

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
Minutes of the Meeting
October 24, 2022 – 4:00 p.m.
Cisco Webex Meeting

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

Members: Tony Amadio, Jenn Beer, Mike Belding, Kevin Boozel, Morgan Boyd, Scott Bricker, Tom Ceraso, Douglas Chew, Ali Doyle, Pat Fabian, Rich Fitzgerald, Kim Geyer, Shelia Gombita, Mark Gordon, Kelly Gray, Bob Griffin, Lynn Heckman, Sherene Hess, Mark Hilliard, Fred Junko, Sean Kertes, Katharine Kelleman, Bob Lesnick, Larry Maggi, Jeff Marshall, Kevin McCullough, Leslie Osche, Johnna Pro, Mavis Rainey, Robert Regola, Aurora Sharrard, Larry Shifflet, Cheryl Moon-Sirianni, Loretta Spielvogel, Gina Cerilli Thrasher, John Timney, Ed Typanski, and Vince Vicites.

Others: Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County Department of Economic Development; James Ritzman, Pennoni Associates; Dusty Elias Kirk, Reed Smith LLP; Rachel Windsor, Mobilify; Chris Sandvig, Mobilify; and Greg Boris, Citizen.

Staff: Mary Brangan, Kirk Brethauer, Ronda Craig, Dom D'Andrea, Margaret Fonner, Chuck Imbrogno, Tom Klevan, Jenn Lasser, Shannon O'Connell, Ailisa Sobien, Dave Totten, Vincent Valdes, Sara Walfoort and Andy Waple.

1. Chairman Osche called to order the October 24, 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 August 22nd Meeting.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the August 22nd meeting by Commissioner Maggi which was seconded by Commissioner Heckman. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

3. Public Comment – Gus Boris, Mt. Lebanon, PA

Mr. Boris stated that he moved here two months ago from Sioux Falls, South Dakota to be closer to family. While in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, he sat on this group much like SPC. It is very rare to have public comment, so I am here to do that. Please bear with me as we go. You know, during that time that I was on the MPO, I learned a lot about transportation. Now everywhere I go, I look at things through my transportation eyes, and one of the things that I learned in looking back over those years is that we rarely ever talked about was safety. Rarely do we talk about it, when we did it was as an afterthought, or it was because we were talking about how was that person in that vehicle going to be safe? How can they merge on safely onto that road? How can they be safe at that 85th percentile in an urban area. We will talk about adding lanes, speed limits, but never about safety particularly those who are not in vehicles. Central to safety, in my mind is the design of our roads and streets. You can put up as many you know go drive slow signs, electronic billboard saying go slow. It doesn't do squat. Design is where it's at, and I would encourage more focus on designed to lower speeds so that they are saved. I'll give you one example. Before I close, I live in Mt. Lebanon to the south of me in South Hills Village. This summer as I was making the transition I see all this construction by Whole Foods by South Hills Village by Ft. Couch Road and it's putting in sidewalks. Some of the sidewalks have street sidewalk guide rail, with that project protects pedestrians, I would encourage you as you look at the designs and you set forth policy on how things should happen in this region for streets and roads that the design is friendly to people both in vehicles and those outside of vehicles.

I'll stop there, I want to thank you for giving me time to make my points. I look forward to hearing what you have to say and you have any questions. I'll hang around and talk to you later. Thank you.

Chairman Osche thanked Mr. Boris for his comments and stated they were much appreciated.

4. PA State Implementation Plan and Potential Impacts of Emissions Regulations – Larry Shifflet, PennDOT

Mr. Shifflet explained the potential impacts of emissions regulations. He stated that we're required to submit what's called a state implementation plan. Part of that is on the oil and gas industry side, and it really gets down to how they plan to reduce emissions and stay within our state implementation plan targets. That's the key that has not taken place. On the transportation side, we have the same thing where we have to have a state implementation plan that's been in place for all the years I've been involved in transportation. It is down to making sure that the plan is submitted on how we would reach our goals and our targets in our state implementation plan. In regards specifically to the oil and gas industry.

The Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, on August 2, held a vote which voted down the Environmental Quality Board regulation 7544, which is on the control of VOC emissions. Because they voted it down, it stopped DOP from being able to basically meet a deadline on the highway sanctions for December, it's a December 16 deadline that we're not going to be able to hit because kind of a way the process works pushes that back a bit. I can get more information if you have any specific questions, but that's kind of my understanding it was because of that vote, made it so that the EPA couldn't actually hit the rulemaking timeline with the federal government.

5. CMAQ Performance Plan – Performance Measurers – Domenic D'Andrea/Chuck Imbrogno

Definitions:

Excess Peak Hour Delay Per Capita (PHED) – Urbanized Area

- The extra amount of time spent in roadway congestion; defined as (for the purposes of the performance rule) travel speed less than 20 mph or 60 percent of the posted speed limit, whichever is greater. Peak Periods are defined as weekdays from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Percent Non-SOV Travel – Urbanized Area

- Non-SOV Travel = Any travel mode to work other than driving alone in a motorized vehicle (i.e. single occupancy vehicle or SOV travel) including travel avoided by work from home.

Total Emissions Reduction – Nonattainment Areas

- The 2-year and 4-year cumulative estimated emissions reduction (kg/day) from CMAQ funded projects in an MPO planning area for the criteria pollutants for which the area is designated nonattainment or maintenance. The criteria pollutants include ozone (O3), carbon monoxide (CO), and particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10) and the precursor pollutants; volatile organic compounds (VOC) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx).

Resolution 13-22 – Endorsement of Bridge Investment Grant Program Application

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION (SPC), to endorse the region's 2018-2021 CMAQ Performance Period Report and the 2022-2025 CMAQ Performance Plan Baseline Report.

WHEREAS, The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) established, and the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

reinforced, a system of national goals and performance measures designed to ensure the effective use of Federal transportation funds;

WHEREAS, federal regulations at 23 CFR 490.707 and 490.807 establish three performance measures for the CMAQ Program:

- Annual Hours of Peak-Hour Excessive Delay (PHED) Per Capita;
- Percentage of Non-Single Occupancy Vehicle (Non-SOV) Travel;
- On-Road Mobile Source Emissions Reduction for CMAQ Funded Projects.

WHEREAS, Metropolitan Planning Organizations are required to establish targets for each of these performance measures that represent the anticipated performance outcome in carrying out the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program;

WHEREAS, as required by 23 U.S.C. 149(l), each metropolitan planning organization serving an Urbanized Area with a population over 200,000 people representing an air quality nonattainment or maintenance area shall develop on a four-year cycle a CMAQ Performance Plan that:

- A. Includes an area baseline level for each of the performance measures;
- B. Establishes 2- and 4-year performance targets for the measures;
- C. Describes 2- and 4-year progress made in achieving the performance targets; and,
- D. Includes a description of projects identified for funding under the CMAQ Program and how those projects will contribute to achieving the CMAQ emission and traffic congestion reduction targets.

WHEREAS, SPC staff has prepared the required 2018-2021 CMAQ Performance Period Report and the 2022-2025 CMAQ Performance Plan Baseline Report that satisfies the federal requirements;

WHEREAS, at their October 13, 2022 meeting, the SPC Transportation Technical Committee recommended that SPC endorse the 2018-2021 CMAQ Performance Period Report and the 2022-2025 CMAQ Performance Plan Baseline Report.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in accord with federal regulations at 23 CFR 490.105(f), that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission endorses the regional 2018-2021 CMAQ Performance Period Report and the 2022-2025 CMAQ Performance Plan Baseline Report and authorizes staff to transmit it to PennDOT for inclusion in the state's biennial report to FHWA.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 13-22 by Commissioner Maggi which was seconded by Commissioner Fitzgerald. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

6. Public Participation Panel Meetings Update – Ronda Craig

Ms. Craig gave an update on the scheduled Participation Panel Meetings.

Fall Public Participation Panel Meetings are being scheduled:

- Washington County, October 25th, 3:30 PM
- Fayette County, November 1st, 3:00 PM
- Greene County, November 2nd, 3:30 PM
- Armstrong County, November 3rd, 3:00 PM
- Lawrence County, November 10th, 11:30 AM
- Westmoreland County, November 22nd, 5:00 PM (Virtual)
- Allegheny County/City of Pittsburgh, November 30th, 5:00 PM (Virtual)
- Butler County, December 7th, 4:00 PM (Virtual)
- Indiana County-to be determined
- Beaver County-to be determined

7. Build Back Better Update – Margaret Fonner/Jenn Lasser

BBB - Overview

- EDA Grant –Build Back Better (BBB) - Coal Communities
- Applicant -Southwestern Pennsylvania New Economy Collaborative
- Focus on Equity, Rural Support, Innovation and Jobs
- Phase 1 – Planning (awarded)
- Phase 2 – Implementation (awarded)
- Submitted 90M+ – awarded 60M+
- Over 500 applicants – 21 awarded
- 5 individual projects under 1 grant

BBB – Individual Projects

1. SME Robotics Adoption (Catalyst Connection) Boosting regional competitiveness by bringing Pennsylvania's innovations in robotics and automation to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in other industries

2. Robotics Manufacturing Hub (ARM)

De-risking the adoption of advanced robotics and automation technology by SMEs, accelerating the commercialization of robotics technologies, and establishing a supply chain that links regional manufacturers to high growth companies

3. Expanded Pathways to New Economy Careers (SPC)

Establishing a highly coordinated, regional upskilling system serving both robotics technology developers and robotics technology adopters in the long run, opening up a range of training options outside of traditional four-year and advanced degrees and ensuring that programs evolve based on industry needs

4. Applied Robotics Startup Factory (Innovation Works)

Creating a globally prominent Applied Robotics Startup Factory that accelerates the formation of startups focusing on robotics and automation in multiple industry sectors, including (but not limited to) agriculture, construction, mining, energy, warehousing, and manufacturing

5. Expanded Pathways to Entrepreneurship (Innovate PGH)

Increasing pathways into the robotics and autonomy industries for underrepresented populations and launching new MWBE companies that can support the innovation economy

Regional Job Creation, Training, Equity, Entrepreneurship, Business Support, Cluster Growth all significant areas of focus for BBB.

Overall Project Goals – Project 3

Expand training & placement opportunities

Certificate, Apprenticeships, Advanced Degrees

Build a vibrant & robust robotics ecosystem

Conduct outreach, build partnerships – goal of rooted businesses

Clear pathways and wrap-around services for students & workers

Understand and remove barriers to employment

Be responsive to needs of regional businesses

Establish training needs and talent strategies and deliver.

Establish Regional Training Hubs

Serve business & workers – Train & Retain!

Engagement – Project 3 Partners

Partner Roles

- Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (Project 3 Lead)
- Subrecipient Monitoring
- Financial and Progress Reporting
- Regional Economic Competitiveness Officer (recruiting for this position currently)
- Allegheny Conference on Community Development
- Regional POC – Coordination of success of all five projects
- Higher Education
- Expand industry-recognized programming, Robotics and Autonomy Related Degrees
- Facilitate access and focused success for historically excluded populations
- Establish educator professional development in robotics and autonomy
- Workforce Development/Investment Boards
- Coordinate robotics and autonomy industry partnerships in their areas
- Address the talent challenges of local firms
- Industry Intermediaries - Robotics apprenticeships
- Ecosystem Builders - PRN - Development of Career pathways, connectivity, best practices

SPC’s Administrative Oversight

- Subrecipient Agreement Execution and Monitoring Governed by:
- Governing Guidance and Terms and Conditions
- 2 CFR 200 Uniform Guidance (Allowable Costs, Procurement Guidelines, Authorized Budget)
- Department of Commerce and Economic Development Administration and Specific Award Terms and Conditions
- Subrecipient Agreement execution requires
- Scope of Work with specific deliverables/success metrics
- An approved/awarded budget (changes require prior approval from the EDA)
- Reporting and Invoicing
- Progress reports outlining accomplished metric(s) to date required for payment (2CFR 200.331–332)
- Document contributed Matching Share

8. Resolution Honoring the Service of Dick Hadley – Vincent Vales

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION to honor the services of Commissioner Richard Hadley.

WHEREAS, Richard Hadley served as a Commissioner representing Butler County from 2015 until his passing in 2022; and

WHEREAS, Richard was a lifelong public servant as chair of the Cranberry Township Board of Supervisors, chair of the Cranberry General Authority, president of the PA State Association of Supervisors, the Local Government Academy, chair of the North Hills Tax Collection Committee, and board member of Municipal Risk Management, and executive director of the Allegheny League of Municipalities; and

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

WHEREAS, He was dedicated to real-world planning and championed mixed use and complete streets policies for Cranberry Township as a long-time township supervisor; and

WHEREAS, He brought his passion for planning to SPC's regional forum and we will miss his expertise on how to plan for growing communities; and

WHEREAS Every day, the residents of Cranberry Township are witness to and of his life-long, dedicated public service.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission members honor the service of Richard Hadley; and

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

A motion was made to approve Resolution 14-22 by Fitzgerald seconded by Commissioner Fabian. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

9. Message from the Executive Director – Vincent Valdes

Mr. Valdes wanted to call attention to the national electric vehicle infrastructure program session that PennDOT will be putting on at SPC on the 3rd of November. It's a stakeholder information session, with Duquesne Light, DEP, Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities to provide background on the program. Again, it's an important national program that Federal Highways is administering, and it's possible to receive funding for deployment of charging stations across the state. So again, a very important session. Then our next Commission meeting will be Monday, December 12th at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Waple remarked that a Regional Broadband Summit is being planned for February and will be held at the Regional Learning Alliance in Cranberry Township. We will be sending out a Save the Date notice very soon.

10. Adjourn – 5:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Fabian, Secretary-Treasurer