY 2020 and the phase was obligated on a previous TIP. The fourth administrative action is for improvements to the SR 40/SR 381 Intersection in Wharton Township, Fayette County. This is for the addition of a construction phase in FY 2020 and this phase was obligated on a previous TIP.

The fifth administrative action is for a bridge replacement carrying SR 217 (Y Street) over Norfolk Southern RR and W. Second Street in Derry Borough, Westmoreland County. This is for the addition of a construction phase to FY 2020 and this phase was obligated on a previous TIP. The sixth administrative action is for roadway and intersection improvements to PA 981 from T-888 (Airport Road) to T-950

(Arnold Palmer Drive) in Unity Township, Westmoreland County. This is for the addition of a construction phase to FY 2020 and the phase was obligated on a previous TIP. The seventh administrative action is for the replacement of one structure and the replacement of one superstructure carrying SR 1016 (Whitely Road) over Little Whitely Creek in Monongahela Township, Greene County. This is for the addition of a construction phase in FY 2020 and was obligated on a previous TIP and uses toll credits. The eighth administrative action is for bridge improvements on structure carrying SR 4010 (Laurel Hill Road) over Bute Run in Franklin Township, Fayette County. This is for the addition of a construction phase to FY 2020 and the phase was obligated on a previous TIP.

Daniel Carpenter made a motion to approve the modifications to the TIP, which was seconded by Josh Krug and the TTC approved the modifications as requested by Angela Saunders.

6. Update on the 2021-2024 TIP

Andy Waple introduced the 2021 TIP Update Process Review Survey, which was sent out to everyone who helped work on the TTC over the past few months. Ryan Gordon went into detail about the survey; He mentioned that the TIP was sent in to Central Office in July, which has in turn been forwarded to the FHWA for final approval. Looking towards the 2023 TIP, SPC is looking to evaluate the processes from the 2021 TIP. Anyone who attended any of the meetings for the 2021 TIP should have received an email with the survey attached, which will help SPC evaluate things that worked well and things that did not work well with the process for coming up with the most recent TIP. Ryan also mentioned that if anyone who received the survey knows anybody else who worked on the TIP and did not receive the survey, please forward it to those people. SPC is looking for responses by September 4th and SPC will share the results at the next TTC meeting.

7. City of Greensburg Smart Project Update

Mark Szewcow presented the scope of the Five Star Trail project in the City of Greensburg, located in the healthcare district. The goal of the project is to connect the Five Star Trail to the healthcare district, to enhance the experience and usage of the trail. This includes adding wayfinding signs to highlight trail access, updating trail signage in the area, installing pedestrian countdown signals and ADA curb ramps, improving drainage at locations to enhance the trail experience. More specific improvements include enlarging access at Wood Street and improving trail access and landscaping, adding new warning signs and pavement markings near Laird Street to enhance trail safety, installing a runnel on stairs near Laird Street, new wayfinding signs and drainage improvements at Highland Avenue, and upgrading access to the George Street entrance. The project let date is currently June of 2022. Dr. Jeff Raykes and Angela Saunders discussed the potential issues of the railway land near the trail being currently leased from the railroad, however negotiations on a long term extension on the lease is ongoing.

8. US DOT Grant Updates

Andy Waple discussed USDOT Grants, and recalled that last meeting SPC announced they will be applying for two of these grants. The ITS4US grant application was applied for successfully at the end of July, which was for over \$1 million in planning funds for a concept of operations for a project involving transit related improvements in the Mon Valley. An announcement about this grant application should be made by the end of September, and we will update the TTC on it again next meeting. The second grant application was a joint application between SPC and PennDOT District 11-0 for the Advanced Transportation Congestion Mitigation Deployment Program (ATCMDP). This grant will be for the Parkway East Active Transportation project, which was awarded CMAQ funds and is currently in preliminary engineering. SPC is working with

Michael Baker on the application, which will be for approximately \$11 million, and the application will be due next week, with a decision on the program to be made by the end of September as well.

9. Road Safety Audit Update

Dominic D'Andrea discussed the safety audits that SPC is working on. They were delayed by COVID-19, so they are still being finished. There are three audits being worked on currently, and the first of the three is located at Shady Avenue in Allegheny County from Penn Avenue to I-376. Was completed in October of 2019 and focused on pedestrian and bicyclist safety, as well as vehicular speeds. Has been responded to by the City of Pittsburgh and is considered finished at this time. The second safety audit was located on Route 19, Route 68, and Route 288 in Zelienople and Jackson Township in Butler County, and was completed in June of 2020. The final report is being reviewed this month and has been presented to the stakeholders in Butler County. The third safety audit is located on Route 40 in Fayette County from the Summit Inn to the Yough River. Field work was completed in July and preliminary findings and final presentation are currently being worked on. SPC is seeking new applicants for this year's road safety audits and an email will be sent out shortly asking for new applicants.

Ann Ogoreuc asked for an update on the Route 8 study. Dominic mentioned that data collection has been completed, but due to COVID-19 work on the study had stopped. Field work should continue sometime in September and an extension has been granted on it through the end of the year.

10. Route 28 Project Update

Ryan Gordon gave an update on the Route 28 project, which was awarded supplemental funds to conduct a corridor study on Route 28 from Kittanning to I-80. We developed a project steering committee for the study, which is examining current and future safety issues on the corridor and identifying any future project along the corridor. Currently, the steering committee has been reviewing the draft study report and SPC is compiling comments from the report. SPC hopes to have a report and a presentation by next month's meeting on the comments received from the study. Ryan also mentioned that the full report will be released on the Route 28 project website.

11. Other Business/Status Reports

- A. Thursday, August 27, 10:00 AM – Transportation Operations and Safety Meeting (**Cancelled**)
- B. Tuesday, September 1, 10:00 AM - Active Transportation Forum Meeting
- C. Wednesday, September 16, 10:00 AM – Transit Operators Committee Meeting
- D. Thursday, September 17, 10:00 AM – Transportation Technical Committee Meeting

Andy Waple mentioned the ongoing review of SPIKE funding over the last program. A meeting was conducted at the end of July between regional legislators and elected leadership and the Secretary of Transportation, in which concerns were laid out on the disparity of current SPIKE funds. Other updates on the progress of this meeting will be discussed in future TTC meetings.

12. Other Discussion

Kevin McCullough thanked all the counties and SPC for the involvement of everyone with their input and after action review of the STIP and that Central Office appreciates everyone's thoughts and contributions to the process.

10. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jeremy Kelly. The motion was passed unanimously and Andy Waple called for the adjournment of the meeting at 11:07 a.m.