

**The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission**  
**Full Commission | Meeting Minutes**  
**December 16, 2024**  
**4 p.m.**  
**The Terminal**  
**42 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222**

The one hundred and seventy-first meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission was called to order by Chairman Pat Fabian.

**Members:** Darin Alviano, Tony Amadio, Mike Baker, Brad Berlin, Gil Berry, Kevin Boozel, Scott Bricker, Tom Ceraso, Mark Critz, Jared Edgreen, Pat Fabian, Kim Geyer, Adil Ginwala, Sheila Gombita, Mark Gordon, Kelly Gray, Bob Griffin, Dan Grzybek, Mark Hillard, Sara Innamorato, Charles Jones, Katharine Kelleman, Jeremy Kelly, Dan Kennedy, Kelly Shroads, Brandon Leach, Bob Lesnick, Bob Macey, Larry Maggi, Jack Manning, Jeff Marshall, Betsy McClure, Don Myers, Leslie Osche, Joylette Portlock, Johnna Pro, Ernest Rajakone, Bob Regola, Chris Sainato, Chris Sandvig, Nick Sherman, Laura Sohinki; Byron Stauffer, John Strate, John Timney, Vince Vicites, Daniel Vogler, Barb Warwick, Jason Zang, and Blair Zimmerman.

**Others:** Kyle Chintalapalli, Mayor Gainey's Office; Lisa Frank, Mayor Gainey's Office; Ernest Rajakone, Allegheny County; Mary Over, Vincent Vicites' Office; Alice Hammond, PennDOT; Kyle Lamb, ServiceLink; Chuck Kolling, Pam Snyder, Buchanan Ingersoll and Rooney; and Dusty Kirk, Reed Smith LLP

**Staff:** Bel Ayele, Mary Brangan, Kirk Brethauer, Faith Collins, Ronda Craig, Rich Fitzgerald, Lillie Gabreski, Chuck Imbrogno, Jenn Lasser, Jen Liptak, Nick Mannone, Jeremy Papay, DJ Ryan, Mason Secreti, Sara Walfoort and Devon White.

1. Chairman Fabian called to order the December 16, 2024 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 28, 2024 Meeting.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting by Commissioner Strate which was seconded by Commissioner Sandvig. The motion was unanimous.

3. Public Comment – Greg Boris.

Greg Boris  
900 Washington Rd  
Apt 406  
Pittsburgh, PA 15228  
605-321-5514

My name is Greg Boris and I live in Mt. Lebanon. I come to you today to talk about safety on the streets in the region. What I share has a lens on my community, but applies to towns across the region and state. In particular, I'm concerned about the safety of those outside of a motor vehicle. The essence of my message is that speed kills and we must address that.

I live in Mt. Lebanon on Washington Road. Mt. Lebanon prides itself on being a walkable community. My wife and I moved there just over two years ago because, while we lead an active life we recognize that an urban environment such as Mt. Lebanon is one which will enable us to age in place, being able to walk,

bicycle, or take transit to access most of what we need and want in our lives. We also drive to our grandchildren's home five miles to the south and to far away places and where transit is limited or does not exist. We do realize that the day will come where driving will not be an option for us and we will have to rely on other modes.

I live on a two-thirds of a mile stretch on Washington Road that has three public schools, a preschool, two churches, 47 single family residences, a house that has converted to a three unit apartment building, and a 61 unit cooperative apartment catering to older adults. All tolled, there are, at minimum, 300 people living in this segment.

In thi 3500 feet there are three traffic lights, a hawk signal, school zones at the south and north ends (with 'normal' 35 mph speeds in between) and almost 400 people, mostly students walking to and from school outside of the school zone on narrow sidewalks punctuated by utility poles. (Specific pedestrian data available upon request)

Safety on our streets is a function of enforcement, education, and engineering.

Education has been the traditional focus of safety. Signs blink showing the speed of vehicles or that the school zone is in effect. Pedestrians are encouraged to wear bright clothing, be aware, and cross at lights when the walk sign is on. PSAs promote wearing visible clothes. Crossing guards assist before and after school. And many of the people who live in the cooperative apartment building do not feel safe or comfortable walking along Washington Road. Pedestrians are called upon to be safe so drivers can make mistakes.

Enforcement in this corridor has been negligible. In addition to walking along Washington Road daily, I also watched pedestrians before and after school over 40 times during the past year in hour segments from a vantage point just outside the school zone. The T intersection where I sat is where a left turn is illegal during school zone times. Yet, at least one vehicle makes such an illegal turn every ten minutes. Never have I seen law enforcement addressing this. In the short time I've lived here, twice I've seen cars pulled over for some form of enforcement on Washington Road outside of school hours.

Finally, engineering. The NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers holds paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public. Yet, Washington Road is designed south of the Uptown business district as a highway and oblivious to the fact that residences and other places people congregate line both sides of it to the south of Uptown. This is an urban residential area.

Given that safety is paramount in the Code of Ethics the safety performance measures in the STIP catch my attention. When engineering ideas, such as those suggested in the NACTO manual, to improve safety in this corridor, they are often dismissed because it does not conform to some other standards.

This spring PennDOT reported there were 1,209 people killed in Pennsylvania motor vehicle crashes in 2023\_ That's about a 2.5% increase from the 1,179 traffic-related deaths in 2022.

In Pennsylvania, 537 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes in the first half of 2023, and 551 people were killed in the first half of 2024. This marks a 2.6% rise in vehicle deaths from the first half of 2023. We're going backwards.

What bothers me is that PennDOT sets targets for fatalities that are HIGHER rather than those noted in the previous time frame. It bothers me that the STIP sees it as okay for more people to die on the streets and roads of Pennsylvania and make that as part of the STIP. (STIP, page 21)

We cannot educate ourselves out of the death trap we are in.

We must:

- 1—improve enforcement by making automated speed and red light enforcement available throughout the state
- 2—lower speed limits in urban residential areas to no more than 25 mph
- 3— design our streets to make speeding difficult

4—do a systematic analysis of clusters of traffic crashes by bringing in engineers, electeds, safety advocates, neighbors, and others to examine the events, identify possible causes, and suggest fixes with a focus on safety and promoting multi modal transportation

5—PennDOT and the MPO must set targets to move toward eliminating traffic deaths.

Thank you for listening to me today. I hope you can make a difference in safety.

#### 4. Executive Director's Report – Rich Fitzgerald, Executive Director

##### Presentation on the 2024 SPC Annual Report

This report does not include every project or accomplishment that SPC made in FY 23-34, but it does highlight a few of the successes that the region should be incredibly proud of. It also demonstrates the robust activities that SPC has undertaken that the general public may not realize came to fruition because of conversations and initiatives that first started here.

As I quickly approach the one year of mark of leading SPC, I am tremendously proud of the staff's work and counties that we are privileged to service. Improving the quality of life for our region's residents and our Commission members. While this type of work does not happen instantaneously, it does take all members to meet regularly and work collaboratively. SPC's work would not be possible without the support of our member counties. Your investment returns a significant economic impact to the region.

Commissioner Sandvig asked that his name be corrected on the list of Allegheny County Commissioners in the Annual Report.

#### 5. Pennsylvania Permits Fast Track Program Overview – DJ Ryan, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Policy

David Wade introduced Pennsylvania's new Fast Track Program to streamline permitting processes. He explained the program's goals to streamline the permitting process. Details the coordination between project sponsors, state agencies, and local partners to create a coordinated project plan. He also emphasized the importance of public engagement and transparency through a dashboard tracking project milestones.

Commissioner Zimmerman expressed concerns about the time it takes to get to the window for project permitting.

Mr. Wade then clarified that the program is designed for projects closer to implementation and emphasized the importance of early preparation.

#### 6. Summary of 2023-2024 Audit Report - Tim Morgus/Michelle Hoke, Maher Duessel, CPAs

Communications to those Charged with Governance  
Single Audit Financial Report  
990 – SWPA Corporation

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

Independent Auditor's Report  
 Management's Discussion and Analysis  
 Fund Financial Statements  
 Revenues up \$7.5M or 67.2% (Grant Activity)  
 Expenditures up \$7.9M or 66.3% (Grant Activity)  
 Negative (\$569,429) general fund balance (overall negative fund balance \$114,639)

Footnotes to the Financial Statements  
 Adopted/Pending accounting standards (FN 2)  
 Loans Payable (FN 11)  
 Supplementary Information – SEFA  
 Reporting by Uniform Guidance

Extended to May 15, 2025  
 Sch A – Supporting Org  
 Sch B - Public Disclosure copy blinds donor names/addresses  
 Sch C – Political, D, J, R and OT

The audit for 2023-2024 revealed a \$569,000 deficit due to new building costs,

7. Financial Report—Ailisa Sobien, Finance Director

In Ms. Sobien's absence, Ms. Liptak reviewed the Financial Report.

FY 24-25	\$22,949,860
Revenue and Expenses	\$ 4,890,230
Percent of Budget	21%

8. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Report - Lillian Gabreski, Director of Transportation Planning

UPWP Report: July 2025-June 2027

Continue Implementation of SmartMoves for a Changing Region and SmartMoves Connections – A  
 Regional Vision for Public Transit Implementation  
 Regional Collaboration and Coordination  
 Pursuing Federal Discretionary Funding for High Priority Infrastructure Projects  
 Local Government Assistance

Funding Summary:

FHWA	\$ 9,818,000
FTA	\$ 2,906,000
PennDOT	\$ 1,366,000
SPC & Other	\$ 1,912,500
TOTAL	\$16,002,500

Overview:

- 2-year contract between PennDOT and SPC
  - Focused yet Flexible
  - 8 Functional Program Areas:
    - Transportation Plans and Programs
    - Regional Transit

- Transportation Demand Management
- Regional Freight Planning
- Operations & Safety
- Data & Modeling
- Strategic Initiatives/Environment
- Outreach & Coordination

Transportation Plans and Programs:

- Long Range Plan Development
- 2025-2028 TIP Administration
- 2027-2030 TIP Development
- 2027-2030 TIP Administration
- Staff support for TTC
- Program Management
- Resiliency Planning
- Technical Assistance

Transit Planning:

- SmartMoves Connections Implementation
- 2027 Transit TIP Development & Maintenance
- Technical Assistance to Transit project sponsors
- Staff support of the TOC

Freight Planning:

- Regional Freight Plan Implementation and update
- Freight Forums and other Communications
- Inland Waterways

Transportation Demand Management:

- TDM Program Expansion, Outreach and Coord.
- Coordination of with TMA's
- Maintenance of CommuteInfo Program and website
- Active Transportation Plan Implementation

Operations and Safety:

- Transportation System Management & Operations
- Regional Operations Plan Update
- Congestion Management Program
- Regional Safety Action Plan Implementation
- Road Safety Audits & Corridor Operations Plans
- Regional Traffic Signal Program
- Traffic Incident Management Program
- ITS Strategic Planning

Data Modeling:

- Travel Demand & Accessibility and Economic Modeling
- Air Quality Modeling
- GIS Data Operations and Maintenance
- Long Range Plan Data Support
- Continue Big Data Utilization and Sharing
- HPMS (traffic counting/inventory)

- Performance Metric Tracking Dashboard Enhancements
- Online Regional Data Center

Outreach and Support Coordination Outreach

- Communications and Outreach
- Public Participation Plan – implementation
- Limited English Proficiency Plan
- Public Participation Panels
- Support TIP and LRP development
- Social Media support of SPC activities and programs
- Continued Website Enhancements

9. Action Item, Resolution 11-24 to approve submission of the 2025-2027 Unified Planning Work Program – Lillian Gabreski, Director of Transportation Planning

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ("SPC") to approve submission of the 2025-2027 Unified Planning Work Program to appropriate funding agencies.

WHEREAS, the 2025-2027 Unified Planning Work Program documents all transportation and transportation-related planning activities to be undertaken within the SPC region from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027; and

WHEREAS, the 2025-2027 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 Pittsburgh Regional Transit 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 2025-2027 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 2025-2027 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 Pittsburgh Regional Transit covering work items delineated in the 2025-2027 Unified Planning Work Program.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 11-24 by Commissioner Sherman which was seconded by Commissioner Innamorato.

10. Update and Discussion of SPC By-laws – Dusty Elias Kirk, Board Solicitor

Ms. Kirk gave a presentation of SPC By-laws. She stated minor changes were made to the SPC By-laws. If the Commissioners have any questions, she will be available help with questions or changes.

11. Action Item, Resolution 12-24 to approve the updated SPC By-Laws - Dusty Elias Kirk, Board Solicitor

The Members of SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION, an unincorporated association (the "Commission"), adopted the following resolutions by the actions of their respective Members in accordance with Article 14 of the Articles of Agreement and Bylaws of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission dated September 12, 2012:

WHEREAS, the Members of the Commission are parties to those certain Articles of Agreement and Bylaws of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission dated September 2012 (the "Original Articles"); and WHEREAS, the Members of the Commission wish to amend and restate in their entirety the Original Articles by adopting in their place those certain Amended and Restated Articles of Agreement and Bylaws, in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A (the "Amended and Restated Articles").

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Amended and Restated Articles, in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, are hereby approved and adopted by the Members, each of them on the respective

A motion was made to approve Resolution 12-24 by Commissioner Sandvig which was seconded by Commissioner Maggi.

12. Other Business

Commissioner Fabian stated that the Nominating Committee will need a new Chair, and as the Chairman he will appoint the new Chair from a member of his County. He will have the name of the new Chair by the August or October Commission meeting.

**Since the Annual Meeting was fulfilled on February 26, 2024, there is no cause for an Annual Meeting this year.**

13. Reminder on the Next Meeting Date – February 24, 2025

14. Adjourn – 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy McClure  
Secretary-Treasurer