

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
Full Commission | Meeting Minutes
June 23, 2025
4 p.m.
The Terminal
42 21st Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

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

Members: Darin Alviano, Tony Amadio, Brad Berlin, Gil Berry, Kevin Boozel, Douglas Chew, Mark Critz, Jesse DiRenna, Bonni Dunlap, Scott Dunn, Jared Edgreen, Pat Fabian, Kim Geyer, Aadil Ginwala, Sheila Gombita, Kelly Gray, Bob Griffin, Dan Grzybek, Sherene Hess, Mark Hillard, Charles Jones, Fred Junko, Katharine Kelleman, Jeremy Kelly, Dan Kennedy, Sean Kertes, Brandon Leach, Bob Lesnick; Larry Maggi, Jack Manning, Jeff Marshall, Betsy McClure, Amy McKinney, Kristin Mulkerin, Don Myers, Leslie Osche, Joylette Portlock, Johnna Pro, Chris Sainato, Chris Sandvig, Byron Stauffer, Anthony Shea, Kelly Shroads, Laura Sohinki, John Strate, Vince Vicites, Barb Warwick, Jason Zang, and Blair Zimmerman.

Others: Lauren DeDomenic, Sara Innamorato's Office, Mavis Rainey; OMTA, Jessa Kinter; Armstrong County, Jason Rigone, Westmoreland County Department of Economic Development, Lisa Frank, Ed Gainey's Office, Chuck Kolling and Pam Snyder; Buchanan Ingersoll and Rooney; and Dusty Kirk, Reed Smith LLP

Staff: Bel Ayele, Kristin Baum, Mary Brangan, Kirk Brethauer, Melissa Brown, Faith Collins, Ronda Craig, Tiffany Cummings, Yingjie Feng, Julia Ferri, Mason Fish, Rich Fitzgerald, Lillie Gabreski, Ryan Gordon, Chuck Imbrogno, Jenn Lasser, Caleb Leechilla, Jen Liptak, Nick Mannone, Jeremy Papay, DJ Ryan, Mason Secreti, Evan Schoss, Greg Shermeto, Ailisa Sobien, Devon White, and Megan Zelch

1. Chairman Fabian called to order the June 23, 2025 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 April 28, 2025 Meeting.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the April 28th meeting by Commissioner McClure which was seconded by Commissioner Sainato. The motion was unanimous.

3. Public Comment – None.
4. Executive Director's Report – Rich Fitzgerald, Executive Director
 - NFL Draft Meetings Continue
 - US Steel and Nippon deal closed June 18th
 - Heartland Fabrication tour
 - Sen. McCormick event with President Trump at CMU
 - **July 15th**
 - DC Fly-In with Allegheny Conference
 - **September 16th and 17th**
 - Governor's Office of Transformation and Opportunity
 - DOT Certifications (FTA Completed; FHWA next month)

5. Transportation Report—Lillian Gabreski, Director of Transportation

Ms. Gabreski gave an update on the Transportation Department Activities:

- Long Range Plan Kick-Off – for June 2027 adoption
- SR 21 PennDOT Study
- FTA Triennial Review
- FHWA/FTA Certification Review – July 30th/31st
- 2027 TIP Update & Competitive Programs – for June 2026 adoption

Ms. Gabreski discussed beginning of long process involving LRP update, which will be adopted in June 2027. If you have any questions about that workshop or would like to follow up on any points please reach out to us. We are working on identifying emerging forces and key trends and will be coming back to the Commission with a report to share in late summer/early fall.

SPC staff attended with the Fayette and Greene county Commissioners PennDOT's kickoff meeting for the SR 21 study. This study will examine solutions to addressing safety concerns along the entire route 21 corridor.

SPC had the exit interview last week for our FTA Triennial Review. It was a very positive and comprehensive process conducted by FTA's consultant group, Milligan, and they offered us technical assistance in addition to the review areas including on areas like the 2026 NFL Draft. This review addressed funding that covers our commute info program as well as the funding we provide to the TMAs.

Concurrently to the FTA Triennial Review process, we have been in the middle of our FHWA/FTA Certification Review process. We've submitted all relevant documentation to FHWA for our desk review and will be hosting the FHWA team for a site review on July 30th and 31st. As part of that process we, will be hosting a meeting to discuss the FHWA Review and the work that SPC has been doing over the last three years so we welcome your attendance at that meeting and will follow up once it has been schedule.

Ms. Gabreski gave more detail on the 2027 TIP Update which has also just begun. Ryan has been working closely with planning directors on getting tip project lists in order and scheduling work group meetings. Important to note here because it's a bit confusing with the dates – the TIP will be presented for adoption in June of 2026, and the LRP will be presented for adoption in June 2027. They are both called 2027 since the TIP covers fiscal year 2027 but the LRP is produced in the year 2027. Once we have an end year set up for our LRP (most likely 2050) we will refer to it as that but wanted to provide some clarity in the meantime.

SPC Competitive Programs

- Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Programs (TASA)
- SPC Congestion Management and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program
- SPC Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)

The current Transportation Act IIJA is due to expire prior to the start of the 2027 TIP. All awarded funding is tentative until new Transportation Act is passed.

Ms. Gabreski explained these are the categories of funding that projects are eligible to receive when they apply to our competitive funding programs. Please note that SPC has a TASA program and the state has a TASA program – these are separate programs but we encourage you to apply for both to maximize your chances of receiving funding. All of our 3 programs have been streamlined into one application to make it easier for applicants, we will match projects based on eligibility and scoring to the funding source that makes sense.

Please note that while we need to undertake this process now so we are ready to use funding when it is available, the current transportation act is due to expire on September 30, 2026 and the ultimate availability of these funds is subject to the passing of the new bill.

Next Steps

- Applicants work on getting their pre-applications in to SPC by (7/17/25 deadline).
- SPC Staff will work to prepare detailed applications for distribution to qualified applicants by end of July.
- SPC staff will be assembling the selection committee and reserving three meeting dates.
- SPC staff will be answering questions from prospective applicants.

6. ACTION ITEM on Resolution 08-25 to Adopt the Active Transportation Plan Update – Lillian Gabreski, Director of Transportation

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ("SPC") to adopt the 2025 Regional Active Transportation Plan for Southwestern Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, pursuant to federal requirements, SPC conducts active transportation planning studies as part of the metropolitan transportation planning process, the results of which are considered for incorporation into the Long- Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); and

WHEREAS, in 2024-2025, SPC conducted planning to produce an update to the 2019 Regional Active Transportation Plan for Southwestern Pennsylvania - pursuant to the 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for SPC; and

WHEREAS, the updated 2025 Regional Active Transportation Plan for Southwestern Pennsylvania serves as a policy guide, and provides tools for future planning and implementation of bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the Southwestern Pennsylvania region; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Regional Active Transportation Plan for Southwestern Pennsylvania has been developed with ongoing involvement and input from the SPC Active Transportation Forum (ATF) comprised of representatives from local governments, bicycle and pedestrian interest groups, federal and state agencies, and the general public;

WHEREAS, the 2025 Active Transportation Plan for Southwestern Pennsylvania is presented as an interactive web application that includes updated goals and objectives, multimodal network analyses, and a suite of web-based tools and resources to advance the region's goal of developing safe, comfortable, and connected bicycle and pedestrian transportation networks; and

WHEREAS, the Plan also includes descriptions of local multimodal plans and policies recommended for implementation to advance development of an integrated transportation system that provides mobility for all throughout the Southwestern Pennsylvania region, and it supports implementation of SPC's adopted Complete Streets Policy; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Regional Active Transportation Plan for Southwestern Pennsylvania has been evaluated by appropriate technical and review processes consistent with adopted procedures.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that SPC adopts the 2025 Regional Active Transportation Plan for Southwestern Pennsylvania as the regional policy guide for bicycle and pedestrian planning in the Southwestern Pennsylvania Region.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 08-25 by Commissioner McClure which was seconded by Commissioner Sainato. The motion was unanimous.

7. ACTION ITEM on Resolution 09-25 to Adopt a Regional Safety Action Plan, Lillian Gabreski, Director of Transportation

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION (SPC) to approve and adopt the 2025 update of the "Southwestern Pennsylvania Regional Transportation Safety Action Plan."

WHEREAS, SPC is the designated metropolitan transportation planning organization for the 10-county region of Southwestern Pennsylvania, whose boundaries align with the Commonwealth's coordinated plan and transportation planning region, and

WHEREAS, our region has experienced traffic-related fatalities and suspected serious injuries over the decades, and in 2015, SPC developed the Regional Safety Action Plan (RSAP) to create a framework for reducing these incidents across Southwestern Pennsylvania. In 2020, the plan was updated on a five-year cycle; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 Congress passed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) to authorize funds for federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, transit programs, and for other purposes; and

WHEREAS, the BIL established the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary program; and

WHEREAS, to be eligible for implementation funds through SS4A, projects and strategies to address roadway safety must be identified in a Safety Action Plan that is holistic and well-defined, which can be infrastructure, behavioral, or operational activities in nature; and

WHEREAS, SPC's public outreach during this update of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Regional Transportation Safety Action Plan complies with Federal guidance; and

WHEREAS, notice of the Draft Plan was published online, and in various locations in our planning area, for a ten (10) day period to allow the public opportunity to review and comment on the plan prior to consideration by the Commission; and

WHEREAS the Transportation Technical Committee has reviewed the plan and has recommended approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Members of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission adopt and approve this 2025 update of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Regional Transportation Safety Action Plan.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 09-25 by Commissioner Kennedy which was seconded by Commissioner Shea. The motion was unanimous.

8. ACTION ITEM on Resolution 10-25 to amend the Unified Planning Work Program, Lillian Gabreski, Director of Transportation

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ("SPC") to amend the SPC 2025-2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to include the Regional Freight Plan.

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); and

WHEREAS, upon request to PennDOT Central Office, the SPC was approved for supplemental funding for the Regional Freight Plan with an anticipated completion date of June 30, 2027; and

WHEREAS, this planning project must be included on an approved Unified Planning Work Program before federal funding can be approved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission approves revisions to the 2025-2027 Unified Planning Work Program as requested; and

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, 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 10-25 by Commissioner McClure which was seconded by Commissioner Vicites. The motion was unanimous.

9. Strategic Initiatives Update – DJ Ryan, Director of Communications and Strategic Initiatives

Mr. Ryan updated the Commission on the Communication's Department Activities:

Broadband Update

- NTIA Issued new guidance on June 6th revising the BEAD program
- Elimination of original requirements related to:
 - Labor, Employment, and Workforce Development
 - Climate Change
 - Open Access and Net Neutrality
 - Local Coordination and Stakeholder Engagement
 - Non-Traditional Broadband Providers
 - Middle Class Affordability
 - Low-Cost Service Option
- Technology neutrality – specifically eliminating provisions that prioritized end-to-end fiber over wireless technologies
- A new round of selections to allow for applicants that now qualify
- Creation of new scoring rubrics to reflect changes
- Revision of locations marked as unserved, underserved, or community anchor institutions
- Elimination of certain non-deployment funding (likely administrative costs)
- Rescinding of prior policy notices that no longer comply with changes mentioned above
- PBDA issued memo on June 13th
- All round one BEAD applications are deferred
- New round two - "Benefit of the Bargain"
- Submitted applications will be rescored using updated scoring system
- Applicants will have the opportunity to revise their applications
- Final proposal for PA due to NTIA in 90 days

Strategic Initiatives Update

- Harrisburg trip was a huge success – thank you Commissioners!
 - Budget process is ongoing
 - Several bills have passed in one chamber but not the other
 - Transit and road/bridge funding are being discussed together

- County Commissioners: DC Fly-In with Allegheny Conference
 - **September 16th and 17th, 2025**

10. Workforce and Economic Development Report – Jenn Lasser, Director of Workforce and Economic Development

Ms. Lasser provided updates on small business support and export assistance:

- Federal Funding Uncertainty
 - Grants/Funding TBD
 - Business Finance
 - Loans for next FY
 - 2M+ in pipeline
 - Export
 - Fancy Food Show NYC
 - Export
 - Changes to Procurement Grants
 - Water Resource Center
 - Chartiers Creek
 - Army Corps
 - PREP/Engage
 - Year-end Close Out/Reporting
 - EDA Planning
 - Year-end Close Out/Reporting
 - Community Capacity
 - Program Close Out/Reporting
 - DCED – PREP/Engage
 - Waiting on RFP/Dollars
 - ARC – Grant Season Kicks off!
-
- Area Development Grants:
 - Non-Construction Projects that can fund implementation and planning grants
 - Strong focus on economic development related outcomes
 - Construction Projects
 - Require a cost estimate, preliminary engineering report, and a Basic Federal Agency or Registered State Basic Agency agreement are required with submission of Executive Summary.
 - Local Access Road Grants – serve industrial and commercial areas, residential developments, recreational areas and educational areas.
 - Require cost estimate, preliminary engineering report, and a RSBA letter from PennDOT (or similar agreement)
 - Smaller funding pot for whole state – very competitive
 - Build Back Better
 - New RECO
 - 15 months remaining
 - Thousands Trained
 - Data Collection (new)
 - Building Capacity
 - Working to secure additional dollars
 - Working to communicate with legislators on importance of LDD/EDD activities

- Workforce
 - Meeting with industry
 - Working with educational partners
 - Connecting to WIBs, CareerLinks and support programs
 - Brainstorming regional data and programming ideas to meet needs
- Connecting Stakeholders
 - Office of Transformation & Opportunity Visit
 - June 6, 2025 @ SPC Offices
 - 10 County - EDOs and Planning Directors
 - Connect with OTO Team
 - Discuss challenges and opportunities
 - Happy to have follow-on event for elected officials if needed

11. ACTION ITEM on Resolution 11-25 to Adopt a Meeting Schedule for FY 2025-2026 – Rich Fitzgerald, Executive Director

A RESOLUTION to adopt a Meeting Schedule for 2025-2026.

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Sunshine Law Title 65 requires that a Schedule of all Commission and Executive Committee Meetings for the fiscal year be adopted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission adopts the following Meeting Schedule.

SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION MEETINGS

2025	2026
August 25	February 23
October 27	April 27
December 15	June 22

A motion was made to approve Resolution 11-25 by Commissioner McClure which was seconded by Commissioner Kennedy. The motion was unanimous.

12. Other Business

13. Reminder on Next Meeting Date (August 25, 2025)

14. Adjourn – 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy McClure
Secretary-Treasurer