



# Social Media Comment Policy

## COMMENT POLICY

The SPC social media channels provide an opportunity for sharing information about SPC programs and activities. Comments and opinions expressed by users of social media channels including YouTube®, Facebook®, Twitter®, and LinkedIn® are theirs alone and do not reflect the opinions of SPC or its employees. All public comments are reviewed and screened in accordance with the below SPC social media use policy.

- Comments on SPC-generated content should be limited to comments related to the posted topic. SPC's social media channels are not the proper place to express opinions or beliefs not directly related to subjects/areas in which SPC conducts its business (i.e., transportation plans & programs, economic development planning).
- Comments posted to social media sites maintained by SPC will be monitored and inappropriate content will be removed. We review all comments and reserve the right to discard messages containing inappropriate content.
- We do not allow graphic, obscene, explicit, racial or ethnic slurs, or otherwise discriminatory comments or submissions, nor do we allow comments that are abusive, hateful or intended to defame anyone or any organization.
- We do not allow solicitations or advertisements. This includes promotion or endorsement of any financial, commercial or non-governmental agency. Similarly, we do not allow attempts to defame or defraud any financial, commercial or non-governmental agency.
- We do not allow comments that suggest or encourage illegal activity.
- SPC's social media channels are not open to comments promoting or opposing any person campaigning for election to a political office or promoting or opposing any ballot proposition.
- All SPC social media authors and public commentators shall be clearly identified. Anonymous blog postings are not allowed. Personal responsibility for comments is assumed, (username and any information provided).
- Appearance of external links does not constitute any official endorsement on behalf of SPC.
- Only comments that comply with SPC's social media use policy will be approved for posting. The use of vulgar, offensive, defamatory (personal attacks), threatening or harassing language is prohibited, and comments or user accounts therein are subject to removal.
- SPC will remove any prohibited content, including those items that are: (1) not related to SPC; (2) profane language or content; (3) content that includes racial or ethnic slurs or links to racial or ethnic slurs; (4) content that defames or threatens to defame a person or group of persons; (5) sexual content or links to sexual content; (6) solicitations of commerce; (7) conduct or encouragement of illegal activity; (8)



information that may compromise the safety or security of the public or public systems; or, (9) content that violates a legal ownership interest of any other party.

- SPC, however, disclaims any and all responsibility and liability for any materials that are prohibited under these guidelines, which cannot be removed in an expeditious and otherwise timely manner.
- Please note that the comments expressed on this site do not reflect the opinions and position of SPC or its officers and employees. If you have any questions concerning the operation of this online moderated discussion site, please contact SPC at [input@spcregion.org](mailto:input@spcregion.org).

**IMPORTANT:**

- Communications made through e-mail and messaging systems within social media channels will in no way constitute a legal or official notice or comment to SPC (or any official or employee of SPC) for any purpose. For example, a post, comment, Tweet, or Facebook IN-mail that asks SPC to provide public records will not be considered a Right-to-Know Law request until being sent through the proper channels.
- Formal Public Comments on SPC plans and programs to be entered into the public record shall be submitted through the formal transportation planning process. For example, comments on a draft SPC transportation improvement program, long range transportation plan, amendment, etc. must be submitted as directed in the corresponding public comment notice, not through this or any SPC social media channel.)
- Written comments may be submitted to [comments@spcregion.org](mailto:comments@spcregion.org), by mail to SPC Comments at Two Chatham Center, Suite 500, 112 Washington Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15219 or by fax to (412) 391-9160.
- Nor is this a place to file a claim, complaint, or any other form of legal or administrative notice.
- Any information that is posted here potentially becomes a public record under public records laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and may be subject to inspection and copying by members of the public, unless an exemption in the law exists. When posted, the content of all comments and the commenter's identifier (valid e-mail address or an alias, if the tool provides the option to be identified by an alias) are released into the public domain, so do not submit anything you do not wish to be broadcast to the general public. Please do not share information such as social security numbers, birth dates, or other private information that you do not want to make available to others. SPC disclaims any liability for any loss or damage resulting from any comments posted on this page. This forum may not be used for the submission of any claim, demand, informal or formal complaint, or any other form of legal and/or administrative notice or process, or for the exhaustion of any legal and/or administrative remedy.
- Participants connected to SPC social media are encouraged to connect the public, organizations, companies, or any other user to SPC's sites. SPC does reserve the right to remove any user for violation of conduct rules (see above). At the time of launch for a new social media platform, SPC staff will attempt to engage partner agencies and interested parties to "follow" the new media, where applicable. SPC is not required to proactively search for social media connections with any interested party.



- Remember that, as an alternative to using this forum to communicate with SPC, you may visit the official SPC website ([www.spcregion.org](http://www.spcregion.org)) and use the e-mail address, telephone number, and/or mailing address provided to send communications.
- The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) hereby gives public notice that it is the policy of the Commission to assure full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. Title VI and other related statutes require that no person in the United States of America shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which SPC receives federal financial assistance. Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by an unlawful discriminatory practice by SPC under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint with the Commission. Any such complaint must be in writing and filed with SPC's Title VI Coordinator within one hundred eighty (180) days following the date of the alleged discriminatory occurrence. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Discrimination Complaint Form, please see our website at: [www.spcregion.org](http://www.spcregion.org) or call 412-391-5590.
- As social media is a fast-evolving means of public interface, this policy statement is subject to amendment or modification at any time to ensure its continued use is consistent with its intended purpose. Questions or concerns regarding SPC's presence in various social media channels should be directed to SPC's Communications Director, Shannon O'Connell, at [soconnell@spcregion.org](mailto:soconnell@spcregion.org).
- SPC manages this Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and LinkedIn account as a portal for information. However, information posted here is not official policy of SPC and will in no way grant anyone any rights, privileges, or standing on any matter. All information should be verified through official channels at SPC. For contact information at SPC, please check <https://www.spcregion.org/about/corporation-board-of-directors/staff-directory/>.