

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
Minutes of the Meeting
August 30, 2021 – 4:30 p.m.
Suite 400, Two Chatham Center, 112 Washington Place, Pittsburgh
and
Cisco Webex Platform

The one hundred and forty-eighth meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission was called to order by Chairman Rich Fitzgerald.

Members: Darin Alviano, Jennifer Beer, Mike Belding, Ali Doyle, Rich Fitzgerald, Kim Geyer, Sheila Gombita, Mark Gordon, Joe Grata, Kelly Gray, Bob Griffin, Dick Hadley, Lynn Heckman, Sherene Hess, Fred Junko, Katharine Kelleman, Sean Kertes, Clifford Levine, Dave Lohr, Jeff Marshall, Betsy McClure, Leslie Osche, Johnna Pro, Mavis Rainey, Aurora Sharrard, Larry Shifflet, Loretta Spielvogel, Vince Vicites, Christopher Wheat

Others: John Bohn, Matthew Lesh, Iris Lin, Andrew Morgan, Karen Morgan and Scott Rosebrook, TESIAC; Dusty Kirk, Reed Smith; Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County Department of Economic Development; Stefani Pashman, Allegheny Conference on Community Development; Mark Rofail, Fayette County; Chris Sandvig, Mobilify Southwestern Pennsylvania; Matt Smith, Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce; Jason Theakston, Washington County Planning Commission; and Mark Thomas, Pittsburgh Regional Alliance

Staff: Vincent Valdes, Mary Brangan, Kirk Brethauer, Ronda Craig, Domenic D’Andrea, Margaret Fonner, Colleen Friend, Ryan Gordon, Chuck Imbrogno, Tom Klevan, Jennifer Lasser, Vince Massaro, Steve Meredith, Shannon O’Connell, Kay Tomko, Andy Waple

1. Chairman Fitzgerald called to order the August 30, 2021 meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission.

- Quorum – There being a quorum present the meeting proceeded
- Any Conflict of Interest Declarations on Action Items - None

2. Action on Minutes of the June 28, 2021 Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2021 meeting by Leslie Osche which was seconded by Mike Belding. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

3. Public Comment – None

4. Financial Report – Vince Massaro/Margaret Fonner

1. Preliminary work on the staff side is done, schedules have been completed
2. We anticipate a draft report by the end of October
3. This is last financial report for Vince, introduction to Margaret Fonner

5. Presentation by TESIAC – Matthew Lesh/Andrew Morgan

1. The origins of TESIAC is the outgrowth of decades of experience among its founders in finance renewables, energy and public and governmental policy
2. Focusing on mobility, energy, technology and the integration of those systems bringing private capital and putting it to work alongside of public funds.
3. Business model is predicated on partnerships and alignment with the stakeholders, bringing the physical and digital worlds together.

Executive Summary

- TESIAC is an Economic Development and Managed Services Platform Company which aggregates mobility, energy, technology, and private capital to deliver integrated and interoperable infrastructure to accelerate and assure community sustainability goals are met.
- TESIAC brings an experienced and interdisciplinary team and partners together with new and innovative technologies and operational strategies.
- TESIAC seeks a true partnership and alignment with the SPC its stakeholders and larger community to reach optimal Smart City alternatives rather than bringing pre-conceived answers.
- Whether it be climate change, sustainability goals, perceived social inequities, need for growth, jobs, or other drivers, TESIAC brings together the physical and the digital worlds in a highly collaborative approach to develop new and targeted options rooted in mobility and infrastructure.

TESIAC at a Glance

- Provide flexible private capital to deliver zero emission fleets, clean energy, advanced technology and related infrastructure.
- Deliver leadership in sustainable development for cities, communities, and stakeholders.
- Commit to social equity and socioeconomic uplift, addressing underserved populations, and focusing on accessibility.
- Create local jobs through TESIAC e-mobility vehicles and Innovation and Assembly Centre (IAC).

TESIAC invests in Zero Emission Mobility Fleets, Clean Energy, Technology and related Infrastructure

* Chart represents selected United Nation Sustainable Development Goals

4. By intergrating and providing interoperable capabilities that this will be a multiplier in terms of the return on investment for the communities.

Any questions or comments? – Vincent Valdes: “I just wanted to mention that for me one of the things I had committed to was to bring new ideas to the commission and the region. I think what we’re seeing and you’ll see it also in the next presentation from Stefani and Matt, that the federal government is really looking for us all to consider ourselves more closely aligned as a region. They’re looking for that regional voice and I’m looking for tools, I’m offering ideas to all of my stakeholders here, so that you are aware of what’s going on beyond our region. Something for us to consider as a region, there are new tools, new ways of doing business and there are reasons for doing that as we will see in the following presentation from Stefani Pashman and Matt Smith.”

6. Discussion of EDA Grant Coalition – Stefani Pashman/Matt Smith

1. Looking for opportunities to strengthen the region and think about ways to propel the economy forward.
2. One catalytic opportunity coming out of the Economic Development Administartion of the Department of Commerce is the Build Back Better Regional Cluster Challenge – it’s a billion dollar challenge coming out in two phases and we have 90 days for the first deadline.
3. The phase one propsal could yield half a million dollars toward a several month opportunity. It could really move the regional economy forward.
4. There will be 50 or so first round grants.

Matt Smith said it's going to be really, really important as we move this application forward, and then move on as you said Vincent the infrastructure, energy and workforce development opportunities that might be available out there.

Mavis Rainey asked if either you or Vince could look at making this as equitable as we possibly can that would be great.

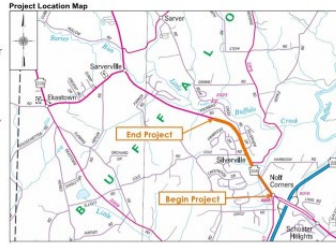
Vincent Valdes explained that it's baked into the process. I think it is giving everyone the opportunity to contribute to what the vision is. It's very clear from this particular grant application, or grant opportunity, and from what I'm hearing from the ones coming from Washington D.C., equity will be a part of the equation. But equity is a broader definition, it also means communities that may not have been able to be at the table before, for example: rural communities or people that have been unemployed for a long time, as well as communities that are a part of urban centers that have not been at the table. So again, they're asking everyone to think expansively about what these definitions are. And we're going to provide the means in which people can communicate with us and connect to this process. We're also setting up a number of opportunities for being able to provide input. Jenn Lasser described it in the Executive Committee meeting. On September 8th, we'll be talking to municipalities and local governments. We want to start talking to no traditional partners as well. We have to think expansively; we have to think about the housing implications and perhaps community redevelopment in parts of the Mon Valley. So again, we need to think regionally in order to be able to take advantage of these opportunities because they will be rare. I don't think that we'll be seeing this again any time soon.

Chariman Fitzgerald stated that it seems to me our chances are much better if we reach a consensus, so that we're speaking with one voice. If we coalesce around the project or projects that will build economic growth, the equity part of it could include a lot of different things, connecting people to it, skill enhancement are the various aspects we can build upon. And I think that thinking about these shovel ready or close to projects that might even be already underway, but you don't have the ability to finish the final connection, or the final part of it is incumbent upon all of us to get this to Stefani, Matt and Vince, so that we can reach a consensus on what we're going to go to Washington about.

7. Action of Resolution 11-21 to Make a Finding of Air Quality Conformity on Amendments of the Region's 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Pittsburgh Transportation Management Area (TMA) and the 2045 Transportation Plan (a Component of the *SmartMoves for a Changing Region*) – Andy Waple/Chuck Imbrogno
 1. No public comment was received during the public comment period for this project.

State Route 356 Improvements

- Buffalo Township, Butler County
- Project Description:
 - Widening of SR 356 from 2 lanes to 5-lanes (four travel lanes and one center turn lane), for approx. 1.1 miles, from Harbison Road to Bear Creek Road intersection.
 - Widening, relocation, and/or realignment of approaches to SR 356 (Monroe Road, Cole Road, Bear Creek Road, Locust Drive).
 - Installation of sidewalks and ADA ramps at strategic locations along the corridor.
 - Replacement of three traffic signals.
 - Replacement of storm water drainage.
- Project Cost - \$21,000,000
- Project Completion - 2026



SR 356 Improvement Project (Buffalo Twp, Butler Co.)

- Project Description:
 - Widening of SR 356 from 2 lanes to 5 lanes (four travel lanes and one center turn lane), for approx. 1.1 miles, from just north of T-666 (Harbison Road) to a point approximately 2,200 feet north of the Bear Creek Road intersection.
 - Widening, relocation, and/or realignment of approaches to SR 356 (Monroe Road, Cole Road, Bear Creek Road, Locust Drive).
 - Installation of sidewalks and ADA ramps at strategic locations along the corridor.
 - Replacement of three traffic signals.
 - Replacement of storm water drainage.
- MPMS# 106486
- Project cost - \$21,000,000
- Project Completion - 2026

Market Place District Improvements – Phase 1

- Moon Township, Allegheny County
- Project Description:
 - Adding a through lane on Montour Run Road (SR 3070) between Fedex Drive and Market Place Boulevard
 - Adding turn lanes
 - Implementing pedestrian and bike connections
 - Improving intersections at the I-376 Interchange, Market Place Boulevard, and FedEx Drive
- Project Cost - \$6,210,000 (Local Funds)
- Project Completion - 2024



I-79 Widening and Interchange Improvements

- South Fayette Township, Allegheny County
- Project Description:
 - I-79 3rd lane widening from Alpine Road to Prestley Road for an approximate length of 2.5 miles. Including mainline I-79 bridge widening / replacement / preservation
 - Bridgeville Interchange reconfiguration
 - SR 50 improvements and traffic signal upgrades between (Washington Pike) and the Hickory Grade Road intersection to accommodate ramp and bridge improvements
 - New retaining walls and replacement of six existing sign structures are proposed along I-79
- Project cost - \$155,500,000
- Project Completion - 2024

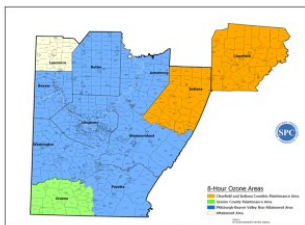


2. The intent of this action is to add it to the long-range plan and the TIP. It is solely to be able to begin a preliminary design on the project, that includes evaluating impacts to the local roadway system.

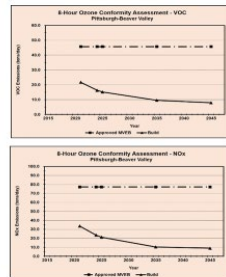
Proposed Project List Modifications

- Regional Fiscal Constrained LRP Project List (Appendix IV-1):
 - Addition of the SR 356 Corridor Improvement Project Construction to Stage 2 (\$12.8 Million)
 - District 10 Roadway Line Item amount in Stage 2 was reduced by equivalent amount to accommodate the addition of SR 356 Corridor Improvement Project
- Statewide Managed Interstate Program within the SPC Region (Appendix IV-3); updated to show:
 - Addition of the I-79 Widening Project (Alpine Road to Bridgeville)
 - Change in the name of the "Parkway East Corridor Transportation Improvement Phase 2" to the "I-376 Squirrel Hill Interchange Improvement"
 - o Interchange improvement on I-376 at the Squirrel Hill Interchange west of the Squirrel Hill Tunnel in the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County. Reconstruct and realign on and off ramps eastbound to eliminate weaving movements, reduce crashes and improve merging. Improve westbound off ramp approaching overhead structure to improve operations for large trucks going around the curve.

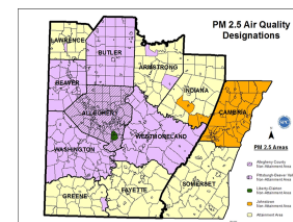
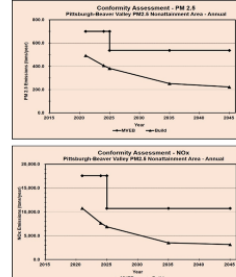
Air Quality Conformity - Ozone



MVEB – Motor Vehicle Emissions Budget Build – Modeled Emissions Level



Air Quality Conformity – PM 2.5



MVEB – Motor Vehicle Emissions Budget Build – Modeled Emissions Level

3. The pink areas on your screen and the map and the charts on the left top line is the motor vehicle emissions budgets and the bottom lines are the modeled emission levels with these projects added in, well below the emissions budget.

Chairman Fitzgerald asked if the three projects you outlined, in addition to the name change of 376, we're not making a vote here to how the projects are funded, that's up to PENNDOT and Harrisburg to figure out, what we're saying is we want these project on the TIP. Is that correct? Andy Waple said that is correct. The funding for SR 356 is coming through the allocation that we get as the SPC MPO of our state and federal formula fund. Moon Township is locally funded through their transportation authority and you're correct on I-79. We're simply saying that we want PennDOT District 11 to begin to design these projects and investigate impacts to the local municipalities in the local roadway system. It has no bearing on the funding of that project.

Chariman Fitzgerald asked if there were any questions; hearing none, he asked for a motion.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 11-21 by Leslie Osche and seconded by Larry Shifflet. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

8. Action on Resoltuion 12-21 to Amend *SmartMoves for a Changing Region* and the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add Projects to the Fiscally Constrained Project Listing – Andy Waple

A motion was made to approve Resolution 12-21 by Larry Shifflet and seconded by Leslie Osche. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

9. Action to Ratify the E-Vote to Approve and Endorse the Region's ARC Area Development Project Priority Listing – Jenn Lasser

Due to DCED's deadline and since there was no scheduled Commission meeting in July, an e-vote was requested on July 23rd to Approve and Endorse the Region's Area Development Project Priority Listing – Resolution 10-21

1. Indiana County Community Action Program Food Bank Warehouse
2. Mount Vernon Homes Rehabilitation Phase 1 (Beaver County)
3. The North Charleroi Secondary Feed Waterline (Washington County)

Tie for 4th Place

4. Connectivity to Employability: Digital Literacy Training and Online Access for Job Seekers in Fayette and Greene Counties
and
Duquesne University SBDCenter - Young Entrepreneurs Awards Program
5. Medical Equipment for Duquesne University College of Osteopathic Medicine and Other University Health Programs

201 Local Access Road Projects

1. Indiana County – 119 Business Park Access Road
2. Fayette County South Union Township

A motion was made to ratify the E-Vote by Larry Shifflet and seconded by Leslie Osche. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

10. Testimonials on the Covid-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program (CHIRP) – Jenn Lasser

CHIRP – Economic Impact

- Total of \$27,612,613 allocated to the SWPA region to assist hospitality establishments
 - Restaurants, Bars and Hotels with NAICS Codes in 720/721
- SPC received requests from the below counties to administer the program and directly assist businesses with the application process to deliver over \$17 million in grant awards to impacted hospitality businesses
 - Allegheny
 - Butler
 - Greene
 - Indiana
- Funds began being disbursed to business less than 30 days after the application period opened
- SPC provided county specified assistance through both paper and online applications as well as grant disbursement and document collection

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CHIRP – Business Feedback

Comments from just a few of the SPC/County applicants on their appreciation of CHIRP:

- “I wish to thank you and your peers at ACED for helping with the county CHIRP grants. Thank you for catching my typo mistake in error from the initial application and reaching out. Our venue did receive the grant and the funds will help us grind forward and stay in business. Operations are down 60% still from 2019 but that is way better than being down 75% to 90% on normal days last year. We have been in business for 25 years and I hope we can be a nice venue in our community for years to come. From all of us at Team Church Brew Works and especially myself Cheers Sean Casey – founder”
- “Thank you for your time and assistance with getting our application through the process” - Doug – Atria’s Restaurant
- “Thank you for all of your help” - Sean Murphy Wunderbar

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CHIRP – Business Feedback

- “Thank you for the wonderful news!!! We are grateful for this help. My employees are grateful as well - **keeps us all going**.” – Mark & Patti Denny – Burger Huts
- “We appreciate everything you and your team are doing for us” – Nicki Tonelli, Ginger Hill Tavern
- “I am so very appreciative for all that you are doing to help small businesses that are struggling during this pandemic” – Mary Ellen Sanko – The Gathering Spot
- “I appreciate the hard work that people are doing to help the small restaurant businesses in Allegheny County. Thank You” - Randy
- “ We appreciate all your help!” – Ed Wethli – Ed’s Beans
- “ Thank you very much for your assistance, WE APPRECIATE YOU!” - Derek, NatuRoll Creamery

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1. “Thank you to everyone in the region that had their hands in this process. This truly and utterly helped small businesses, we rarely have the impact to the results of this. I’m sure we’re going to have similar programs in the future. Thank you to our counties for the partnerships, for your feedback, and really just all of the consistency and service that we both were able to provide. Thank you all.” -Jenn Lasser
2. Rich Fitzgerald extended his gratitude from other counties such as Allegheny, Butler, Greene, and Indiana. Applications were processed quickly and businesses affected the most by the pandemic were able to get their money fast.

11. Committee Report on Activities of the Regional Policy Advisory Committee – Leslie Osche

1. One of the best meetings hosted by SPC was spent trying to define the case to be made in Harrisburg for the SPIKE funding. The document put together was extremely helpful in defining economic development and economic value.
2. Every county has an incredible asset to offer, be it travel and tourism or housing. We need to be sure that smaller communities aren't left behind.
3. We need to coalesce a bit more and figure out what this opportunity means, particularly with EDA.

12. Message from the Executive Director – Vincent Valdes

Now we'd like to celebrate Vince Massaro's retirement, he served SPC for 32 years. We thank him for his hard work.

13. Action on Resolution 13-21 to Honor the Services of Vincent M. Massaro

WHEREAS, Vince Massaro has served with distinction on the staff of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission for over 32 years;

WHEREAS, he has served as SPC's Finance Director since 1989, and in that role has overseen the planning, development, implementation and administration of agency annual budget, finance, contract administration, and treasury functions;

WHEREAS, he has directed and managed all financial activities of the organization including auditing, budgeting, financial statements and reports, 990 tax return preparation, purchasing, cash management, investments, treasury and banking according to Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS);

WHEREAS, he has served as the Corporation's Secretary-Treasurer and coordinated the resolution of all legal matters with assistance from external legal counsel and auditors;

WHEREAS, he has served as the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Liaison Officer (DBELO), in which capacity he was responsible for implementing all aspects of the SPC DBE program and ensuring that SPC complies with all provisions of 49 CFR Part 26;

WHEREAS, he has worked faithfully with the Finance Department staff and external auditors on the annual audit;

WHEREAS, he has an impressive record of finding-free audits throughout his tenure; and

WHEREAS, he has made the work of SPC possible through his dedicated career.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members and staff of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission express their appreciation for his years of dedicated service in support of SPC's mission and wish him and his wife Penny all the best during his retirement.

A motion was made to ratify the E-Vote by Larry Shifflet and seconded by Leslie Osche. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

Chairman Fitzgerald added that he has been an Executive Committee member for a number of years; and, I will tell you every time the auditors and Officers met, they immediately said how well things are run and how things have been done and Vince put all that together for 32 years. So I want to wish him well and congratulations Vince.

Vince Massaro said I just want to thank everybody, I'm going to miss everybody very much. It's been a privilege working here, it's been a privilege knowing all you elected officials and the general public members, so thank you very much. I will be in the office, tomorrow, it is actually my last day; but, as I told Vincent, I am available, if needed.

Next Meeting Date – September 27, 2021

14. Other SPC Business – Rich Fitzgerald

None

15. Adjourn

There being no other business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Fabian
Secretary-Treasurer