

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission  
Minutes of the Meeting  
April 25, 2022 – 4:00 p.m.  
Cisco Webex Meeting

The one hundred and fifty-fifth meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission was called to order by Chairman Leslie Osche.

Members: Brian Allen, Darin Alviano, Tony Amadio, Jenn Beer, Mike Belding, Brad Berlin, Morgan Boyd, Kevin Boozel, Scott Bricker, Tom Ceraso, Douglas Chew, Ali Doyle, Pat Fabian, Rich Fitzgerald, Kim Geyer, Shelia Gombita, Mark Gordon, Joe Grata, Kelly Gray, Dick Hadley, Lynn Heckman, Sherene Hess, Mark Hilliard, Charles Jones, Fred Junko, Sean Kertes, Clifford Levine, Bob Macey, Larry Maggi, Jack Manning, Jeff Marshall, Betsy McClure, Kevin McCullough, Leslie Osche, Johnna Pro, Mavis Rainey, Aurora Sharrard, Nick Sherman, Larry Shifflet, Cheryl Moon Sirianni, Loretta Spielvogel Byron Stauffer, Gina Cerilli Thrasher, John Timney, and Vince Vicites.

Others: Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County Economic Development; Lisa Frank, City of Pittsburgh; Kyle Chintalapalli, City of Pittsburgh; Jim Ritzman, Pennoni Associates; Dusty Elias Kirk, Reed Smith LLP; and 3 call-ins.

Staff: Dan Alwine, Jared Bedekovich, Kirk Brethauer, Mary Brangan, Ronda Craig, Dom D'Andrea, Margaret Fonner, Chuck Imbrogno, Erin Adams Kepple, Jenn Lasser, Steve Meredith, Shannon O'Connell, Ailisa Sobien, Vincent Valdes, and Andy Waple.

1. Chairman Osche called to order the April 25, 2022 meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission.
  - a. Quorum – There being a quorum present the meeting proceeded.
  - b. Any Conflict of Interest Declaration on Action Items – None

2. Action on Minutes of the March 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2022 meeting by Commissioner Boozel which was seconded by Ms. Beer. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

3. Public Comment – None

4. 2023-2026 TIP Development Update – Dom D'Andrea

**2023 – 2024 Program Application Summary**

- 16 applications submitted
- Total Request of \$10,406,156 (\$6 million available)

**2023 – 2024 Project Selection Process**

- SPC staff will evaluate projects using five SMART Transportation Themes and five Ancillary Factors
- Nonpartisan deliverability committee will evaluate each candidate project in terms of its ability to be delivered on-time and within budget
- TTC will utilize Decision Lens to analyze weighted project scoring and make a recommendation to the Commission on projects selected to receive SMART funding

Mr. Bricker asked when does SPC expect to do this?

Mr. D'Andrea replied we will bring the project evaluation to the Transportation Technical Committee on May 19, and that will involve your county planners. We will then bring the Smart Transportation List of projects as part of the TIP at the June 27.

## 5. PennDOT Master Agreement Resolution 2-22 – Margaret Fonner

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION (SPC), at the request of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) to enter into a new six-year Open-End Master Agreement C920001415 (Agreement) covering future transportation planning activities performed by the SPC. This Agreement is PennDOT's current contracting process for the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), whereby a planning agency's required UPWP becomes a Work Order within an overall Agreement.

WHEREAS, the Agreement will commence on July 1, 2022 and terminate on June 30, 2028, with an option to extend by letter amendment for single or multi-year extensions, but in no event shall the Agreement continue past June 30, 2034; and

WHEREAS, the total cost, pursuant to the Agreement, shall not exceed Forty-Four Million Three Hundred Thousand dollars (\$44,300,000.00) for the six-year term unless amended by letter amendment; and

WHEREAS, once the Agreement is in place, the Commonwealth/PennDOT process to review and approve UPWPs and supplemental agreements will allow for a significant reduction in the time needed to grant a notice to proceed; and

WHEREAS, the SPC is the designated entity, pursuant to federal regulations, responsible for the developing and carrying out the transportation planning process specified in Title 23 and/or Title 49 of the United States Code for the area within its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, at its January 31, 2022 meeting, through Resolution 1-22, the SPC approved the submission of its 2022-2024 Unified Planning Work Program (July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024) to the appropriate funding agencies. Upon approval by the funding agencies, the identified planning work program will be incorporated as Exhibit A - Scope of Work under the Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission approves entering into a six-year Open-End Master Agreement (Agreement) with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) commencing July 1, 2022 for work performed by the SPC in accordance with the approved Planning Partner Open-End Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) contract scope of work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Executive Director, on behalf of SPC, is hereby authorized to enter into Agreements, as well as the Work Orders generated from the Agreement, and/or Supplements with the U. S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration, other federal agencies as needed, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation relating to said Agreement pursuant to application requests.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 2-22 by Mr. Fitzgerald which was seconded by Commissioner Boyd. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

## 6. Southwestern Pennsylvania Connected Press Release and Next Steps – Andy Waple

### **Press Release:**

- Officially releasing Southwestern Pennsylvania Connected – Connectivity Roadmap to the public and partners
- Launch of SWPA Connected Webpage
- Included in Release:
  - Report and Executive Summary
  - County Profiles
  - Community Engagement Packets
  - Social Media Tool Kit

### **Media Briefing**

- SPC, Carnegie Mellon and Allies for Children, with Michael Baker International held virtual media briefing this morning.
- TV, Radio and Newspaper reporters from around the region.
- Opportunity to summarize report and process to media and answer questions collectively with project team

### **Media Outlets:**

- WPXI
- WESA
- Post Gazette
- Tribune Review
- Leader Times
- Beaver County Times
- Butler Eagle
- Greene County Messenger

### **Next Steps for Connectivity Roadmap**

- Convene Connectivity Commissioner Working Group:
  - Recommend roles and responsibilities (governance structure) for SPC in implementing the CIP
  - Prioritize SMART Goals and Strategies to begin implementation of CIP's recommendations
  - Provide feedback and direction to the multimedia education and awareness program
- Brief Pennsylvania Broadband Authority
- Pursue additional funding for implementation from Appalachian Regional Commission
- Prepare to challenge FCC mapping (end of year release) in order to secure more funding to Pennsylvania

### **7. Harrisburg Trip Debrief – Commissioner Osche and Vincent Valdes**

Commissioner Osche stated that the SPC team, along with Executive Fitzgerald, Mayor Gainey, myself, Commissioner Fabian, from Armstrong, County, and Vince Vicites from Fayette County, all made a trip to Harrisburg. I think you could safely characterize that by saying we sure made our presence known and then generated a lot of discussion and questions, particularly around funding going forward for transportation, particularly as it related to spike funding. The three areas of focus were on sustainable transportation, funding broadband, and the hydrogen hub. While we did not get to all of those topics in every meeting, certainly the sustainable funding was consistent throughout our message. We had the opportunity to meet, not only with the Governor on which we think was a very productive meeting, but also with the leadership of the Senate and House Transportation Committees.

Mr. Valdes remarked that this was an amazingly effective delegation to send to Harrisburg. We were very clear about our message of the needs for Southwestern Pennsylvania. It was very clear that we already have connections up in Harrisburg, thanks to our leadership here, and that we were really being listened to. Our large chart that we were carrying around kind of did show the difference, the disparity perhaps in spike funding, at least as we understood it. I'm hoping that this is the beginning of a number of trips up there. I'm glad to see that as a region, and as an organization, we're not flying below the radar. The squeaky wheel gets the funding. So again, I thank everyone the leadership for taking me up there on my debut to Harrisburg and meeting all the leadership there.

Commissioner Geyer asked if the state legislators were aware of the disparity between the East and the West?

Mr. Valdes replied we had made them aware of that in a couple of meetings. However, I think there is a sense of maybe a disagreement about the funds and our numbers. We absolutely stood by the numbers we have, but I think that's where there needs to be some further education. Because I noticed that some members of the Transportation Committee, even our local members of the Transportation Committee, were asking the questions.

Mr. Bricker than asked can someone list the top messages our region delivered?

Mr. Valdes replied that SPC had briefing sheets, and we could certainly share those briefing sheets with the entire Commission. The top message really was about the spike funding. I have to tell you how lucky we were to have Mayor Gainey with us. He was a great asset to have on that trip in order to communicate our needs.

8. Message from the Executive Director – Vincent Valdes  
Next Meeting Date – **May 23, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.**

Mr. Valdes related that an integrated multimodal grant program for proposals of a national and regional scale that promotes safety, state of good repair, freight movement, sustainability, economic benefits, equity, and a number of other factors is available through the US D O T. We're working right now very actively with PennDOT. And the Port Authority to put together a project proposal that would really promote a multimodal Integrated Corridor. We're going to circulate a resolution to support putting forth this proposal for the region, and we're going to ask for electronic votes from everyone on the Commission to support putting this proposal in place. So please be on the lookout for that. Again, it's a very short timeframe.

9. Other SPC Business

Commissioner Osche restated in the same vein as the 3:00 meeting, we've only heard from about a third of the Commissioners for volunteers for Commissioner work groups. So we still have 44 commissioners out there that we haven't heard from. At this moment, for those particularly who are joining us for the meeting today, can someone from staff send the list right now of the work groups one more time and ask that the commissioners respond with appropriate representatives and their preferred workweek, so we can we can get this up and going. Thank you.

10. Adjourn- 4:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Fabian  
Secretary-Treasurer