

**Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission  
Transportation Technical Committee (TTC)  
Meeting Minutes via Webex  
October 14, 2021, 10:00 a.m.**

**Two Chatham Center • Suite 500 • 112 Washington Place • Pittsburgh, PA 15219**

Attendees:

- Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County Department of Economic Development
- Darin Alviano, Armstrong County Planning Commission
- Mark Gordon, Butler County Planning Commission
- Arthur Cappella, Fayette County Zoning, Planning and Community Development
- Jeremy L. Kelly, Greene County Planning and Community Development
- Josh Krug, Indiana County Office of Planning and Development
- Amy McKinney, Lawrence County Planning Commission
- Jason Theakston, Washington County Planning
- Daniel Carpenter, Westmoreland County Planning
- Kevin McCullough, PennDOT Central Office
- Steven Shanley, Allegheny County Department of Public Works
- Jeff Skalican, City of Pittsburgh
- Brendan Coticchia, City of Pittsburgh
- Austin McDaniel, Washington County Planning
- Lisa Cessna, Washington County Planning
- Brandon Leach, PennDOT Central Office
- Matthew Crea, PennDOT Central Office
- Tammy Frank, Beaver County Liquid Fuels
- Kathryn Schlesinger, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
- Mavis Rainey, Oakland Transportation Management Association
- Lynn Manion, Airport Corridor Transportation Association
- Harold Swan, PennDOT District 10-0
- John Quatman, PennDOT District 11-0
- Dina Salemi, PennDOT District 11-0
- Doug Seeley, PennDOT District 11-0
- Evan Tobin, PennDOT District 11-0
- Jessica Setmire, PennDOT District 12-0
- Josh Theakston, PennDOT District 12-0
- Steven Wiedemer, Michael Baker
- Darryl Phillips, HDR
- Lucina Beattie, Western Pennsylvanians for Passenger Rail
- Andy Waple, SPC Transportation Director
- Domenic D'Andrea, SPC Staff
- Ryan Gordon, SPC Staff
- Tom Klevan, SPC Staff
- Chuck Imbrogno, SPC Staff
- Dan Bernazzoli, SPC Staff
- Lillian Gabreski, SPC Staff
- Erika Eagan, SPC Staff
- Greg Shermeto, SPC Staff
- John Weber, 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 the TTC members.

2. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

3. **Action on September 16<sup>th</sup> TTC Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Ann Ogoreuc and seconded by Jeremy Kelly to approve the minutes of the September 16<sup>th</sup> TTC meeting.

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

Kevin McCullough first discussed the federal transportation legislation and updates to the IJA bill. Kevin first mentioned that in early October congressional leaders agreed to a short-term measure of raising the debt ceiling, which indirectly pertains to the transportation legislation, which is now delayed. The President signed a resolution on September 30<sup>th</sup> to avoid a government shutdown, which allowed Federal Highway workers to remain employed. This extension only goes to the end of October, while the debt ceiling extension reaches only until the end of December. The IJA infrastructure bill is still awaiting action in the House, and due to this, the FAST Act has been extended further. The IJA will continue programs from the FAST Act, with some new programs being highlighted, including new provisions for bridge projects. With the disagreement on the infrastructure bill, there have been talks of using reconciliation to move the bill through Congress, however that negotiation is still ongoing, with the expectation still aiming for the new bill to be in place by the end of October. There is still a lot of negotiation that could extend that date, as the human infrastructure side of the bill has been tied down by the progressive side of the Democratic party, which has slowed down everything considerably. There is also work behind the scenes on rescinding projects if the new infrastructure bill is passed, as well as working with USDOT on obligation authority and continuing federally funded projects, but PennDOT are currently still open for business on that front. Districts are still able to submit 4232s, and will be able to submit those until the end of the month.

Kevin then discussed PennDOT pathways, as during the last update he mentioned there were three shortlisted firms that submitted proposals. In January or February of 2022, one of the contractors that submitted a proposal will be selected for the Pathways projects. Since July, there have been multiple virtual stakeholder meetings, as well as public meetings, which have discussed the concerns with diversions in the P3 Pathways and Major Bridge initiative projects. These diversions would be neighboring highways and connections which the travelling public may take to divert the toll around these nine major bridge projects. Analysis of the diversion routes is ongoing, and in order for the bridge projects to move forward, PennDOT also has to look at improvements along those diversion routes to handle any additional expected traffic. There will be more public meetings on these projects in the future, which there will be more discussion about these diversion routes, and any issues in regards to the tolling of the bridges.

5. **Action on Modifications to the 2021-2024 TIP**

A. PennDOT District 10-0

Harold Swan went over two administrative actions for PennDOT District 10-0. The first administrative action was for milling of the existing bituminous wearing courses, bituminous patching, paving, leveling, binder and wearing courses, and minor drainage and guide rail upgrades along PA 28 from the Allegheny Valley Expressway Iron Bridge to US 422 in North and South Buffalo Townships, Armstrong County. The district

requests to increase construction and add \$1,600,000 (100% Federal utilizing toll credits) in FFY 2024 due to the recent addition of an experimental thin concrete overlay material, lane rental costs, additional temporary barrier, and reconstruction of SR 3031 that is being used as a detour route. The source will be the SPC District 10 Highway/Bridge Line Item. The second administrative action was for a bridge replacement project which carries US 422 eastbound and westbound over SR 8016 in Cherryhill Township, Indiana County. The district requests to increase construction and add \$2,212,700 (100% State) in FFYs 2022, 2023, and 2024 for construction inspection that was not included in the prior estimate, an increased project scope, geotechnical findings that increased the footer footprint, additional traffic control devices, and necessary signs. The source will be the SPC District 10 Highway/Bridge Line Item.

Harold Swan also discussed the PA 356 corridor improvements, which previously had construction funding removed from the project. This project will have the construction funding added back into the project, but not until FY 2029. This project funding is being added back on in order to begin final design of the project, and in order to do that the project must be fully funded in the 12-year TYP.

Mark Gordon made a motion to approve the administrative actions from PennDOT District 10-0, which was seconded by Josh Krug. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### B. PennDOT District 11-0

John Quatman went over the three amendments and twelve administrative actions for PennDOT District 11-0. The first amendment was for a 1 1/2" Mill and resurface including interchange ramps, base repairs, guide rail, drainage, structure preservation, pavement markings, signs and delineation, Traffic Signals, ITS, and Highway Lighting, located on SR 28 - Harmarville to Russelton in East Deer, Frazer, Harmar and Springdale Townships, Allegheny County. The district requests the increase in construction funds for updated scope of work. Source of funding will come from the East Washington Street Br (100743) and SR 2040-A23 projects. The second amendment was for a bridge replacement project, located on East Washington Street (SR 2006) at TR 108 and SR 168 in the City of New Castle, Lawrence County. The district requests to replenish the construction phase from 2022 for current construction schedule. The third amendment was for the Bridge wash contract in District 11. The district requests the addition of the project to the TIP for the District's yearly bridge washing contract to preserve bridge life. Source of funding will come from the PA 65-B33 project.

The first administrative action was for a bridge replacement project, located on PA 65, Mercer Road over Connoquenessing Creek in Franklin and North Sewickley Townships, Beaver County. The district requests the addition of a planning and engineering phase to 2022, with the source of funding coming from the construction phase on the same project. The second administrative action was for Widening, mill and overlay the existing pavement, concrete patching, curb gutter repair, replacement of the existing median guiderail, structure repair, located on SR 2040 (Lebanon Church) from Ceco Drive to Brownsville Road, as well as SR 885, from Clairton Road to Lebanon Road, in Baldwin, West Mifflin, Pleasant Hills Borough in Allegheny County. The district requests the addition of a utility phase, with the source of funding coming from the construction phase on the same project. The third administrative action was for a mill and overlay project, located on SR 51 (Clairton Boulevard) in Pleasant Hills Borough, Allegheny County. The district requests the addition of a right-of-way phase to TIP in FY 2022, with the source of funding coming from SR 2040-A23.

The fourth administrative action was for a superstructure replacement, located on a bridge carrying Jones Avenue over Thompson Run East Branch in Wilkins Township, Allegheny County. The district requests the addition of Act 13 funds as requested by Allegheny County. The fifth administrative action was for a bridge replacement, located on two lanes of Lincoln Beach Drive over Pucketa Creek in Plum Borough, Allegheny County. The district requests the addition of Act 13 funds as requested by Allegheny County. The sixth administrative action was for a bridge replacement project, located on Coulterville Road over Long Run and is located at the intersection of Coulterville Road and Lincoln Way, in White Oak Borough, Allegheny County. The district requests the addition of Act 13 funds as requested by Allegheny County. The seventh administrative action was for a superstructure replacement, located over South Branch of Robinson Run in North Fayette Township, Allegheny County. The district requests the addition of Act 13 funds as requested by Allegheny County.

The eighth administrative action was for a bridge replacement, located on Wallace Road, approximately 300 feet west of the intersection of Wallace Road and Cochran Mills Road in Jefferson Borough, Allegheny County. The district requests the addition of Act 13 funds as requested by Allegheny County. The ninth administrative action was for a bridge rehabilitation/replacement, located on McIntyre Road over SB, Pine Creek in Ross Township, Allegheny County. The district requests the addition of Act 13 funds as requested by Allegheny County. The tenth administrative action was for a bridge replacement, located on Crawford Run Road (County Road) over Crawford Run in East Deer Township, Allegheny County. The district requests the addition of Act 13 funds as requested by Allegheny County. The eleventh administrative action was for a study to determine extents of repairs needed throughout the corridor to fix various geotechnical, drainage and safety issues, located on SR 2001 Bunola River Road in Forward Township, Allegheny County. The district requests the addition of a feasibility study to determine the repairs necessary on Bunola River Road. Source of funding will come from the SR 2040-A23 project. The twelve administrative action was for a bridge replacement project, located on SR 2010, Lovedale Road over Wylie Run in Elizabeth Township & Lincoln Borough, Allegheny County. The district requests the addition of a planning and engineering phase to initiate design for two culverts on Lovedale Road. Source of funding will come from the SR 2040-A23 project.

Ann Ogoreuc made a motion to approve the amendments and administrative actions from PennDOT District 11-0, which was seconded by Josh Krug. The motion was approved unanimously.

C. PennDOT District 12-0

Josh Theakston went over one amendment and two administrative actions for PennDOT District 12-0. The amendment was for the southern extension of the Sheepskin Trail, located in Springhill Township, Fayette County. The district is requesting the addition of a construction phase in FFY 2022 and 2023, this phase was programmed on a previous TIP, but not obligated before the expiration of the TIP. The source of funding will come from the SPC Region TAU Line Item (MPMS# 82754). The first administrative action was for improvements to the structure carrying State Route 4012 (Brush Creek Road) over Brush Creek, located in Manor Borough, Westmoreland County. The district is requesting to increase the Preliminary Engineering phase and add to the TIP in FFY 2022. The source of funding will come from the District 12 Highway/Bridge Line Item (MPMS# 76508). The second administrative action was for the replacement of nine existing traffic signals and the upgrade of an additional traffic signal

located along PA 981 and Ligonier Streets, located in Latrobe Borough, Westmoreland County. The district is requesting to increase the Construction phase and add to the TIP in FFY 2022. The source of funding will come from the SPC CMAQ Line Item (MPMS# 84078).

Jeremy Kelly made a motion to approve the amendment from PennDOT District 12-0, which was seconded Daniel Carpenter. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. **2023 TIP Update**

Andy Waple began the update by mentioning the upcoming workgroup meetings. District 10-0 will have their upcoming workgroup meeting on Monday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1pm, District 11-0 will have their upcoming workgroup meeting on Tuesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1pm, and District 12-0 will have their upcoming workgroup meeting on Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 10am. Andy then mentioned the CMAQ evaluation committee (CEC), who met last Friday to go over policies and procedures and to set up the meeting schedule for future CEC meetings. The CEC is beginning to look at projects and evaluate them in terms of air quality and other factors, and the next meeting they will present the preliminary scores for these projects, which will be held on October 29<sup>th</sup> at 9am.

Ryan Gordon then went over the work group meetings, mentioning that the fourth meeting in each district has been held. He mentioned that there are still significant challenges remaining to keep the pre-draft TIP fiscally constrained and balanced, so there will be much work in the following month in order to work on that. Working versions of the pre-draft TIPs are being developed by each district and will be shared in the work groups during the next meetings. Ryan then gave updates to the TA program, mentioning that the deadline to submit the full application to SPC or PennDOT is tomorrow (October 15<sup>th</sup>). He mentioned that over the last month, himself and Lillian Gabreski have been involved in joint preapplication meetings with the PennDOT TA coordinators and the project applicants. Only one project was submitted to SPC exclusively, with the rest of the projects submitting applications to both the SPC and PennDOT TA programs. Ryan went over the handout, which highlighted the TA projects which submitted preapplications and were cleared to advance to the final application. With final applications due tomorrow (October 15<sup>th</sup>), more information on the 13 projects will be provided during the next TTC meeting. There will be approximately \$3.5 million to select projects from in TA funding, depending on other TA projects that are currently selected previously. Ryan also gave an update to the remaining TA schedule for 2021, with the due date for projects on October 15<sup>th</sup>, a application review and technical coring will occur from SPC staff, followed by project deliverability scoring from the deliverability committee. The scoring will be discussed and finalized during the November TTC meeting, with a recommendation of projects from TTC as part of the Draft 2023-2026 TIP during the December TTC meeting.

Andy Waple went on to discuss the public participation program (PPP) public meetings, which will occur on Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 6pm for District 10-0, Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm for District 12-0, and Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm for District 11-0. This is the first of two rounds of public meetings in order to familiarize everybody in the public with advancing projects and projects that will be included in the upcoming draft TIP, as well to solicit some feedback. All the public meetings will be virtual; however, an in-person meeting can be arranged by speaking to Ryan Gordon or Andy Waple as soon as possible. Meetings will be recorded and will be available on the SPC website and YouTube pages.

7. **Draft 2022-2024 UPWP**

Andy Waple thanked everyone who helped to provide input to the draft 2022-2024 UPWP, which was presented and distributed at the last TTC meeting. The draft has been sent to PennDOT Central Office for review, and once they have finished with their comments, it will be passed to FHWA for their 30-day review. Once all comments are received from Central Office and FHWA, they will be incorporated into the final document. The draft UPWP will be briefed to the commission in December for informational purposes, and the final will be voted on by the commission during the January meeting.

8. **Ohiopyle Multimodal Gateway Project Presentation**

Josh Theakston gave a presentation on the Ohiopyle Multimodal Gateway Project, which started out as a study funded by discretionary funding in order to create a better environment for motorists and non-motorists, including kayakers and pedestrians, to get around Ohiopyle. Groundbreaking for the project took place in 2018, however the planning for the project started back in 2016 with initial meetings, traffic and pedestrian counts, on-line surveys and stakeholder meetings. The original study of the project was finalized in November of 2016, formal meetings on design began in January of 2018, with constructability review in June of 2018. One public meeting was held, but many others with stakeholders throughout the process.

The project purpose was to improve the Route 381 corridor to better serve all users and all modes of travel, while improving safety and enhancing the visitors experience in the heart of Ohiopyle State Park. The project needs included pedestrian and bicyclists safety and mobility concerns, including a high pedestrian volume, pedestrians not crossing at designated crosswalks, lack of sidewalks on both sides of Route 281, bicyclists sharing the road across the Route 381 bridge over the Youghiogheny river, and lack of signage to existing GAP trail. There was also roadway safety and geometric concerns, including grade concerns on Sugarloaf Road and higher traffic speeds than posted on Route 381. There was also a lack of sufficient designated parking areas that cause illegal parking, obstructing views of intersections and pedestrian crossings.

Josh gave some facts on the Ohiopyle Gateway Project, including that no private right-of-way was needed to be obtained, there was a net gain in parking spaces, and that one lane of traffic was maintained during the construction process. PennDOT was tasked with maintenance for the state roads, while DCNR will maintain the pedestrian underpass and parking lot. The design plans for the project relocated Sugarloaf Road to create a 4-way intersection along Route 381, while improving the parking lot and pedestrian facilities, as well as the creation of a 10-foot-high, 16-foot-wide, pedestrian underpass to run beneath Route 381. The parking lot was created with impervious pavement, in order to allow stormwater to run through and offset. Removable speed tables were also added onto both sides of Route 381 in order to mitigate speed and create safer crosswalks for pedestrians. An off-road bike bath and shared use path from Sherman Road to Sheridan Road was also constructed. Also, the Route 381 bridge which crosses the Youghiogheny River was rehabilitated as part of the project, which included a shared use path for pedestrians. Josh also went over construction aspects of the bridge rehabilitation, including winter concrete curing, beam setting, and bridge construction beams and spans, square bearings, utility conduits, bridge deck texturizing, and galvanized fascia beams.

Josh gave another overview on details for the finished portion of the project, including the addition of 156 new parking spaces, improved drainage and profile on Sugarloaf Road, new changing stations, better snow removal on the Youghiogheny Bridge, and continuous sidewalk connections. The process started with their planning study in 2016, design and environmental clearances in 2017-2018, with construction letting in August of 2018 and work through three seasons, the first from November 2018 to May 2019, the second

from August 2019 to March 2020, when work stopped due to COVID-19, and a final construction period from May 2020 to August 2020, when construction was completed within COVID safety compliant workspaces. The project was awarded the 2020 Project of the Year by the ASHE Southwest, the Innovative Transportation Solutions Award from the WTS Pittsburgh Chapter, and the Americas Transportation Award for Quality of Life/Community Development from the NASTO Regional Awards. The project is also in the running for America's Transportation Awards Top 12 projects in the nation, and voting is currently ongoing at the Transportation Awards website.

9. **Other Business/Status Reports**

There was no other business or status reports to update.

10. **Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by Jason Theakston and seconded by Amy McKinney. The motion was passed unanimously and Ryan Gordon called for the adjournment of the meeting at 11:17 AM.