



## **SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION**

Two Chatham Center • Suite 500 • 112 Washington Place • Pittsburgh, PA 15219-3451

412-391-5590 phone • 412-391-9160 fax • [www.spcregion.org](http://www.spcregion.org)

### **Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission Meeting:**

**August 22, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.**

Dear Commissioners:

The meeting will be held in Suite 400, Two Chatham Center, 112 Washington Place, Pittsburgh. SPC will continue to provide a virtual option using the Cisco WebEx platform for those wishing to attend online. Below you will find a link to join the meeting. If you do not have access to a computer at the time of the meeting, you may call the telephone number shown below to participate.

**PLEASE NOTE: The same WebEx meeting link will be used for the Board/Executive Committee meeting at 3:00 p.m., and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission meeting at 4:00 p.m.**

The meeting agenda includes:

1. Call to Order
  - a. Quorum
  - b. Any Conflict of Interest Declarations on Action Items
2. Action on Minutes of the June 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Attached)
3. Public Comment
4. Tiffany Cummings Introduction - Margaret Fonner
5. 2021-2022 Annual Report Presentation – Shannon O’Connell
6. US DOT & NTIA Grant Application Proposals – Andy Waple and Dan Alwine
  - Resolution 9-22 – Endorsement of Middle Mile Infrastructure Grant Program Application
  - Resolution 10-22 – Endorsement of Safe Streets for All Grant Program Application
  - Resolution 11-22 – Endorsement of Bridge Investment Grant Program Application
7. Affordable Connectivity Program (Federal Communications Commission) – Keyla Hernandez-Ulloa
8. Action on Resolution 12-22 to Dedicate the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program to the Memory of Joe Grata – Vincent Valdes
9. Message from the Executive Director – Vincent Valdes  
Next Meeting Date – **October 24, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.**
10. Other SPC Business
11. Adjourn

Please let us know if **you will attend the August 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting in person or by using the WebEx platform.**

**Join from the meeting link**

<https://spcregion.webex.com/spcregion/j.php?MTID=m0fa2ab3952fefb583eb1ab70e85b71d4>

**Join by meeting number**

Meeting number (access code): 2346 293 1221

Meeting password: BmEMJmDP432

**Join by phone**

1-844-621-3956 United States Toll Free

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission  
Minutes of the Meeting  
June 27, 2022 – 4:00 p.m.  
Cisco Webex Meeting

The one hundred and fifty-sixth 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, Dick Hadley, Lynn Heckman, Sherene Hess, Mark Hilliard, Dave Lohr, Fred Junko, Sean Kertes, Katharine Kelleman, Kevin McCullough, Leslie Osche, Johnna Pro, Mavis Rainey, Robert Regola, Aurora Sharrard, Nick Sherman, Larry Shifflet, Cheryl Moon Sirianni, Byron Stauffer, Gina Cerilli Thrasher, John Timney, Diana Irey Vaughan, and Vince Vicites.

Others: Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County Economic Development; Jason Rigone, Westmoreland County Economic and Planning Department; Dusty Elias Kirk, Reed Smith LLP; Nick Pasion, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette; and 4 call-ins.

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

1. Chairman Osche called to order the June 27, 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 – Mavis Rainey on TIP

2. Action on Minutes of the April 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2022 meeting by Ms. Heckman which was seconded by Commissioner Vicites. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

3. Public Comment – None

4. Report on Public Comment Period Response for Draft 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Environmental Justice Benefits and Burdens Assessment of the Draft 2023-2026 TIP, Air Quality Conformity Determination for the Draft 2023-2026 TIP, Amendment to the region's *SmartMoves for a Changing Region* to reflect project phasing and cost information included in the Draft 2023-2026 TIP – Dom D'Andrea

Spring/Summer 2021

- SPC & STC Begin Public Outreach for TIP Update (web survey and comment, PPP meetings)
- Initial (pre IIJA) financial projections developed (FHWA, PennDOT, MPO/RPO Partners)

Fall 2021

- TIP Workgroup meetings (20) and project selection for Draft 2023-2026 TIP
- CMAQ and TA Projects selected via competitive application processes
- Financial projections and guidance revised due to IIJA increase (November)
- PPP and Public Meetings

Winter 2021 /2022

- Pre-Draft TIP completed and forwarded to PennDOT Central Office for review

## Spring 2022

- PennDOT review; AQ Conformity & EJ Analysis; document preparations
- Smart Transportation Program project evaluation and selection
- 30-Day Public Comment Period-including 4 public meetings (May-June) and Comment/Response documentation

## Public Engagement

### TIP Funding Comparison (2015-2023)

### 2023-2026 TIP Investment Summary

The SPC region is investing over \$6 billion in transportation infrastructure and operations in the next four year period. This includes \$2.7 Billion in Non-TIP funds that will be invested in the region over the next 4 years, things like other state managed programs. state and federal discretionary (Interstate Maintenance, Spike, TIGER), and Pennsylvania turnpike funding.

- \$740 million in bridge maintenance
- \$2.2 billion in public transportation
- \$420 million in operations and safety projects
- \$640 million in projects that are within ~1 mile of regional freight facilities
- \$428 million in transit facility and equipment improvements
- \$35 million in funding towards bicycle and pedestrian network, multimodal options, sustainability and livability, and pedestrian ADA ramps
- \$186 million in buses and passenger vehicles

## Infrastructure Condition

### Roads and Bridges

- 266 bridges rehabilitated or reconstructed
- 446 miles of roadway rehabilitated or reconstructed

### Public Transportation

- \$382.5M for fixed guideway capital maintenance and rail vehicles
- \$181M for bus facilities, signals, and communications equipment

## 5. Action on Resolution 5-22 to Adopt the Air Quality Conformity Determination for the Draft 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program – Dom D’Andrea/Chuck Imbrogno

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION to make a finding of conformity that the region’s fiscally constrained 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Pittsburgh Transportation Management Area (TMA) and the 2045 Transportation Plan (a component of *SmartMoves for a Changing Region*) are consistent with the requirements of the federal Clean Air Act.

WHEREAS, the federal Clean Air Act authorizes the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), to define the boundaries of areas not in attainment of the Standards, and to establish criteria and procedures for attaining and maintaining the Standards;

WHEREAS, the EPA has designated three nonattainment and maintenance areas in the SPC planning region for the 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS; these include the Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley nonattainment area (comprised of the seven counties: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland); the Greene County maintenance area (comprised of Greene County in its entirety); and the Clearfield-Indiana maintenance area (comprised of Clearfield County, which is outside of SPC’s planning area, and Indiana County which is within SPC’s planning area);

WHEREAS, the EPA has designated four nonattainment areas in the SPC planning region for the PM 2.5 NAAQS; these include the Liberty-Clairton nonattainment area (comprised of five municipalities within Allegheny County); the Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley nonattainment area (comprised of Beaver, Butler,

Washington, and Westmoreland counties in their entirety and portions of Allegheny, Armstrong, Greene, and Lawrence counties); the Allegheny County nonattainment area (comprised of Allegheny County in its entirety); and the Johnstown nonattainment area (comprised of portions of Indiana County within SPC's planning area, and all of Cambria County which is in the planning area of the Johnstown MPO);

WHEREAS, the EPA has designated the Liberty-Clairton area as a maintenance area in the SPC planning region for the PM 10 NAAQS consisting of five municipalities within Allegheny County;

WHEREAS, the EPA has designated a maintenance area in the SPC planning region for the Carbon Monoxide (CO) NAAQS consisting of the City of Pittsburgh's central business district and certain other high traffic density areas in and near the City's Oakland neighborhood;

WHEREAS, the EPA, in the Transportation Conformity Rule (40 CFR Part 93), provides criteria and procedures to be followed by Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in making conformity determinations regarding transportation plans, programs, and projects within designated nonattainment and maintenance areas;

WHEREAS, the Transportation Conformity Rule and Sections 174, 176(c), and 176(d) of the federal Clean Air Act (Sections 7504, 7506(c), and 7506(d) of Title 42 USC) require that the MPO not approve any plan, program, or project which does not conform with the Act;

WHEREAS, the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC), as the MPO for the Pittsburgh Transportation Management Area, is responsible under Section 134 of Title 23 USC and Section 5303 of Title 49 USC for carrying out a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process; Section 174 of the federal Clean Air Act designates this same organization as responsible for the transportation-related air quality planning within designated nonattainment and maintenance areas to achieve and maintain NAAQS;

WHEREAS, SPC staff has conducted a qualitative and quantitative analysis for the designated PM 2.5, PM 10, CO, and 8-Hour Ozone nonattainment and maintenance areas within the SPC region in accordance with the applicable criteria and procedures of the federal Clean Air Act and the Transportation Conformity Rule, and has demonstrated conformity of the 2023-2026 TIP and the 2045 Transportation Plan to the Clean Air Act;

WHEREAS, the results of the conformity analysis were widely available for public review and comment consistent with SPC's established public review procedures from May 9, 2022 through June 7, 2022 including four public meetings (three virtually and one in-person); responses to all public comments have been compiled and made available to Commission members for review.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission finds that the region's fiscally constrained 2023-2026 TIP and the 2045 Transportation Plan conform to the federal Clean Air Act by supporting its intention of achieving and maintaining the NAAQS;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the region's 2023-2026 TIP and the 2045 Transportation Plan are consistent with the federal Clean Air Act and Transportation Conformity Rule; no goals, directives, recommendations, or projects in the region's Long Range Plan or TIP contradict in a negative manner any specific requirements or commitments of the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP);

RESOLVED FURTHER that assessment of the designated PM 2.5, PM 10, CO, and 8-Hour Ozone nonattainment and maintenance areas within the SPC region demonstrates that the transportation plans, programs, and projects for those areas conform to the provisions of the federal Clean Air Act and the applicable criteria and procedures of the Transportation Conformity Rule.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 5-22 by Mr. Junko which was seconded by Commissioner Irey Vaughan. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

6. Action on Resolution 6-22 to Certify the Transportation Planning Process – Dom D'Andrea

RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION to certify that the metropolitan transportation planning process is being carried out in accordance with all applicable federal requirements and that the local process to enhance the participation of the general public, including the transportation disadvantaged, has been followed in developing the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and *SmartMoves for a Changing Region*.

WHEREAS, 23 CFR Part 450.336 specifies that, concurrent with submittal of the proposed TIP to the FHWA and the FTA as part of the Statewide TIP (STIP) approval, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) shall certify that the metropolitan transportation planning process is being carried out in accordance with all applicable requirements;

WHEREAS, Section 134 of Title 23 USC, Section 5303-5304 of Title 49 USC, and 23 CFR Part 450 set forth the national policy that the MPO designated for each urbanized area is to carry out a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive multimodal transportation planning process, including the development of a metropolitan transportation plan and a transportation improvement program (TIP) and establish policies and procedures for MPOs to conduct the metropolitan planning process;

WHEREAS, the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) continues to be financially constrained as required by 23 CFR Part 450.326 and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) policy on the documentation of financial capacity, published in FTA Circular 7008.1A;

WHEREAS, the requirements of Sections 174 and 176(c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7504, 7506(c) and (d)) and 40 CFR Part 93 have been met for non-attainment and maintenance areas;

WHEREAS, the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended (42 USC 2000d-1) and 49 CFR Part 21; 49 USC 5332, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex or age in employment or business opportunity; The Older Americans Act, as amended (42 USC 6101), prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance; 23 USC Section 324, prohibiting discrimination based on gender; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC 794), the American Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC 12101 et seq.), and 49 CFR Parts 27, 37, and 38, regarding discrimination against individuals with disabilities have been met;

WHEREAS, the requirements of Section 11101 of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA-Public Law 117-58) and 49 CFR Part 26 regarding the involvement of disadvantaged or minority business enterprises in FHWA funded planning projects and FTA funded projects have been met;

WHEREAS, the provisions of 23 CFR part 230, regarding the implementation of an equal employment opportunity program on Federal and Federal-aid highway construction contracts have been addressed;

WHEREAS, the provision of 49 CFR part 20 prohibiting recipients of federal funds from using those funds for lobbying purposes has been met; and

WHEREAS, SPC's established process for public involvement in the metropolitan transportation planning process was followed during TIP development. A review of public involvement in the regional transportation planning process and the resultant Transportation Improvement Program demonstrated that the benefits of the regional transportation planning process accrue to both Environmental Justice (EJ) and Non-EJ communities. Low-income and minority populations are not disproportionately impacted and are beneficiaries of the metropolitan transportation planning process in Southwestern Pennsylvania;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Pittsburgh Transportation Management Area (TMA) certifies that its metropolitan transportation planning process is being carried out in accordance with all of the applicable federal requirements and certifies that the local process to enhance the participation of the general public, including the transportation disadvantaged, has been followed in developing the region's transportation plans and programs, including the FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

A motion was made to approve Resolution 6-22 by Mr. Fitzgerald which was seconded by Commissioner Fabian. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

7. Action on Resolution 7-22 to Adopt 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program – Dom D'Andrea

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION to adopt the FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Pittsburgh Transportation Management Area and to authorize the submission of the TIP and its companion documents to the appropriate authorities and agencies, and to approve an update to *SmartMoves for a Changing Region* to reflect the updated revenues, project costs and schedules identified in SPC's FFY 2023-2026 TIP.

WHEREAS, Section 134 of Title 23 U.S.C., Part 450 of Title 23 CFR and 49 U.S.C. 5303-5304 requires that Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) conduct a comprehensive transportation planning process and develop and maintain a Long Range Plan and a Transportation Improvement Program;

WHEREAS, federal law requires that regional transportation plans and programs be developed by MPOs and approved by the Governor of the state and to be reviewed by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA);

WHEREAS, federal law requires the state to develop statewide transportation plans and programming subject to review by the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT);

WHEREAS, SPC's established process for public involvement in the planning process was followed during TIP development. A review of public involvement in the regional transportation planning process and the resultant Transportation Improvement Program demonstrated that the benefits of the regional transportation planning process accrue to both Environmental Justice (EJ) and Non-EJ communities. Low-income and minority populations are not disproportionately impacted and are beneficiaries of the transportation planning process in Southwestern Pennsylvania;

WHEREAS, in accordance with the requirements of the Clean Air Act (as amended) and the Transportation Conformity Rule, qualitative and quantitative analysis of the FFY 2023-2026 TIP and *SmartMoves for a Changing Region* update has demonstrated that they conform to the provisions of the Clean Air Act and the applicable criteria and procedures of the Transportation Conformity Rule, with the resultant conformity finding approved by Commission Resolution 2- 18;

WHEREAS, updated *SmartMoves for a Changing Region* project tables identify changes in revenues, costs and schedules for projects identified in *SmartMoves* as a result of the TIP Update;

WHEREAS, SPC's Transit Operators and Transportation Technical Committees unanimously recommended Commission approval of the 2023-2026 TIP and companion documents at its June 8th and June 16th respective meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the FFY 2023-2026 TIP meets all applicable federal requirements and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission approves and adopts the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Pittsburgh Transportation Management Area;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the FFY 2023-2026 TIP and companion documents are approved for submission to the appropriate authorities and agencies: 1) to the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) for approval by the Governor, 2) to PennDOT for inclusion in the state transportation plan and program, with referral to US DOT, and 3) to FTA and FHWA for review; and

RESOLVED FURTHER that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission approves the amendment to *SmartMoves for a Changing Region*.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 7-22 by Mr. Fitzgerald which was seconded by Ms. Heckman. The affirmative vote was unanimous with Mavis Rainey abstaining.

8. Update on USDOT Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Application – Dom D’Andrea

Eligible Projects:  
Highways and bridges  
Public transportation  
Intercity passenger rail  
Railway-Highway Grade Separation  
Freight and Multimodal

Available Funding:  
\$15B for five years (2022-2026)  
\$2.85B for this round (2022)

Eligible Applicants:  
State or group of states  
MPOs/RPOs  
Local/tribal governments  
Multi-jurisdictional group of entities

Key Program Objectives/Selection Criteria:  
Safety  
State of good repair  
Economic impact/freight/jobs  
Positive impacts on environment  
Equity/multimodal options/QOL  
Innovative areas

Proposed Elements: Synchronizing two important corridors in our region, I-376 and the East Busway. East Busway infrastructure improvements, East Busway slope stabilization, battery electric buses, I-376 Active Traffic Management, I-376 “Bathtub” flood protection, I-376 Hard shoulder running and Sidewalks and Crosswalks.

9. Action on Resolution 8-22 to Adopt a Meeting Schedule for FY 2022 – 2023 – Vincent Valdes

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION to adopt a Meeting Schedule for 2022-2023.

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Sunshine Law Title 65 requires that a Schedule of all Commission and Executive Committee Meetings for the fiscal year be adopted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission adopts the attached Meeting Schedule.

**Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission Meetings**

<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
August 22	February 27
October 24	April 24
December 12	June 26

A motion was made to approve Resolution 8-22 by Ms. Cerilli Thrasher which was seconded by Commissioner Irey Vaughan. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

10. Message from the Executive Director – Vincent Valdes  
Next Meeting Date – **August 22, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.**

11. Other SPC Business

12. Adjourn – 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pat Fabian Secretary-Treasurer



SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 09-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION (SPC) to endorse SPC, in partnership with its member counties, Michael Baker International and fiber optic infrastructure owners, in applying to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program.

WHEREAS, the Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program (MMGP) provides funding for the construction, improvement, or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure. The purpose of the grant program is to expand and extend middle mile infrastructure to reduce the cost of connecting areas that are unserved or underserved to the internet backbone; and,

WHEREAS, The MMGP has two key objectives: to "encourage the expansion and extension of middle mile infrastructure to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas to the backbone of the internet" and to "promote broadband connection resiliency through the creation of alternative network connection paths that can be designed to prevent single points of failure on a broadband network; and,

WHEREAS, in order for the region to remain globally competitive, the unserved and underserved areas of the region must be addressed equitably and systematically through a data driven process; and,

WHEREAS, utilizing a data driven approach that addresses the evaluation criteria in the MMGP Notice of Funding Opportunity, SPC intends to submit a regional application to the MMGP to secure funding for fiber optic connectivity to high-priority unserved and underserved areas of the region; and,

WHEREAS, the appended map illustrates potential locations and routes to be included in the grant application, pending further demographic and socioeconomic data review and agreement on routes by the fiber owners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, recognizing its collective interests in the well-being of its residents, business and community anchor institutions by improving high speed connectivity in the region, supports SPC staff in in partnership with its member counties, Michael Baker International and fiber optic infrastructure owners, in applying to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program.

I, Vincent Vicites, HEREBY CERTIFY that I am Secretary-Treasurer of the SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION: that the foregoing resolution was adopted, in accordance with the By-Laws, by the Members of said Commission and that said resolution is now in full force and effect.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I hereto subscribe my name as Secretary-Treasurer.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Vincent A. Vicites". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Secretary-Treasurer

SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 10-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION (SPC) to endorse SPC staff, in partnership with our region's planning partners, in applying to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program. The SS4A provides grants to support planning, infrastructure, behavioral, and operational initiatives on roads and streets involving all users.

WHEREAS, it is critical for southwestern Pennsylvania to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries and support the National Roadway Safety Strategy and the Department of Transportation's goal of zero deaths and serious injuries on our nation's roadways; and

WHEREAS, in 2020 the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission approved a Regional Transportation Safety Action Plan (SAP) to aid in identifying strategies and project locations to achieve safety goals set forth in *SmartMoves for a Changing Region*. The region is eligible to apply for SS4A Implementation Grants to implement strategies or projects consistent with the 2020 Regional Transportation Safety Action Plan of 2019 – a qualifying Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, our Main Streets are key neighborhood and economic centers for the numerous urban and rural communities in the region; safe and accessible main streets for all users will afford our residents more efficient and safer connections to their homes, places of work, and area businesses; and,

WHEREAS, this funding will enable SPC and its regional planning partners to produce a plan that outlines steps to safer Main Streets for local governments to utilize to attain safer streets and roads, and pilot a number of projects with the goal of an immediate positive impact on safety, equity, and resiliency in our region's communities; and,

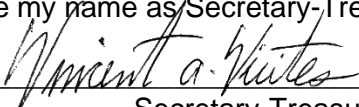
WHEREAS, SPC will submit these and additional projects based on the region's highest crash locations, its most unequal neighborhoods, and its highest areas of need as evidenced by a data-driven and collaborative process in order to obtain the greatest net benefit to our region; and,

WHEREAS, the funding will enable the region to make strides in lowering crashes, serious and fatal injuries, promoting equal access to transportation infrastructure, creating safer routes to school, cultivating safe and equitable social and economic centers, and improving safety on our region's transportation network for all roadway users.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, recognizing its collective interests in a wide-ranging, comprehensive and inclusive approach to improving transportation safety through meaningful collaboration with key regional transportation safety stakeholders and achieving a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries, supports SPC staff and its partners in applying to the U.S. Department of Transportation's SS4A program.

I, Vincent Vicites, HEREBY CERTIFY that I am Secretary-Treasurer of the SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION: that the foregoing resolution was adopted, in accordance with the By-Laws, by the Members of said Commission and that said resolution is now in full force and effect.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I hereto subscribe my name as Secretary-Treasurer.

  
Secretary-Treasurer

SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 11-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION (SPC) to endorse SPC staff, in partnership with local governments, in applying to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bridge Investment Program.

WHEREAS, USDOT's Bridge Investment Program (BIP) is a competitive, discretionary program that focuses on existing bridges to reduce the overall number of bridges in poor condition, or in fair condition at risk of falling into poor condition; and

WHEREAS, the region recognizes the critical importance of our bridge infrastructure and in the last ten years, has made significant progress in reducing the overall number of poorly rated bridges by about 50%; and

WHEREAS, given those efforts, approximately 1,377 locally owned bridges remain in the SPC region with 25% in poor condition and 50% in fair condition; and

WHEREAS, the USDOT Bridge Investment Program is requiring deliverability in a timely manner expecting that bridge projects funded by the program to begin construction not later than 18 months after obligation of funds; and

WHEREAS, SPC staff has reviewed local bridges currently on the region's Transportation Improvement Program with local bridge owners to identify and finalize candidates for a Bridge Project application to the Bridge Investment Program; and

WHEREAS, the Bridge Investment Program funding will enable the region to replace or significantly rehabilitate up to eight (8) locally owned bridges and redirect currently programmed TIP formula funds for these bridges to other bridge needs in the region; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, recognizing its collective interests in the well-being of its residents by improving the condition of its local bridge infrastructure and improving the movement of people and goods, supports SPC staff in partnership with local governments in applying to the U.S. Department of Transportation's BIP program.

I, Vincent Vicites, HEREBY CERTIFY that I am Secretary-Treasurer of the SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION: that the foregoing resolution was adopted, in accordance with the By-Laws, by the Members of said Commission and that said resolution is now in full force and effect.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I hereto subscribe my name as Secretary-Treasurer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vincent A. Vicites". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Vincent" is written in a larger, more prominent script, followed by "A." and "Vicites".

---

Secretary-Treasurer

SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 12-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION to dedicate the FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Pittsburgh Transportation Management Area to the memory of Fayette County Commissioner Joseph P. (Joe) Grata.

WHEREAS, Joe Grata served as a Commissioner representing Fayette County from 2010 until his passing in 2022; and

WHEREAS, Joe was a lifelong public servant and advocate for our region's transportation system first as a longtime transportation reporter for the Pittsburgh Press and the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, who shared his deep understanding of the planning, engineering and funding of infrastructure with the public; and

WHEREAS, Later, in his retirement, he worked to advance connectivity, safety and regionalism as an SPC Commissioner representing Fayette County; and

WHEREAS, Joe recognized that all transportation is 'local' in the minds of our communities and further understood the role of mobility to regional economic vitality and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Joe was instrumental in bringing his expertise to the development of the 2011-2014 TIP, the 2013-2016 TIP, the 2015-2018 TIP, the 2017-2020 TIP, the 2019-2022 TIP, 2021-2024 TIP, and the 2023-2026 TIP; and

WHEREAS, Joe passed away on June 27, 2022, the day the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission adopted the 2023-2026 TIP.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2023-2026 TIP is dedicated to the memory of Joe Grata; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commissioners and staff of SPC will miss his perspective, intellect, and sense of humor as we continue our work to keep Southwestern Pennsylvania connected and moving forward.

I, Vincent Vicites, HEREBY CERTIFY that I am Secretary-Treasurer of the SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION: that the foregoing resolution was adopted, in accordance with the By-Laws, by the Members of said Commission at a meeting duly called and held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August 2022, and that said resolution is now in full force and effect.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I hereto subscribe my name as Secretary-Treasurer.



---

Secretary-Treasurer

# Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

August 22, 2022



## Opening Agenda Items

- ☒ Agenda Item: 1 - Call to Order
  - Quorum
  - Conflict of Interest Declarations on Action Items
- ☒ Agenda Item: 2 - Action on the Minutes of the June 27, 2022 Meeting
- ☒ Agenda Item: 3 - Public Comment: Opportunity for the public to address the Commission

Out of respect for everyone's time, please limit your comments to 3 minutes.

You may submit your comments in full for the record to [soconnell@spcregion.org](mailto:soconnell@spcregion.org).

# Tiffany Cummings Introduction

*Margaret Fonner*

Agenda Item: 4



## Brief Bio of Tiffany...

### Work History

- Introduction into HR started with an HR Assistant position at Mon General Hospital in WV.
- Assistant Store Manager for Tween Brands "Justice" stores in Uniontown and Morgantown.
- HR Generalist for Carlisle Construction Materials in Smithfield.
- Served several different HR roles with West Virginia University in Morgantown.

### Education:

- Associate Degree from CCAC South in Business Mgt.
- Bachelor's Degree from California University of Pa in HR Mgt.
- Masters Degree from WVU in Corporate and Organizational Communication

### Upcoming projects at SPC:

- Completion of the newly revised employee performance review process. (Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>)
- Constructing a strategic plan for recruitment and retention of SPC team members.
- Working with our legal team on rejuvenating the current SPC employee handbook.
- Researching current trends in COLA for the region to advise executive leadership on revised compensation practices.
- Training, including Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI), Sexual Harassment and Discrimination, Clifton Strengths Assessments and Managerial Support. (conflict resolution, effective communication, etc.)

## 2021-2022 Annual Report Presentation

*Shannon O'Connell*

Agenda Item: 5



## US DOT & NTIA Grant Applications

*Andy Waple & Dan Alwine*

Agenda Item: 6



# Middle Mile Infrastructure Grant Program

National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)



## Middle Mile Infrastructure Grant Program

### Program Overview:

- Provides funding for the construction, improvement, or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure.
- Expand and extend middle mile infrastructure to reduce the cost of connecting areas that are unserved or underserved to the internet backbone.
- \$980 million available - awards between \$5m and \$100m
- Applications due September 30, 2022
- Awards after March 1, 2023
- At least 30% match required

### Approach:

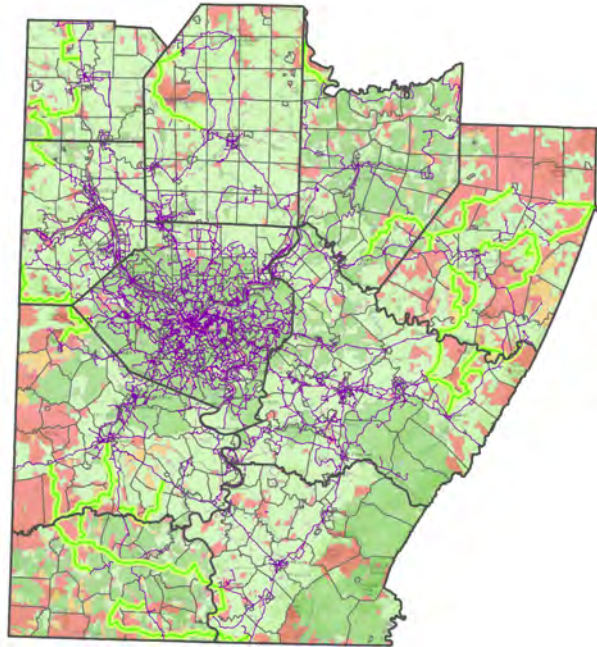
- Identify project areas and routes that best fit program criteria and serves the most homes, businesses and community anchor institutions
- Partner with Counties and fiber owners in project areas
- Discuss potential matching funds with fiber owners and partners
- Utilize existing on-call contract with Michael Baker Intl. to assist SPC staff and partners in developing a regional application



## Middle Mile Grant Program – Proposed Routes

### Potential Benefits:

- 452 miles of new fiber installations
- 37,964 residents served within 1,000' (127,954 within 2,500')
- 17,441 households served within 1,000' (54,797 within 2,500')
- 323 community anchor institutions served



Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

9

## Action: Resolution 9-22

Endorsement of MMGP Application to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)



# U.S. DOT Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program

Federal Highway Administration (U.S. DOT)



## Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)

### Program Overview:

- Discretionary grant program to fund regional initiatives that prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries.
- Two types of applications: Action Grants & Implementation Grants
  - Implementation: execute safety programs or projects identified in Safety Action Plan
- \$1 billion available - awards between \$5m – \$50m for Implementation proposals
- Applications due September 15, 2022
- 20% match required

### Approach:

- 2020 Safety Action Plan (SAP) = eligible for Implementation Grant
- Conduct planning, design, and development activities in support of an SAP and carry out projects and strategies identified in an SAP
- Deliverability & Data Driven: Applications must include crash data where applicable; funds must be expended 5 years after award
- Match Support - apply with existing projects programmed on TIP with non-federal funding

Action Plan Grants:

## Safe Streets and Roads for All



### Application Development:

- Top Locations from HSNS or “Top 20” Crash Sites
- Betterments with existing match programmed on 2023 TIP
- Safe Main Streets:
  - Supplemental Planning for Community/Municipal Assistance
  - Main Streets with documented safety needs
- Overlay locations where transit access is impaired by roadway safety

## Action: Resolution 10-22

Endorsement of SS4A Application to the U.S. Department of Transportation



# Bridge Investment Program (BIP)

Federal Highway Administration (U.S. DOT)



## Bridge Investment Program (BIP)

### Program Overview:

- Discretionary program for bridge replacement, rehabilitation, and preservation that focuses on reducing the overall number of bridges in poor condition, or at risk of falling into poor condition
- Three types of projects:
  - Large (>\$100m), Small (<\$100m), & Planning
- \$2.36 billion available FY2023 - awards amounts and match requirement determined by project type and costs to fully fund projects
- Applications due September 8, 2022
- Awards ~Q1 2023

### Approach:

- There are 1,377 locally owned bridges in the SPC region with 25% in poor condition and 50% in fair condition.
- Deliverability – reviewed local bridges currently on the regional TIP that can begin construction 18 months after obligation of funds
- Review candidates vs. the six U.S. DOT Project Outcome Criteria
- Benefit Cost Analysis is required
- Regional Coordination: PennDOT D-11: Pittsburgh Bridge Bundle – Fort Duquesne, West End, and McKees Rocks Bridges

## BIP Program – Proposed Bridges

No more than eight Local Candidates requesting approximately \$45 million (80% of construction):

- **Allegheny County:** Patton St (Wilmerding), Kenmawr Ave. Ramp (Rankin), McClaren Run (Findlay Twp)
- **Butler County:** Geibel Road (Summit Twp.)
- **Fayette County:** North Gallatin Avenue Bridge over Redstone Creek (Uniontown)
- **City of Pittsburgh:** Charles Anderson (Oakland); Swinburne (Greenfield)
- **Westmoreland County:** Fairwood Manor Bridge over Tinkers Run (Irwin)



Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

17

## Action: Resolution 11-22

Endorsement of BIP Application to the U.S. Department of Transportation



# Affordable Connectivity Program (Federal Communications Commission)

*Keyla Hernandez-Ulloa*

Agenda Item: 7



**Affordable Connectivity Program**  
Helping Households Connect

## Affordable Connectivity Program

**What is the benefit?**

**Who is eligible?**

**How can households apply?**



## Agenda

- The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) – Program Description and Design Overview
- Who is eligible for the ACP?
- Consumer Protections Within the Program
- Be A Local Outreach Partner
- Contacts and References

Ask Questions!

*"A prudent question is one-half of wisdom."* -- Francis Bacon



## What is the Benefit?

The Affordable Connectivity Program is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Program that provides a discount on monthly broadband bills for qualifying low-income households. Eligible households can receive:

- Up to \$30/month discount for broadband service and associated equipment rentals;
- Up to \$75/month discount for households on Tribal lands, and;
- A one-time discount for \$100 for a laptop, desktop, or tablet purchased through a participating provider. Participating consumers pay a \$10 to \$50 co-pay.





## What is a Household?

- A household is a group of people who live together and share money (even if they are not related to each other.) If you live together and share money, you are one household. If you either don't live together or you don't share money, you are two or more households.
- A household can qualify because of eligible dependent children that meet the eligibility criteria.
- You may have to answer questions about your household when you apply for the Affordable Connectivity Program.
- A household worksheet will be available to assist in determining household eligibility.



## Examples of Households

### One Household :

- A married couple who live together must share one ACP benefit
- A parent/guardian and child who live together must share one ACP benefit
- An adult who lives with friends or family who provide financial support must share one ACP benefit

### Multiple Household:

- Four roommates who live together but do not share money are four separate households. All four can receive the ACP.
- 30 seniors who live in an assisted-living home but do not share money are 30 separate households. All 30 can receive the ACP.
- A student who receives a Federal Pell Grant and lives alone is a different household than his or her parents. Both the student and their parents are separate households and can receive their own benefits.





### A Household is Eligible if:

Household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or

If a member of the household meets at least *one* of the criteria below:

- Participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Housing Assistance (ex: Housing Choice Voucher Program), SSI, WIC, or Lifeline;
- Participates in Tribal specific programs, such as Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal TANF, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations;
- Participates in the National School Lunch Program or the School Breakfast Program (Including the Community Eligibility Provision);
- Received a Pell Grant in the current award year;
- Receives Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income program.



## What is Lifeline?

Lifeline is a federal program that lowers the monthly cost of phone and internet. Eligible customers will get up to \$9.25 (up to \$34.25 on Tribal lands) toward their bill.

Household income is less than 135% of the Federal poverty guidelines or a member of the household participates in one of these programs:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Housing Assistance
- Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit
- Tribal programs (and you live on qualifying Tribal lands)



## Two Steps to Enroll

1. Go to <https://www.affordableconnectivity.gov/> to apply, or print out a mail-in application; and
2. Contact your preferred participating provider to select a plan and have the discount applied to your bill.

Some providers may have an alternative application that they will ask you to complete.

Eligible households must both apply for the program and contact a participating provider to select a service plan.



## How Does the ACP Protect Consumers?

FCC rules protect Affordable Connectivity Program recipients by:

- Empowering consumers to choose the service plan that best meets their needs (including a plan they may already be on);
- Ensuring consumers have access to supported broadband services regardless of their credit status;
- Prohibiting providers from excluding consumers with past due balances or prior debt from enrolling in the program;
- Preventing consumers from being forced into more expensive or lower quality plans in order to receive the ACP;
- Ensuring that consumers are not liable for early termination fees;
- Reducing the potential for bill shock or other financial harms;
- Allowing ACP recipients to switch providers or broadband service offerings; and
- Providing a dedicated FCC process for ACP complaints.



## Become an Outreach Partner

- The FCC is mobilizing people and organizations to help share important consumer information about the new Affordable Connectivity Program.
- **Request A Speaker:** Send a speaker request to [ACPspeakers@fcc.gov](mailto:ACPspeakers@fcc.gov).
- **Become A Partner:** Send an email to [outreach@fcc.gov](mailto:outreach@fcc.gov).



## ACP Outreach Toolkit

### Social

Logos  
Social Media Images  
Draft Posts  
Newsletter Insert  
Draft Press Release

### Printables

Fact Sheet  
Flyer  
9" x 5" Info Card  
¼ Page Handout  
Poster/Infographic

### Videos and PSAs

ASL Video  
Overview Video  
Audio PSAs



## Affordable Connectivity Program

Helping Households Connect



## Resources

FCC's ACP Consumer Hub: [www.fcc.gov/ACP](http://www.fcc.gov/ACP)

Help Line: Call the ACP Support Center at (877) 384-2575 or send an email to [ACPSupport@usac.org](mailto:ACPSupport@usac.org)

Consumer FAQ: <https://www.fcc.gov/affordable-connectivity-program-consumer-faq>

USAC ACP Claims and Enrollment Tracker:  
<https://www.usac.org/about/affordable-connectivity-program/acp-enrollment-and-claims-tracker/>

Toolkit: <https://www.fcc.gov/acp-consumer-outreach-toolkit>

Accessibility: [FCC504@fcc.gov](mailto:FCC504@fcc.gov)

To apply: <https://www.affordableconnectivity.gov/>

Contact: [ACPinfo@fcc.gov](mailto:ACPinfo@fcc.gov)

## Action on Resolution 12-22 to Dedicate the 2023-2026 TIP to the Memory of Joe Grata

*Vincent Valdes*

Agenda Item: 8



Dedicate the 2023-2026 TIP to Joe Grata

Agenda Item: 8



- ☒ Questions?
- ☒ Make a Motion
- ☒ Second the Motion
- ☒ Vote on Resolution 12-22

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

33

# Mitsubishi Hydrogen Hub Observations

Agenda Item: 9



## Message from the Executive Director

Next Meeting Date—October 24, 2022 at 4:00 pm

*Vincent Valdes*

Agenda Item: 10



## Other SPC Business

Agenda Item: 10



# Adjourn

Agenda Item: 11

