

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission



Regional Policy Advisory Committee

April 22, 2024

2 p.m.



Opening Agenda Items

- Welcome and Introductions
- Action on the Minutes from February 24, 2024 meeting



Update on the Save The Allegheny River (S.T.A.R.) Initiative

DJ Ryan, Director of Strategic Initiatives & Policy

Agenda Item 3



S.T.A.R. Initiative

- We are continuing to work on a legislative fix to improve the locks/dams schedule
- Bipartisan effort with Sen. Casey and Congressman Reschenthaler pushing for change



VIDEO: Capt. Evan Clark, 3 Rivers Waterkeepers

Agenda Item 4



National Water Week (April 14-20)



Update on Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)

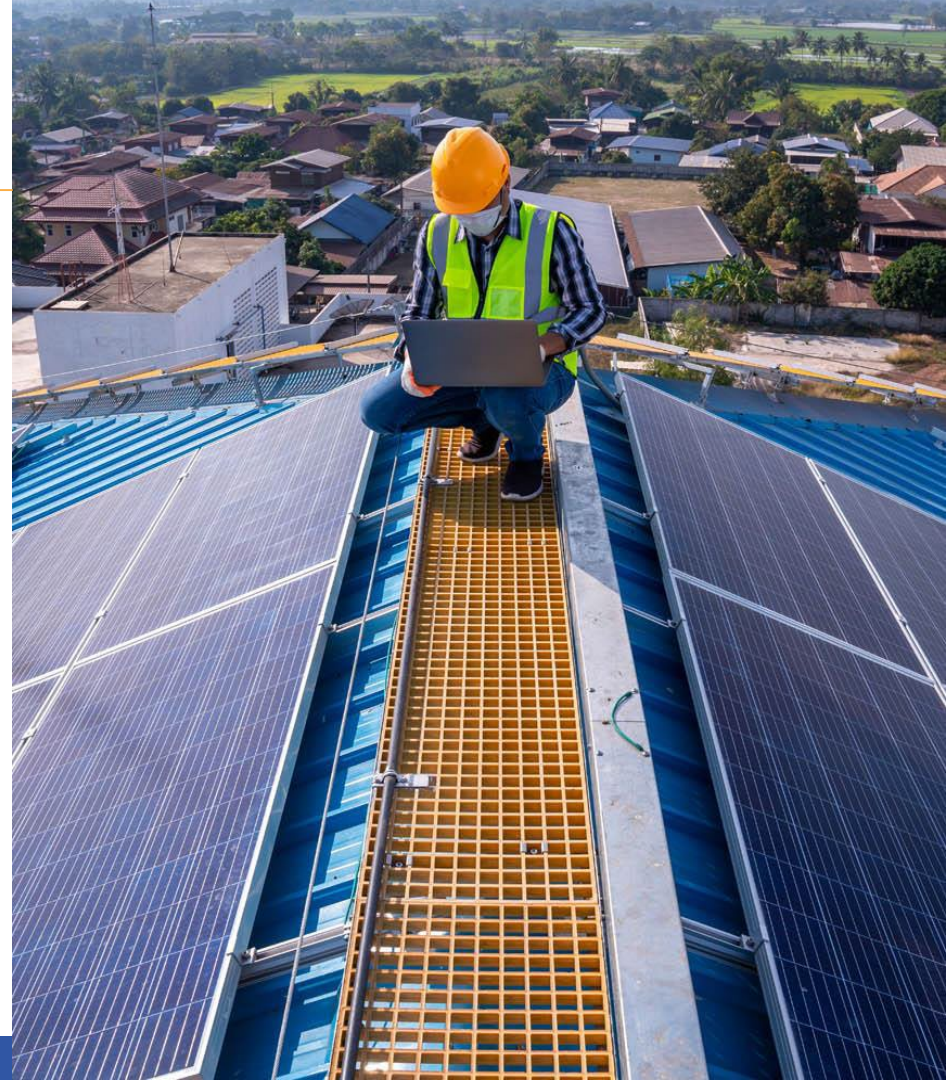
DJ Ryan, Director of Strategic Initiatives & Policy

Agenda Item 5



CPRG

- Application was due April 1
- Applied for \$199M on behalf the entire SWPA region
- If awarded, grants will be distributed competitively
- Anticipate hearing from the EPA around June/July



Regional Complete Streets Policy

Leann Chaney, Sr. Active Transportation Coordinator

Agenda Item: 6



Complete Streets are Streets for Everyone

- Complete Streets is an approach to planning, designing, building and operating streets in an equitable and context-sensitive manner to prioritize safety, comfort, and connectivity to destinations for everyone who uses the street network.

Before
Complete Streets

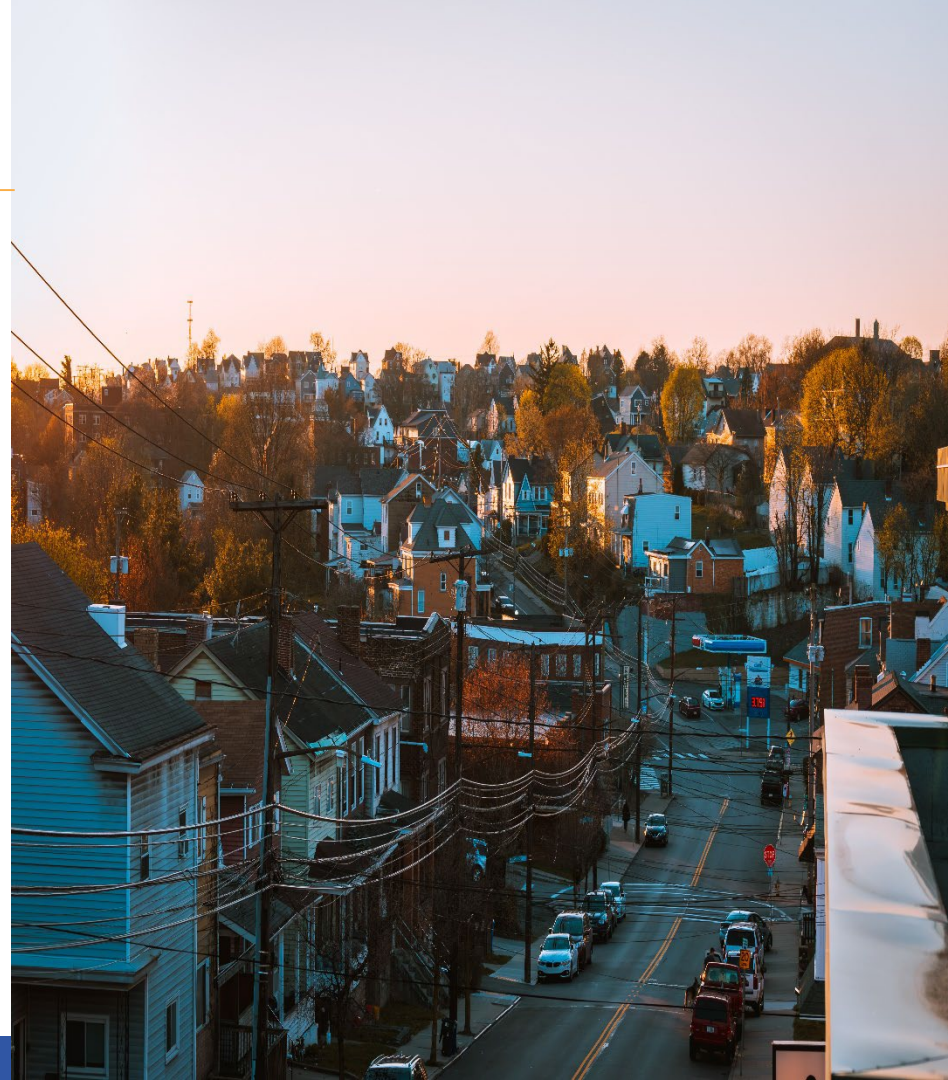
After
Complete Streets



Context Sensitive

A Complete Streets approach does not mean putting a bike lane or sidewalk on every street or a bus on every corridor.

- Context and needs of users are different in rural areas and towns, suburban and urban communities, and urban cores; and
- Hierarchy of the roadway network and roadway environment are important considerations in engineering and design



SmartMoves + CS

SmartMoves envisions “collaboration among local governments and other stakeholders to implement complete streets policies in communities across the region.”



Locally Adopted CS Policies

1. City of Pittsburgh (2016)
2. Sharpsburg (2017)
3. Etna (2018)
4. Millvale (2018)
5. Wilkins Township (2019)
6. Scottdale (2020)
7. Smithton (2020)
8. Forest Hills Borough (2022)
9. White Township (2022)
10. Mt. Lebanon (2022)
11. Dormont Borough (2023)

Moving to a Regional Policy

- Commissioners' Working Group on Active Transportation + Complete Streets
- Moving to a CS Design Model – A Report to Congress on Opportunities and Challenges
- FHWA Safe System Approach



Complete Streets Policy Framework



Literature Review

Review of other regional MPO CS policies

- Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)/San Francisco Bay Area
- Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)
- Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG)
- Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG)
- Mid-America Regional Council (MARC)/Bi-State Kansas City Region
- Lackawanna-Luzerne, PA



Vision

Integrate a Complete Streets approach into transportation planning, practices, policies and decision-making processes to prioritize safety, comfort, and connectivity to destinations for everyone who uses the street network, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation users, children, older individuals, individuals with disabilities, motorists, and freight vehicles.



Applicability

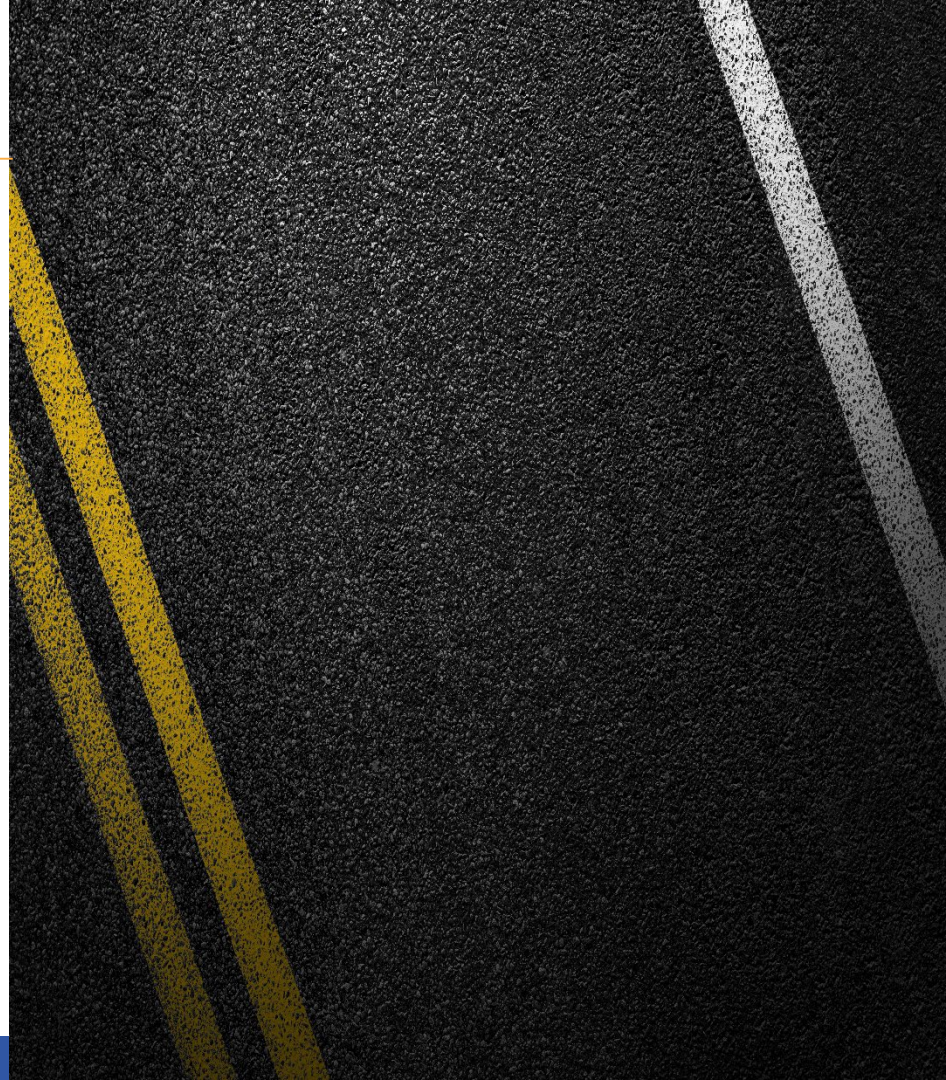
This policy applies to all projects seeking funding through our administered competitive funding programs (listed below) for new construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, repair, maintenance and ongoing operations of roadways, bridges, transit and paratransit infrastructure, on-street sections of trails, and physical changes to other transportation infrastructure.

- Congestion Mitigation + Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)
- Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)
- Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA)
- Smart Transportation for Livable Communities (STLC)



Next Steps

- Feedback and input from RPAC
- Final draft presented to Commission for adoption later this year



Brief on Workforce & Economic Development Department's Work in the Community

**Jenn Lasser, Director of Workforce
& Economic Development**

Agenda Item: 7



“Community Chronicles”

Rich Fitzgerald, Executive Director

Agenda Item: 8



Stonecrest Business Park

- This 213-acre site of the former Stonecrest Golf Course will be the first privately developed park built in Lawrence County in more than 40 years.
- Will house light manufacturing businesses, warehouse space and pad-ready sites with public utilities.
- 10 miles from Ellwood City, less than five miles away from interchanges with the PA Turnpike and Rt. 376.
- The project is expected to create approximately 1.5 million square feet of space and generate 750 to 1,000 new jobs.



Tri-County Entrepreneurial Makerspace Project

- \$1.5 million of BBB Regional Challenge Grant (funded through ARM under the PA New Economy Collaborative)
- Includes IUP, an IUP-led STEAMSHOP robotics and electronics satellite site in Armstrong Co. and Made in Johnstown in Cambria Co.
- IUP's STEAMSHOP (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) makerspace engages with diverse populations, improves digital literacy, prototyping, digital fabrication, robotics, AI and other fields.



STEAMSHOP MAKERSPACE RESOURCES & EQUIPMENT
ACCELERATING INNOVATION **IUP**

2 CNC Milling Machines



Our 3-axis and 5 axis CNC milling machines enable makers & entrepreneurs to fabricate parts from aluminum, wood and more. Our 5-axis CNC machine can create unique, precision parts used in industries, such as manufacturing, medical, and energy.

Universal 10e Collaborative Robot



Collaborative robots (cobots) provide the benefits and efficiency of automation while safely working alongside people—without the risk of repetitive motion injury. With 6 joints and wide flexibility across applications, cobots communicate with other machines while moving like a human arm. Our cobot can hold and move objects or operate tools like sanders and drills.

3 Large Format Laser Cutters



One 80 watt and two 130 watt state of the art large-scale laser cutters enable makers to cut and engrave wood, plastic, and other materials with high speed and high precision.

Grinders, Lathe, Bandsaws, Welding Equipment, and more.



With a wealth of tools, innovators, makers, and entrepreneurs can design, build, and create.

Fleet of 3D Printers, 3D Scanner, and Vinyl Cutter



Makers have access to a fleet of 3D printers—including a high-resolution liquid resin Formlabs printer, a state-of-the-art 3D scanner, and equipment like vinyl cutters to facilitate rapid prototyping for innovative designs.

ShopBot CNC Router



With the versatility of the ShopBot CNC router, makers create shapes and patterns in materials including wood, plastic, foam, aluminum, and more.

IUP's STEAMSHOP (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) makerspace is a university-wide collaboration, with the goal of engaging diverse populations, improving digital literacy, and creating an integrated training and research program in design thinking, prototyping, digital fabrication, robotics, and artificial intelligence to capitalize on IUP's current strengths and develop key partnerships across campus and the region.

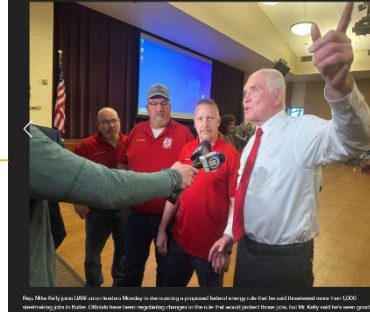
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in Connellsville

- Armstrong Cable's customer service office will service portions of Fayette, Westmoreland, Washington, and Somerset Counties.
- Commissioners Vicites (Vice-Chair, SPC), Dunn, and Lohr
- Lt. Gov. Austin Davis, State Rep. Bud Cook, Brand Carson, Executive Director of Broadband Development Authority, and Kyle Kopko, Executive Director of the Center for Rural PA
- The company is focused on broadband expansion in rural communities



Butler Happenings

- Attended Butler County's State of the County where Commissioners Osche, Boozel, and Geyer helped lead the discussion, along with Mark Gordon, Economic Development Director.
- Also attended Congressman Kelly's town hall. It focused on the potential 1,300 jobs at Cleveland-Cliff's Butler Works plant that are in jeopardy because of a proposed U.S. Energy Department rule.
- It was a standing-room only town hall in conjunction with officials from Cleveland-Cliffs Butler Works and United Auto Workers Local 3303.
- Gov. Shapiro has also met with workers when he visited the facility recently and is also working to solve this issue.



BUTLER COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA

State Of The County

BUTLER COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MARCH 7 : 7:00AM
THE ATRIUM
ARMSTRONG®

Commissioner Leslie Osche

Commissioner Kim Geyer

Independence HEALTH SYSTEM

Commissioner Kevin Boozel

Economic Dev. Mark Gordon

UNIVEST
BANKING | INSURANCE | INVESTMENTS

HRG

LOLA ENERGY

NexTier Bank

Minuteman Press

PENNENERGY RESOURCES

FORD OFFICE TECHNOLOGIES

PENNSYLVANIA AMERICAN WATER

FIRST Commonwealth Bank
Time to be first!

Thompson - Miller Funeral Home, Inc.

Center for Community Resources

MaherDuessel

Butler County

MANUFACTURING CENTER

Bringing the World to Pennsylvania

- Our Trade/Export team supports DCED's "Bringing the World to PA" event in conjunction with the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance (PRA)
- Event took place at CMU. DCED Deputy Secretary David Briel was there to welcome attendees.
- We work directly with small business owners and have them meet with international trade representatives from more than 20 countries (so they can potentially sell/export their products overseas)



Armstrong Trails

- Our team took part in Armstrong Trails' celebration event on April 1 (Armstrong Trails is led by Chris Zeigler) and secured media coverage for the group
- DCNR Secretary Cindy Dunn and Deputy PennDOT Secretary Larry Shifflet were there
- Opening of 10 miles of additional trail and newly decked/railed Kiski Bridge
- Armstrong Trails is a 52.5 mile rail-to-trails in Armstrong, Westmoreland, and Clarion Counties (protects and converts railroad corridors)



Leadership Pittsburgh, Butler, and Washington

- Our leadership team presented at Leadership Pittsburgh, Leadership Butler, and Leadership Washington's joint event
- Approx. 125 attendees
- It was an opportunity to connect with a diverse group of individuals from various employment sectors and educate them on what our organization does
- Took place at the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum in Washington County



Next Meeting Date: June 24, 2024

Agenda Item 9



Adjourn

Agenda Item: 10

