

**Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation Board of Directors &  
Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission Executive Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
SPC Offices – Terminal Building & Cisco WebEx Meeting  
February 26, 2024  
3 p.m.**

The three hundred and eightieth meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation Board of Directors and the two hundredth meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission Executive Committee was called to order by Chairman Osche.

SPC Board Members present: Pat Fabian, Rich Fitzgerald, Ed Gainey, Sherene Hess, Sara Innamorato, Sean Kertes, Leslie Osche, and Vince Vicites.

SPC Executive Committee Members present were: Douglas Chew, Pat Fabian, Rich Fitzgerald, Ed Gainey, Lynn Heckman, Sherene Hess, Sara Innamorato, Sean Kertes, Larry Maggi, Leslie Osche, Johnna Pro, Patrick Joyal, and Vince Vicites.

Others: Tony Amadio, Beaver County Board of Commissioners; Robin Gorman, Indiana County Board of Commissioners; Bety's McClure, Greene County Board of Commissioners; Dan Kennedy, Lawrence County Board of Commissioners; David Lohr, Fayette County Board of Commissioners; Mark Rafail, Fayette County; Mark Gordon, Butler County Department of Planning and Development; Kim Geyer; Butler County Board of Commissioners; Kevin Boozel, Butler County Board of Commissioners; Nick Sherman, Washington County; Brandon Leach, PennDOT Central Office; Dusty Kirk, Reed Smith LLP;

Staff: Belachew Ayele, Mary Brangan, Kirk Brethauer, Leann Chaney, Faith Collins, Ronda Craig, Dom D'Andrea, Linda Duffy, Lillie Gabreski, Ryan Gordon, Chuck Imbrogno, Jennifer Lasser, Caitlin O'Connor, Jeremy Papay, DJ Ryan, Mason Secreti, Ailisa Sobien, Josh Spano, Cathy Tulley,

1. Call to Order

Chairman Osche welcomed members and called the meeting to order.

2. Action on Minutes of the December 11<sup>th</sup> Corporation Board of Directors and Commission Executive Committee Meeting

Action on the minutes of the December 11, 2023 meeting of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee were approved on a motion by Commission Hess which was seconded by Commissioner Fabian. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

3. Public Comment – None.

4. Financial Report—Ailisa Sobien

Ms. Sobien gave a brief overview of the budget.

FY 23-24 Budget:	\$24,003,761
Revenue and Expenses:	\$ 7,551,791
Percent of Budget:	31.0 %

6. Transportation Report—Dom D'Andrea

Mr. D'Andrea gave an updated Transportation Report.

- Operations and Safety Planning highlights
  - Regional Traffic Signal Program 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> cycles
  - Road Safety Audits
  - Local Technical Assistance Program
- Transit Planning highlights
  - Update of Public Transit-Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan
  - Transit Transportation Improvement Program
  - Assisting Butler Transit with a demonstration funding application for microtransit
- Program Development highlights
  - Highway/Bridge Transportation Improvement Program
  - Smart Transportation for Livable Communities Program
  - Providing assistance on discretionary grant applications
- Transportation Demand Management highlights
  - Preparing for update to Regional Active Transportation plan
  - Working on new CommInfo vanpool contract with Enterprise

#### 2025-2028 TIP Schedule

##### Fall 2023 (through end of this year)

- TIP Workgroup meetings (20) and project selection for Draft 2025-2028 TIP-Completed
- TA, CMAQ, and CRP Projects selected via competitive application processes-Completed
- First round PPP and Public Meetings for feedback-Completed

##### Winter 2023/2024

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

##### Spring 2024

- PennDOT review; AQ Conformity & EJ Analysis; document preparations-Started
- Smart Transportation Program solicitation -Application period open
- 30 Day Public Comment Period-including 11 public meetings (May 9-June 7) and Comment/Response documentation -Meetings being scheduled
- 2025-2028 TIP adoption at June, 2024 Commission meeting

Mr. D'Andrea stated SPC had 20 workgroup meetings (almost 7 per PennDOT District) that started in July. SPC selected our Transportation Alternatives, CMAQ, and Carbon Reduction projects. Award letters went out two weeks ago and we are coordinating press releases and press events with the project sponsors. Our first round of Public Participation Panel meetings to gain feedback on TIP development were completed in early December. We had one public meeting in each county and one in the City of Pgh, so a total of 11 public participation panel meetings. They were generally well attended and well received.

In early January, SPC submitted the pre-draft TIP project list to PennDOT Central Office in Harrisburg for review and comment. Their review is ongoing.

In the spring, SPC will be:

- Conducting the required Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Environmental Justice Reviews and prepare the draft documents.
- Open solicitation, evaluate and select projects for our Smart Transportation Program (more on that in a minute).
- Opened a 30 day public comment period on the draft documents, hold a second round of 11 public meetings for public feedback on the draft TIP, all in the hopes of bringing a updated 2025-2028 TIP to the full commission in June, 2024.

Mr. D'Andrea then introduced Mr. Spano to discuss Safety Performance Targets

Performance requirements to carry out the HSIP Program-Safety Final Rule (5 year rolling average) include:

1. Number of Fatalities (all public roads)
2. Rate of Fatalities (all public roads-per 100 M VMT)
3. Number of Serious Injuries (all public roads)
4. Rate of Serious Injuries (all public roads-per 100 M VMT)
5. Number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries (all public roads)

Mr. Spano stated as part of MAP-21, a federal rule making was established to enact national performance management requirements to make sure that State DOTs and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) choose the most efficient investments for Federal transportation funds. From the Federal level, we are required to track 20 different performance measures that will have an impact on transportation investments. 5 of those 20 are Safety Performance measures.

Federal metrics are done in five year rolling averages which are used in order to absorb annual anomalies and establish trendlines Those 5 federal safety performance measures are:

- Fatalities
- Number: Total number of persons suffering fatal injuries in a motor vehicle traffic crash
- Fatality Rate: Ratio of total number of fatalities to the number of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) (expressed in fatalities per 100 million VMT)
- Serious Injuries
- Number: Total number of persons suffering at least one serious injury

Rate: Ratio of total number of serious injuries to the number of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) (expressed in serious injuries per 100 million VMT). Non-motorized Fatalities and Non-motorized Serious Injuries (ped estrian/bicycle).

PennDOT is asking us to continue to support a 2% annual reduction for fatality goals (no change from last year). PennDOT is asking us to continue to support a 0% reduction for serious injury goals (no change from last year)

#### 7. Strategic Initiatives Report—DJ Ryan

Mr. Ryan presented the Strategic Initiatives Report.

- Received two grants since our last meeting
  - SS4A grant (Vision zero pilot program)
  - MPDG Grant (Parkway east and east busway)
- Allegheny River Update
  - Letter from Gen. Spellmon to Rep. Reschenthaler
  - Will consider impact of LOS cuts before making them
  - Resolution endorsing Sen. Casey's WATERWAYS bill
- Hired new Development Associate
- Broadband
  - Presentation from MBI at policy committee to outline updates
  - Digital Navigator survey is going out this week from consultants
  - Launching curriculum resource guide and asset and demographic tool
- CPRG Planning
  - PCAP public meeting held mid-February
  - PCAP submitted to EPA March 1<sup>st</sup>
- CPRG Implementation
  - SPC plans to apply on behalf of the region (Resolution)
  - Over 70 potential partners and more than \$2B in projects were submitted for information gathering

8. Economic and Workforce Development Report—Jenn Lasser

Mr. Lasser gave an update on the Economic and Workforce Development Department.

PREP AND COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE

Export International Trade Assistance

- Assistance Provided
  - 15 Companies Assisted; 25 Counseling Sessions
- Work Orders
  - 4 Companies; 5 Overseas Work Orders; 4 Countries
- Events
  - SW Regional Export Network Partners Meeting – 8 attendees
  - Go Global with Hispanic Chamber of Commerce – 40 attendees

Government Contract Technical Assistance

- Assistance Provided
  - 12 Companies Assisted; 12 Counseling Sessions
- Contract Awards
  - 15 companies, 39 awards totaling \$4.1M
- Events –
  - Tri-State Mega Matchmaker
  - Project Spectrum Training

•Commercial Lending Assistance

- Assistance Provided
  - 17 Companies Assisted; 18 Counseling Sessions
- Loans Closed – 1 (EDA RLF)
  - Madiley Capital, LLC d/b/a Creekside Springs, LLC - \$100,000
- Loan Applications – 2
  - Superior Fine Grind / Youghioghene Realty LP – \$300,000 – EDA Cares Act
  - Tarentum Laundromat at the Depot – \$199,000 – PIDA-CED
- Loan Amendments – 2
  - JADCO Manufacturing, Inc.
  - Mobile Aspects, Inc.

•Keystone Opportunity Zones (KOZ)

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| - Inquiries – 1            | Applications Received – 22 |
| - Businesses Served- 6     | Businesses Improved – 6    |
| - Jobs Created – 682       | Jobs Retained – 10         |
| - Investment – \$1,011,356 |                            |

ARC/EDA GRANT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- 26 SWPA organizations served (Dec/Jan)
- DCED “Winning the Grant” Conference – Altoona, PA
  - Sen Casey (virtual), EDA, ARC, USDA, LDDs 200+ PA attendees
- ARC’s “Getting the Grant” – Portsmouth, OH
  - Gail Manchin (virtual), ARC, DCED, SPC - 200+ PA, KY, OH, WV attendees
- ARC POWER
  - Reminder POWER Letter of Intent Due March 1<sup>st</sup>
- ARC AREA Development – on hold
  - Record 9 SWPA selected to move forward (5.6M)
- ARC ARISE – still open (rolling deadline) – multiple state required (16M awarded so far)
- EDA – Looking for projects

IWG RAPID RESPONSE TEAM

- SPC and counties recognized by IWG as nationwide best practice in outreach and stakeholder engagement
- SPC presented to IWG/RRT group Feb 2024 on prior regional activities held
- RRT is hoping to provide continued support to regions coming late spring/early summer
- Continuing conversations with Armstrong, Beaver, Greene, Indiana, and Washington
- Expanding out to other counties 2024/2025
- Want to hear from the communities, local government, non-profits, workforce etc. on needs and how RRT can support and align.
- Provide Technical Assistance

Prior Timeline/History:

- August 2023: IWG reaches out to Energy Communities in Pennsylvania; five of six are located in Southwestern Pennsylvania
- August 2023 – RRT concept presented to SPC Board (EPA)
- September 4, 2023: Scheduling of virtual listening sessions
- Pennsylvania Energy Community Virtual Listening Sessions scheduled and held:
  - September 18, 2023: Washington County
  - September 19, 2023: Greene County
  - September 21, 2023: Beaver County
  - September 22, 2023: Armstrong County
  - September Indiana met individually with IWG partners
- October 20, 2023: IWG Culmination Event – Westmoreland County Community College

9. Message from the Executive Director—Rich Fitzgerald

Mr. Fitzgerald remarked that an orientation meeting will be soon scheduled with the County Commissioners and SPC staff to discuss county priorities. The meeting will be slated sometime in April or May.

DCED has scheduled a meeting in Harrisburg on May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. A Washington, DC trip will be scheduled sometime in mid September.

Reminder: Next Meeting Date – April 22, 2024

10. Other SPC Business

Ms. Kirk stated that the SPC Bylaws need to be reviewed. There is a need to check the structure of bylaws of similar MPOs/LDDs.

11. Adjourn

Respectfully submitted:

Ailisa Sobien  
Corporation, Secretary-Treasurer

Vincent Vicites  
Commission, Secretary-Treasurer