

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
Full Commission | Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2025
4 p.m.
The Terminal
42 21st Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

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

Members: Darin Alviano, Tony Amadio, Brad Berlin, Kevin Boozel, Scott Bricker, Tom Ceraso, Douglas Chew, Jesse DiRenna, Bonni Dunlap, Scott Dunn, Jared Edgreen, Pat Fabian, Kim Geyer, Aadil Ginwala, Sheila Gombita, Mark Gordon, Kelly Gray, Bob Griffin, Dan Grzybek, Sherene Hess, Mark Hillard, Sara Innamorato, Charles Jones, Fred Junko, Dutch Kaufman, Katharine Kelleman, Jeremy Kelly, Dan Kennedy, Sean Kertes, Brandon Leach, Bob Lesnick; Jack Manning, Jeff Marshall, Betsy McClure, Kristin Mulkerin, Leslie Osche, Johnna Pro, Chris Sainato, Chris Sandvig, Anthony Shea, Nick Sherman, Laura Sohinki, Byron Stauffer, John Strate, John Timney, Vince Vicites and Blair Zimmerman

Others: Mavis Rainey; OMTA; Jason Rigone, Westmoreland County Department of Economic Development; Chuck Kolling, Buchanan Ingersoll and Rooney; Dusty Kirk, Reed Smith LLP.

Staff: Bel Ayele, Kristin Baum, Mary Brangan, Kirk Brethauer, Melissa Brown, Faith Collins, Ronda Craig, Tiffany Cummings, Mason Fish, Rich Fitzgerald, Lillie Gabreski, Ryan Gordon, Nancy Hirsh, Chuck Imbrogno, Jenn Lasser, Jen Liptak, Jeremy Papay, DJ Ryan, Mason Secreti, Evan Schoss, Ailisa Sobien, and Devon White.

1. Chairman Fabian called to order the December 15, 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 October 27, 2025 Meeting.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2025 meeting by Commissioner Strate which was seconded by Commissioner Amadio. The motion was unanimous.

3. Presentation of 2025-2026 Annual Audit Report –Maher Duessel, CPAs

Ms. Hoke from Maher Duessel, CPAs stated our responsibilities under Auditing Standards Generally Accepted in the United State of America, Government Auditing Standards and Uniform Guidance.

- Significant Accounting Policies
 - Adoption of GASB 101 “Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions,”
 - Government-wide net position impact - decrease of \$342,886
- Accounting Estimates
- Sensitive Disclosures
- Other communications
 - No difficulties encountered in performing the audit
 - No material misstatements

- No disagreements with management
- Will obtain required management representations
- No management consultations with other accountants
- ☐ Independent Auditor's Report
- ☐ Management's Discussion and Analysis
- ☐ Financial Fund Statements
 - Revenues up \$1.3M or 7.2% (Grant Activity)
 - Expenditures up \$1.8M or 9.4% (Grant Activity)
 - Negative (\$839,892) general fund balance (overall negative fund balance \$385,102) the dues increase will help remedy these issues.
- ☐ Footnotes to the Financial Statements
 - Adopted/Pending accounting standards (FN 2)
 - Promissory Note Payable (FN 8)
 - Loans Payable (FN 12)
 - Supplementary Information – Schedule of Federal Awards
 - Reporting by Uniform Guidance
- ☐ 990 – SWPA Corporation
 - Sch A – Supporting Org
 - Sch B - Public Disclosure copy blinds donor names/addresses
 - Sch C – Lobbying Activities
 - Sch D – Footnotes to 990
 - Sch J – Compensation Information
 - Sch R – Related Organizations
 - Sch O - Misc

4. Executive Directors Report – Rich Fitzgerald, Executive Director

- Highlighted the recent opening of the airport and the upcoming NFL Draft, which will benefit the tourism industry.
- The PPP-TIP meetings are ongoing, and the next four-year transportation plan is being developed.
- Funding announcements include \$39 million for 11 projects statewide, with significant investments in Allegheny County.

5. Transportation Planning Update — Lillie Gabreski, Director of Transportation

- DOT TMA Certification Review – Draft Report Finalized
- 2027 TIP Development
 - Draft TIP is close to completion
 - 18 TIP Work Group Meetings, 3 more in February
 - 10 TIP Public Meetings
 - Competitive Programs Complete
- Allegheny County Safety Action Plan – Second round of public outreach – plan complete by Spring 2026
- Transportation Engineering and Safety Conference Presentations
- Human Services Coordinated Plan Implementation
- Regional Trail Capacity & Needs Assessment Study

Public Meeting Schedule

- Armstrong County, Sept. 25
- Lawrence County, Sept. 29
- Fayette County, Oct. 7
- Washington County, Oct. 9
- Indiana County, Oct. 21
- Greene County, Oct. 23
- Beaver County, Oct. 28
- Allegheny County & City of Pittsburgh, Nov. 3
- Westmoreland County, Nov. 20
- Butler County, Dec. 3

Long Range Plan

- May 16th Long Range Plan Kickoff Meeting
- Executive Committee affirms direction of 2027 Long Range Plan
- First Task-> Identify existing conditions, key trends, emerging forces to plan for strategies and goals of next Long-Range Plan
- Second Task -> Convene Expert Panels to develop strategies to address Emerging Forces

Emerging Forces and Key Trends

- Emerging Forces/Expert Panel Focus Areas:
 - Socioeconomic
 - Population, Jobs
 - Land Use / Development
 - Housing, Infrastructure, Environmental/Resiliency
 - Technology
 - EV/AV, Broadband, AI, Data Centers
 - Funding
 - Shortfalls, PPPs, Discretionary Grants
 - Transportation
 - Safety, Micromobility, Asset Management, Transit

Developing Strategies

- Next Step: Convening of expert panels to start to plan for strategies that can be deployed to address the emerging forces the team has identified.
- These strategies and ultimately goals will shape the projects selected for the Long Range Plan, TIP, and all other SPC programs.
- Five Expert Panels for the corresponding Five Emerging Forces Categories – let us know which expert panel you would like to participate in
- Currently Underway:
 - Task 1: Identify members of expert panels
 - Task 2: Identify Locations and Dates for Expert Panel Meetings and Public Workshop

Long-Range Plan Timeline

- **October 2025:** SPC Executive Committee Briefing
- **December 2025:** SPC Commission Briefing
- **March 2026:** Expert Resource Panel Meeting 1
- **April 2026:** Survey 1
- **May 2026:** Expert Resource Panel Meeting 2
- **July 2026:** Public Workshop
- **October – November 2026:** Fall Public Meetings and Survey 2
- **April - May 2027:** Spring Public Meetings

- **June 2027:** Long Range Plan Adoption

- a. Action on Resolution 14-25: TIP LRP Amendment, Road Widening Project – Rochester Road

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION to amend the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (*SmartMoves for a Changing Region*) and the fiscally constrained 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include funding to start the project to widen Rochester Road (SR 3022) between Haine School Road and Thompson Drive in Cranberry Township, Butler County to five lanes.

WHEREAS, Federal transportation law (Section 134 of Title 23 U.S.C. and Section 5303 of Title 49 U.S.C.) and metropolitan transportation planning regulations (Parts 450.324 and 450.326 of Title 23 C.F.R.) require that Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) conduct a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process and develop and maintain a Long-Range Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program that conform with various Federal requirements;

WHEREAS, PennDOT has proposed amendments to the 2025-2028 TIP and 2050 Long Range Plan to widen Rochester Road (SR 3022) between Haine School Road and Thompson Drive in Cranberry Township, Butler County to five lanes, including widening to five lanes under the PA Turnpike's Rochester Road Bridge, and including pedestrian/bike facilities on Rochester Road and replacement of the existing structure carrying Rochester Road over Brush Creek; and

WHEREAS, the region's TIP and Long-Range Plan need to be amended, and the region's air quality conformity assessment needs to be updated before the project can begin construction;

WHEREAS, implementation of these projects will require various federal approvals by the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), thereby requiring that the projects be included on the adopted TIP and Plan;

WHEREAS the proposed TIP and Plan amendments will maintain overall Plan and TIP fiscal balance and will not interfere with the implementation of any projects, commitments, or requirements of applicable air quality State Implementation Plans (SIPs);

WHEREAS, SPC has conducted qualitative and quantitative air quality conformity analysis consistent with the applicable criteria and procedures of the Clean Air Act and the Transportation Conformity Rule (40 CFR Part 93), and has demonstrated that the amended Plan and 2025-2028 TIP conform with the Clean Air Act;

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments and the results of the air quality conformity analysis were made available for public review and comment consistent with SPC's established public review procedures from November 3, 2025 through December 2, 2025 including one public meeting which was held virtually on November 17, 2025; WHEREAS, documentation of the public review and comment period, public comments received on the conformity analysis and the proposed Plan and TIP amendments, and responses to comments have been compiled and presented to the Commission;

WHEREAS, the finding of conformity with the Clean Air Act for the amended 2025-2028 TIP and Plan is made SPC Resolution 15-25; and

WHEREAS, SPC's Transportation Technical Committee, at its December 11th, 2025 meeting, reviewed the TIP/LRP amendment requests and unanimously recommended Commission approval;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwestern Pennsylvania

Commission approves the requests made by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to amend the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (*SmartMoves for a Changing Region*) and the fiscally constrained 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include funding to start the project to widen Rochester Road (SR 3022) between Haine School Road and Thompson Drive in Cranberry Township, Butler County to five lanes.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 14-25 by Commissioner Vicites which was seconded by Commissioner Osche. The motion was unanimous.

b. Action on Resolution 15-25: Air Quality Conformity Amendment

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION to make a finding of conformity that proposed amendments to the region's fiscally constrained 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Pittsburgh Transportation Management Area (TMA) and the 2050 Transportation Plan (a component of *SmartMoves for a Changing Region*) are consistent with the requirements of the federal Clean Air Act.

WHEREAS, the federal Clean Air Act authorizes the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), to define the boundaries of areas not in attainment of the Standards, and to establish criteria and procedures for attaining and maintaining the Standards; and

WHEREAS, the EPA requires conformity assessments for three nonattainment and maintenance areas in the SPC planning region for the 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS; these include the Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley nonattainment area (comprised of the seven counties: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland); the Greene County maintenance area (comprised of Greene County in its entirety); and the Clearfield-Indiana maintenance area (comprised of Clearfield County, which is outside of SPC's planning area, and Indiana County which is within SPC's planning area); and

WHEREAS, the EPA requires conformity assessments for four nonattainment areas in the SPC planning region for the PM 2.5 NAAQS; these include the Liberty-Clairton nonattainment area (comprised of five municipalities within Allegheny County); the Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley nonattainment area (comprised of Beaver, Butler, Washington, and Westmoreland counties in their entirety and portions of Allegheny, Armstrong, Greene, and Lawrence counties); the Allegheny County nonattainment area (comprised of Allegheny County in its entirety); and the Johnstown nonattainment area (comprised of portions of Indiana County within SPC's planning area, and all of Cambria County which is in the planning area of the Johnstown MPO); and

WHEREAS, the EPA, in the Transportation Conformity Rule (40 CFR Part 93), provides criteria and procedures to be followed by Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in making conformity determinations regarding transportation plans, programs, and projects within designated nonattainment and maintenance areas; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Conformity Rule and Sections 174, 176(c), and 176(d) of the federal Clean Air Act (Sections 7504, 7506(c), and 7506(d) of Title 42 USC) require that the MPO not approve any plan, program, or project which does not conform with the Act; and

WHEREAS, the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC), as the MPO for the Pittsburgh Transportation Management Area, is responsible under Section 134 of Title 23 USC and Section 5303 of Title 49 USC for carrying out a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process; Section 174 of the federal Clean Air Act

designates this same organization as responsible for the transportation-related air quality planning within designated nonattainment and maintenance areas to achieve and maintain NAAQS; and

WHEREAS the Transportation Conformity Rule identifies projects and project types which are “exempt” from regional conformity analysis; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Conformity Rule requires a new finding of conformity by the MPO prior to an MPO action to adopt or amend the Transportation Plan or TIP when that action involves projects or project types which are not "exempt" from regional conformity analysis, or prior to any federal action to approve project designs, environmental documents, or other aspects of “non-exempt” projects that are not required to be programmed on the regional Plan or TIP; and

WHEREAS, PennDOT has proposed “non-exempt” amendments to the 2025-2028 TIP and 2050 Long Range Plan to widen Rochester Road (SR 3022) between Haine School Road and Thompson Drive in Cranberry Township, Butler County to five lanes, including widening to five lanes under the PA Turnpike’s Rochester Road Bridge, and including pedestrian/bike facilities on Rochester Road and replacement of the existing structure carrying Rochester Road over Brush Creek; and

WHEREAS, SPC staff has conducted a qualitative and quantitative analysis for the designated PM 2.5 and 8-Hour Ozone nonattainment and maintenance areas within the SPC region in accordance with the applicable criteria and procedures of the federal Clean Air Act and the Transportation Conformity Rule, and has demonstrated that the amended 2025-2028 TIP and the 2050 Transportation Plan conform to the Clean Air Act; and

WHEREAS, the results of the conformity analysis were widely available for public review and comment consistent with SPC’s established public review procedures from November 3, 2025 through December 2, 2025 including one public meeting which was held virtually on November 17, 2025; responses to all public comments have been compiled and made available to Commission members for review.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission finds that the region’s fiscally constrained 2025-2028 TIP and the 2050 Transportation Plan as amended to include the Rochester Road widening project conform to the federal Clean Air Act by supporting its intention of achieving and maintaining the NAAQS;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the region’s amended 2025-2028 TIP and 2050 Transportation Plan are consistent with the federal Clean Air Act and Transportation Conformity Rule; no goals, directives, recommendations, or projects in the region’s Long Range Plan or TIP contradict in a negative manner any specific requirements or commitments of the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP);

RESOLVED FURTHER that assessment of the designated PM 2.5 and 8-Hour Ozone nonattainment and maintenance areas within the SPC region demonstrates that the transportation plans, programs, and projects for those areas conform to the provisions of the federal Clean Air Act and the applicable criteria and procedures of the Transportation Conformity Rule.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 15-25 by Commissioner Osche which was seconded by Commissioner McClure. The motion was unanimous.

6. Strategic Initiatives Report—DJ Ryan, Director of Communications and Strategic Initiatives

Mr. Ryan gave an update on Strategi Initiatives:

- Mr. Ryan provided an update on the newsletter refresh and the importance of sharing community news and press releases.
- The freight plan is being updated, with a focus on safety, efficiency, and reliability.
- The CPRG program is ongoing, with meetings held in every county and community festivals attended.
- The Broadband Program is moving to an implementation phase, with a preliminary map approved.
- The EV infrastructure survey results are being compiled, and additional EV chargers will be proposed for community centers.

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

Water Resource Center

- Army Corps Project
- CPRG Report Closeout

PREP/Engage

- Loans
- Export
- Gov. Contracting

Community Outreach

- Presentations & attendance

DCED PREP/Engage

- Gathering partner budgets and FY25/26 Invite

EDA Planning

- CEDS Process/LRP

Rural Health Care Collaborative Funding

- Process TBD

Preparing for January Reporting

- EDA, ARC, DCED

Build Back Better

- 9 months remaining
- Thousands Trained
- Robotics & AI Discovery Day- November 5, 2025

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

Data Centers

- How can SPC assist with data, information etc.
- Ms. Lasser proposed a visit to a local Data Center

Mon Valley Alliance Economic Symposium

- Driving Economic Potential Through Collaboration
- October 31 @ CSF Bank Event Center

- Annual event - hosted by MVA
- Speakers included Rich Fitzgerald (SPC), Jamie Colecchi (MVA) and others
- Panel featuring Senator Camera Bartolotta and Senator Pat Stefano moderated by John Timney (ACCED)

Robotics Day

- November 5, 2025
- PRN organized and hosted
- SPC staff volunteered
- Robots, booths, panel discussions and data overviews from experts
- Workforce Meeting held during event – on needed skill sets
- New zone added with tours for K-12
- Even larger than last year est. 5000 in attendance

Rural Health Conference

- November 20, 2025
- Hosted by IRMC and IUP
- Presentations, panels and data regarding rural health needs, opportunities and challenges
- Legislative Update Panel
- Attendees from across the state

8. ACTION ITEM - Resolution 16-25 to Honor the services of Mayor Ed Gainey – Commissioner Pat Fabian, SPC Chair

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION (SPC) to Honor the Services of Mayor Ed Gainey.

WHEREAS, Mayor Ed Gainey has served as the City of Pittsburgh’s representative on the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission and as a Member of its Executive Committee;

WHEREAS, he also served as a Member of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation and its Board of Directors;

WHEREAS, his participation has furthered the Commission’s role as a forum for cooperative planning and decision-making in Southwestern Pennsylvania;

WHEREAS, his commitment as a public representative is appreciated by the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Commission wishes to recognize his contribution on behalf of the residents of the City of Pittsburgh and the Southwestern Pennsylvania region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Officers, Members and Staff of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission offer their appreciation for his years of service and anticipate his continuing interest in the work of the agency in the years ahead.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 16-25 by Commissioner Sandvig which was seconded by Commissioner Vicites. The motion was unanimous.

9. ACTION ITEM -Resolution 17-25 to Honor the services of Outgoing Chair Commissioner Pat Fabian – Commissioner Vince Vicites, SPC Vice Chair

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION to honor the services of outgoing Chairman Commissioner Pat Fabian.

WHEREAS, Commissioner Pat Fabian has served ably as Chairman of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission and its Executive Committee for calendar years 2024 and 2025;

WHEREAS, he also Chaired and served on the Board of Directors of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation and its Audit Committee;

WHEREAS, he brought his skills, experience, enthusiasm and good will to the deliberations of the Commission;

WHEREAS, he was a tireless advocate for SPC to speak with one voice as a region to both state and federal legislators; and

WHEREAS, he gave generously of his time to the residents of Armstrong County and to the Southwestern Pennsylvania region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Officers, Members and Staff of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission offer their appreciation for his years of service and anticipate his continuing interest in the work of the agency in the years ahead.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 17-25 by Commissioner Strate which was seconded by Commissioner Kertes. The motion was unanimous.

10. Report of Nominating Committee – Darin Alviano, Nominating Committee Chair

a. Action on Resolution 18-25 to Elect an Executive Committee

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION to elect the following members to the Executive Committee for calendar years 2026 and 2027.

- Allegheny County, Sara Innamorato
- City of Pittsburgh, Corey O'Connor (Effective January 5th, 2026)
- Armstrong County, Pat Fabian
- Beaver County, Tony Amadio
- Butler County, Leslie Osche
- Fayette County, Vince Vicites
- Greene County, Betsy McClure
- Indiana County, Bonni Dunlap
- Lawrence County, Daniel Kennedy
- Washington County, Nick Sherman
- Westmoreland County, Sean Kertes
- PennDOT, Kristin Mulkerin
- Governor's Appointee, Laura Ainsman Sohinki
- Department of Community and Economic Development, Johnna Pro
- SPC Executive Director, Rich Fitzgerald, ex officio

A motion was made to approve Resolution 18-25 by Commissioner Osche which was seconded by Commissioner Dunlap. The motion was unanimous.

b. Action on Resolution 19-25 to Elect Officers of the Commission for years 2026 and 2027

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION to elect Officers for calendar years 2026 and 2027.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following persons be and the same hereby are elected to serve as Officers of the Commission in the capacity set forth opposite their name below, effective January 1st, 2026:

- Vince Vicites, Chair

- Betsy McClure, Vice-Chair,
- Bonni Dunlap, Secretary-Treasurer

A motion was made to approve Resolution 19-25 by Commissioner Boozel which was seconded by Commissioner Chew. The motion was unanimous.

11. Other Business

Chairman Fabian explained that immediately following adjournment of this meeting, we will go into the Annual Meeting of the Corporation Members. They will meet to elect the Board of Directors of the Corporation. Following that meeting, the new Board of Directors will meet briefly to elect Officers.

12. Reminder on Next Meeting Date (February 23, 2026)

13. Adjourn – 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy McClure
Secretary-Treasurer