

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
Full Commission | Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2026
4 p.m.
The Terminal
42 21st Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

The one hundred and seventy-eighth meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission was called to order by Vice Chair Commissioner McClure.

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

Others: Rich Krajovic, Dewberry; Jason Rigone, Westmoreland County Department of Economic Development; Chuck Kolling and Erin Malchany, Buchanan Ingersoll and Rooney; Dusty Kirk, Reed Smith LLP.

Staff: Cate Aaron, 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, Daniel Kukula, Jenn Lasser, Jen Liptak, Jeremy Papay, Faith Pelesky, DJ Ryan, Mason Secreti, Evan Schoss, Ailisa Sobien, and Devon White.

1. Vice Chair Commission McClure 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 from December 15, 2025 meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2025 meeting by Commissioner Fabian which was seconded by Commissioner Osche The motion was unanimous.

3. Public Comment - None

4. Executive Directors Report – Rich Fitzgerald, Executive Director

- Mr. Fitzgerald stated:
- NFL Draft Preparation Continues
 - County Commissioner Briefing
 - Meetings with regional transit agencies
- Announced Long-Range Plan expert panel sessions
 - First one is March 23rd in Harmony, Butler County
 - All SPC Commissioners are encouraged to attend
- Appointed to State Transportation Commission
- Governor's Budget Address in Harrisburg
 - Monitoring and will provide updates at future meetings as budget process continues
- Commissioners Harrisburg Trip

- Rescheduled for June 1st-2nd
- New Economy Collaborative Event
 - BBB Review
- Annual Report Overview

Report available online and in print today

Represents of thousands of hours of work by our staff, commissioners, and public participation panelists

Events and meetings in every county

- Westmoreland last week

Robust public engagement

- 330 Public Participation Panelists
- More than 130 individual touches in the community, mostly at established events
- NEVI Vehicle Survey
- CPRG Public Feedback
- Updated Public Participation Plan

We want to be in your communities – please continue to invite us!

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

Mr. Ryan gave a Strategic Initiative update on FY 24-25 Annual Report:

- Report covers July 1st, 2024-June 30th, 2025
- Toplines:
 - For every \$1 invested by SPC members, **\$128,222.30** was returned in transportation projects alone
 - Total of **\$1.1B** in transportation projects last year
 - 19 poor bridges let for construction
 - 113 good/fair bridges let for construction
 - 63 miles of resurfacing (excluding local projects)
- Economic Development
 - Over **\$27M** awarded to region through economic development programs
 - 1,124 companies served
 - Over 700 jobs created through Keystone Opportunity Zones and Contract Assistance Programs
- Regional Export Network
 - Over \$58M in sales in FY 24-25

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

Ms. Gabreski highlighted in her update that the draft TIP: FTA and BPT are currently reviewing our draft list of projects. Simultaneously, we're scheduling meetings with operators to ensure the sections on transit compliance are prepared.

NFL Draft: The NFL/Steelers and the Draft Transportation Committee met with TOC last week. We're holding 1-on-1 meetings with Operators this week and next, with another group meeting scheduled for Thursday. SPC will have more info on the exact service the operators are intending on running after that. We still plan to use that to provide "traveling to county" flyers/ads.

Butler: The Preliminary Service Alignment Report for Butler Transit Authority has been released. BTA is using this to apply for a BPT Technical Assistance Grant. We're hopeful that together this could lead to additional frequency on routes in Butler Township.

- **Safety**
 - **Allegheny County Safety Action Plan** – Draft release for public review imminent
 - Mapping of HIN/HRN
 - SPC hosting pilot test for the new Road Safety Audit (RSA) process proposed as part of ongoing research under the National Highway Cooperative Research Program (NCHRP 17-125). Identified corridor is the corridor is **National Pike between US 119 and Canistra Road in Uniontown, PA**
 - SPC RSAs for 2026:
 - District 10: SR 22 Blairsville from 217 to Snyder Lane
 - District 11: Kennywood Boulevard from Mifflin Street to Wylie Ave
 - District 12: SR 51 SR 201 to Northgate Highway (two parts)
 -
 - The SPC received a USDOT grant under the Safe Streets and Roads for All, or SS4A, grant program to complete this plan for Allegheny County
 - Action Plans are comprehensive safety plans aimed at reducing and eliminating serious-injury and fatal crashes affecting all roadway users
 - It brings together data, local knowledge, and community feedback to help us understand where the most serious safety problems are and what we can do to address them
 - The plan will have several required components including:
 - A leadership commitment of a target goal for eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries
 - A planning structure with our Steering Committee
 - Safety analysis
 - Engagement and collaboration with the community
 - Policy review
 - Strategies and projects
 - And progress tracking
 - Having an approved Safety Action Plan is also a requirement for applying for federal implementation funding through the SS4A program
 - So, completing this plan not only helps us improve safety, it's also the key to unlocking future funding opportunities for implementing improvements.

Next Steps:

- Gather and incorporate public feedback
- Finalize recommended safety projects and strategies
- Analyze project costs and benefits
- Complete the Safety Action Plan and adoption in early 2026
- Use the plan to seek safety funding and advance project implementation

- **Long Range Plan**

- **December 2025:** SPC Commission Briefing
- **October 2025:** SPC Executive Committee Briefing
- **March 23, 2026: Expert Resource Panel Meeting 1**
- **April 2026:** Survey 1
- **May 2026: Expert Resource Panel Meeting 2**
- **July 2026: Policy Conference**
- **October – November 2026:** Fall Public Meetings and Survey 2
- **April - May 2027:** Spring Public Meetings

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

Ms. Gabreski stated that the project team will use community input to finalize recommended safety strategies, evaluate project costs and benefits, and complete the Safety Action Plan for adoption in early 2026—positioning Allegheny County and its municipalities to pursue funding and move priority safety improvements toward implementation.

Transportation Safety Planning Performance Measurement – Evan Schoss, Manager of Transportation Operations and Safety

Mr. Schoss 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 completed in five-year rolling averages which are used to absorb annual anomalies and establish trendlines

Those 5 federal safety measures are:

Fatalities:

Number: Total number of people 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 people 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 (pedestrian/bicycle)

A Target for each of those measures is required

Now that we have the full 2022 data, we want to present a check-up on how we are doing with regard to the previous goals.

PennDOT completed their review of the data last year and we received their letter asking for support in early November.

MPOs must establish their own targets or support PennDOT's review by Spring of 2024.

For the coming 2020-2024 reporting period, PennDOT would like us to support the same statewide targets as last year.

PennDOT is asking us to continue to support a 2% annual reduction for fatality goals.

PennDOT is asking us to continue to support a 0% annual reduction for serious injury goals

Just comparing the last two years of available data, let's first note that 2020 was a pandemic year, so due to the shutdown, there were about 3-6 percent less vehicle miles traveled statewide and regionally

In the SPC region, there were decreases in categories: fatalities and serious injuries.

Statewide, however, there was **an increase** in non-motor.

From a safety performance perspective, the SPC region continues to perform better than the rest of the State.

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

Ms. Lasser gave an update on Workforce Development:

- Water Resource Center
 - Army Corps Project (Mason)
- PREP/Engage
 - Loans - Welly Loan Closing
 - Export – Food Show Meeting
 - Gov. Contracting - Contracts
- Grant Season
 - ARC and EDA (Faith)
 - POWER
- DCED PREP/Engage
 - Contracts Out to Partners
- EDA Planning
 - CEDS Process/LRP
- Rural Health Care Transformation Funding
- New Staff – Faith Pelesky
- January-Feb Reporting
 - EDA, ARC, DCED completed!
- Build Back Better
 - 7 months remaining
 - Thousands Trained
 - Partner Meetings
 - Spend down remaining dollars
- Building Capacity
 - Working to secure additional dollars
 - Working to communicate with legislators on importance of LDD/EDD activities
- Workforce
 - Meeting with industry
 - Connecting to WIBs, CareerLinks and support programs
 - Brainstorming regional data and programing ideas to meet needs
- Data Centers
 - How can SPC assist with data, information etc.

Senate Majority Policy Committee

- February 18, 2026 @ PSU Fayette
- Senator Argall & Senator Stefano

- Panels included local officials, housing advocates, developers who discussed barriers to construction, redevelopment of vacant properties and policy changes that could stimulate additional housing development needed in swpa
- Testimony provided by SPC Commissioner Dunn, Mark Rafail, Southern Alleghenies CEO Steve Howsare

Rural Health Care Transformation

- PA Appx 193M awarded of 200M request
 - 5-year renewable program
- DCED PREP Regions will be the service areas
- Five Goals of RHT via CMS:
 - Rural Health
 - Sustainable Access
 - Workforce
 - Innovative Care
 - Technological Innovation
- Inquiry Form & downloadable Plan Updated at www.pa.gov
- What's Next:
 - Awaiting additional instructions
 - Creation of Boards/Groups
 - Hiring of coordinators
 - Collecting Contacts

8. Other Business

9. Reminder on the next meeting date

- **Monday, April 27, 2026**