

**Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
Minutes of the Meeting
SPC Offices – Terminal Building
and
Cisco WebEx Meeting
4:00 p.m. – December 11, 2023**

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

Members: Brain Allen, Darin Alviano, Jennifer Beer, Mike Belding, Brad Berlin, Kevin Boozel, Scott Bricker, Brian Burick, Douglas Chew, Tom Ceraso, Rich Cleveland, Mark Critz, Pat Fabian, Rich Fitzgerald, Kim Geyer, Sheila Gombita, Mark Gordon, Robin Gorman, Kelly Gray, Bob Griffin, Aadil Grinwala, Lynn Heckman, Sherene Hess, Mark Hillard, Charles Jones, Patrick Joyal, Fred Junko, Bill Kovach, Brandon Leach, Clifford Levine, Bob Lesnick, Dave Lohr, Bob Macey, Larry Maggi, Jack Manning, Jeff Marshall, Betsy McClure, Don Myers, Leslie Osche, Johnna Pro, Mavis Rainey, Bob Regola, Nick Sherman, Larry Shifflet, Byron Stauffer, Jason Theakston, John Timney, Vince Vicites, Jason Zang, and Blair Zimmerman

Others: Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County Department of Economic Development; Kyle Chintalapalli, Mayor Gainey's Office; Jason Rigone, Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development; Mark Rafail, Fayette County; Kimberly Yeakle, Pennsylvania DEP; Chuck Kolling, Buchanan Ingersoll and Rooney; and Dusty Kirk, Reed Smith LLP.

Staff: Bel Ayele, Mary Brangan, Kirk Brethauer, Faith Collins, Ronda Craig, Dom D'Andrea, Linda Duffy, Lillie Gabreski, Ryan Gordon, Chuck Imbrogno, Tom Klevan, Jenn Lasser, Nick Mannone, Caitlin O'Connor, DJ Ryan, Mason Secreti, Aaron Sims, Russell Singer, Josh Spano, Ailisa Sobien, Cathy Tulley, Vincent Valdes, and Andy Waple.

1. Chairman Osche called to order the December 11, 2023 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 October 23, 2023 Meeting.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the October 23rd meeting by Commissioner Vicites which was seconded by Commissioner Fabian. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

3. Public Comment – None.

4. Summary of 2022-2023 Audit Report—Tim Morgus/Michelle Hoke, Maher Duessel, CPAs

- Our Responsibilities under Auditing Standards Generally Accepted in the United State of America, Government Auditing Standards and Uniform Guidance
- Significant Accounting Policies
- Accounting Estimates
- Disclosures
- Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit
- Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements
- Disagreements with Management
- Management Representations
- Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants
- Items Discussed Prior to Retention of Independent Auditors

Mr. Morgus remarked that independent audit report is an analysis of how your year went. We will start with your financial statements, asset and lease liability. Moving into this space, you now have a long-term lease, as well as office furniture and equipment that you are leasing. That resulted in a \$6.6 million lease liability that you have to report on the government wide statements. Just a quick reminder, the government wide statements are on a full accrual basis, all your long-term assets and long-term liabilities show up there. On a revenue and expense standpoint, you are down about \$1.5 million or 12.2%. Decrease contributions from broadband project; Contractual Expenses down \$1million due to broadband project. Highway Planning and Construction - No Findings. Schedule C is about political activity. You do have some lobbying activity at SPC. So that is disclosed on Schedule C.

Financial Statements:

Right-to-use asset and lease liability \$6M
Revenues/Expenditures down \$1.5M or 12.2%
Negative (\$748,165) fund balance

Mr. Morgus commented that has been some turnover in the last couple of years and you have received some non-routine funding, but you have not missed a beat. I can say that these findings are a very positive report.

5. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Report – Dom D’Andrea

Mr. D’Andrea stated that the UPWP represents is the Transportation Planning Work that we are going to move forward with from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. It is the work we do to further implement the vision, goals, and strategies in our Long-Range Plan, as well as the recommendations that came our re-organization plan. The last UPWP was submitted prior to our reorganization. This UPWP aligns the functional work areas with our new organization.

Plans & Programs:

- 2025-2028 TIP updates
- Resiliency Planning
- Innovative Finance and Project Delivery

Local Government Funding and Technical Assistance Human Services Coordinated Plan-that is about improving overall access, especially for transportation-disadvantaged populations, to public, private, and non-profit transportation services available in the region.

Continuing Implementation of our Regional Freight Plan and potentially studying the economic and transportation benefits of our rivers. Encouraging and planning for alternative modes of transportation counter to the single occupant vehicle. Vanpools, carpools, walking, biking, and micro mobility modes like ebikes and scooters.

Assist municipalities with traffic signal equipment improvements and signal coordination and retiming. Three RSAs and 1 corridor operations planning study each fiscal year; we are planning to add 1 pedestrian-bicycle safety audit.

Getting together with emergency first responders to do after action reviews of past incidents to discuss any room for improvements or added tools for them. Monitoring over 100 congested corridor segments in our region for performance metrics like travel time and delay. Looking at our current intelligent transportation devices (like cameras, detectors, dynamic message signs) and also looking at future device needs and future preparations for connected and autonomous vehicles.

A new functional area-what we call Strategic Initiatives/Environment-obtaining the funding and doing the planning activities associated with:

- Environmental Justice
- Electric Vehicles
- Climate Action Plan

- Broadband Connectivity

Outreach & Coordination/Support Activities

- Communications and Outreach Strategic Plan
- Public Participation Plan
- Limited English Proficiency Plan Update (Demographics)
- Continued Website Enhancements
 - Interactive Mapping
 - Resource Centers

6. Action on Commission Resolution 14-23 – Dom D’Andrea

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ("SPC") to approve submission of the 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program to appropriate funding agencies.

WHEREAS, the 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program documents all transportation and transportation-related planning activities to be undertaken within the SPC region from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program identifies planning tasks to be performed by SPC staff and the staffs of the member Counties, the City of Pittsburgh, and the Port Authority of Allegheny County using planning assistance funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission approves submission of the 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Executive Director, on behalf of SPC, is hereby authorized to enter into Agreements and/or Supplements with the FTA, FHWA, and PennDOT relating to the 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program and pursuant to application requests; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Executive Director, on behalf of SPC, is authorized to enter into Contracts with the Counties of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Washington, Westmoreland, the City of Pittsburgh, and the Port Authority of Allegheny County covering work items delineated in the 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 14-23 by Commissioner Timney which was seconded by Commissioner Boozel. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

7. Message from the Executive Director – Vincent Valdes
- Next Meeting Date – **February 26, 2024**

8. Adjourn – 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vincent Vicites
Secretary-Treasurer