

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
Full Commission | Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2026
4 p.m.
The Terminal
42 21st Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

The one hundred and eighty-first meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission was called to order by Chair Commissioner Vicites.

Members: Aaron Adams, Darin Alviano, Tony Amadio, Mike Baker, Brad Berlin, Kevin Boozel, Douglas Chew, Bonni Dunlap, Scott Dunn, Jared Edgreen, Sheila Gombita, Mark Gordon, Kelly Gray, Bob Griffin, Dan Grzybek, Sherene Hess, Mark Hillard, Sara Innamorato, Charles Jones, Tom Joyce, Fred Junko, Katharine Kelleman, Dan Kennedy, Brandon Leach, Bob Lesnick; Larry Maggi, Jack Manning, Jeff Marshall, Betsy McClure, Kristin Mulkerin, Corey O'Connor, Johnna Pro, Chris Sainato, Chris Sandvig, Dan Santo, Nick Sherman, Laura Sohinki, Byron Stauffer, John Strate, John Timney, Vince Vicites, Barb Warwick, and Jacob Williamson,

Others: Jason Rigone, Westmoreland County Department of Economic Development; Chuck Kolling, 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, 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. Commissioner Vicites called to order the August 24, 2026, 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 June 22, 2026, meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes of June 22, 2026, meeting by Commissioner Berlin which was seconded by Commissioner Kelleman. The motion was unanimous.

3. Public Comment – None

4. Executive Directors Report – Rich Fitzgerald, Executive Director

DC Fly In

- September 29th and 30th
- Email coming to you soon with full details and hotel block information
- Different format for this year to include local business success

Data Center Symposium in Butler County

- Thank you to commissioners who attended
- We continue to monitor data center developments and regulation
- Governor's Executive Order

Mon Fayette Expressway Tour

- Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission Project
- SPC Staff and Chairman Vicites, Sen Pisciotano, Reps. Inglis and Goughenour
- Next section to Camp Hollow Rd. In West Mifflin to open in November
- Two more sections to complete to Duquesne/Kennywood

Trail Openings

- Hoodlebug Trail Bridge Over US 22, Indiana County
- Westmoreland Heritage Trail Expansion (23 acres of land preservation)

Other Executive Report

- Commercial Street Bridge Reopening
- Upcoming Projects
 - Banksville Rd. Interchange with Parkway West
 - Bathtub project – Parkway Downtown
- Road Safety
 - Safety Audit of Kennywood Blvd (Allegheny County Safety Action Plan)
 - PA65
- Economic Development
 - BBB extension
 - Rural Healthcare
 - GE Renova Event

5. Transportation Planning Report – Lillian Gabreski, Director of Transportation

SPC 2027 TIP Adopted by the Commission

State Transportation Committee adopted the 2027 STIP and 2027 TYP (Twelve-Year Plan) on August 5th

TIP Work Group completed an After Action Survey on the 2027 TIP Update

- Concurrence on process and materials SPC used in development of 2027 TIP.

Media release highlighting SPC Competitive Programs recently approved projects

July Joint Transportation Technical Committee/Transit Operators Committee Meeting

Comprehensive Planning:

- Lawrence County Comprehensive Plan Kickoff
- Allegheny County Comprehensive Plan (Allegheny Forward) Action Team
- City of Pittsburgh Comprehensive Plan

Regional Operations Plan (ROP) Update Meetings in each district

Road Safety Audits completed and reports being finalized for:

- SR 837 Kennywood/Duquesne Blvd in West Mifflin and Duquesne, Allegheny County
- SR 51 in Franklin Township, Fayette County
- SR 22 in Blairsville and Burrell Townships, Indiana County
- SR 68 Pedestrian/Bicycle Walk Audit in Vanport, Beaver, Bridgewater, Beaver County

Active Transportation team continues to provide technical assistance for municipalities looking at trail feasibility, complete streets, vision zero, and general bicycle/pedestrian access and safety

Active Transportation Resource Center - www.atrc-spc.org

- Congratulations to Butler County Transit - received state technical assistance program implementation grant for service realignment
 - Based on Service Alignment Plan completed by SPC team
- Fayette Area Coordinated Transit (FACT) Plan underway to complete similar study on route alignment, bus shelter locations, and fleet requirements.
- Assisted IndiGO (Indiana County) with understanding PROWAG requirements and responsibilities for shelter replacements
- Met with TACT (Armstrong County) and Lutheran Senior LIFE to reduce duplicative service funded by 5310 enhanced mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities grant program

2027 Long Range Plan Development

Expert Panel Meeting

- Five focus areas – Transportation, Technology, Land Use/Development, Funding and Socioeconomics
- First expert panel work group meeting held on March 23rd at the Steamfitters Event Center in Harmony, PA
 - Identified change factors and prioritized them based on certainty/uncertainty and whether they would have positive/negative impact on region
- Second meeting held virtually on May 18th
 - Brainstorming strategies to address change factors
- Concurrent survey to public to prioritize change factors and topics of concern to the region

Policy Development Conference

- Full day event to bring expert panel groups together and debrief discussions and conclusions across groups
- Panel discussion with honorary chairs
- Activities to prioritize strategies and identify areas of investment
- Keynote address and fireside chat with Lieutenant Governor, Austin Davis

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 Launch
- **May 2026: Expert Resource Panel Meeting 2**
- **July 2026: Policy Conference**
- **September 2026 – March 2027:** Long Range Plan Work Groups with counties and PennDOT Districts, Report Writing
- **October – November 2026:** Fall Public Meetings and Survey 2
- **December 2026:** Vision, Goals and Strategies presented to Commission
- **April - May 2027:** Spring Public Meetings
- **June 2027:** Long Range Plan Adoption

6. CMAQ Performance Measures – Chuck Imbrogno, Manager, Models and Data Analysis

ACTION ITEM on Resolution 05-26 to endorse the region's 2022-2025 CMAQ Performance Period Report and the 2026-2029 CMAQ Performance Plan Baseline Report.

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION (SPC), to endorse the region's 2022-2025 CMAQ Performance Period Report and the 2026-2029 CMAQ Performance Plan Baseline Report.

WHEREAS, The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) established, and the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) reinforced, a system of national goals and performance measures designed to ensure the effective use of Federal transportation funds;

WHEREAS, federal regulations at 23 CFR 490.707 and 490.807 establish three performance measures for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program:

- Annual Hours of Peak-Hour Excessive Delay (PHED) Per Capita;
- Percentage of Non-Single Occupancy Vehicle (Non-SOV) Travel;
- On-Road Mobile Source Emissions Reduction for CMAQ Funded Projects.

WHEREAS, Metropolitan Planning Organizations are required to establish targets for each of these performance measures that represent the anticipated performance outcome in carrying out the CMAQ Program;

WHEREAS, as required by 23 U.S.C. 149(l), each metropolitan planning organization serving an Urbanized Area with a population over 200,000 people representing an air quality nonattainment or maintenance area shall develop on a four-year cycle a CMAQ Performance Plan that:

- A. Includes an area baseline level for each of the performance measures;
- B. Establishes 2- and 4-year performance targets for the measures;
- C. Describes 2- and 4-year progress made in achieving the performance targets; and,
- D. Includes a description of projects identified for funding under the CMAQ Program and how those projects will contribute to achieving the CMAQ emission and traffic congestion reduction targets.

WHEREAS, SPC staff has prepared the required 2022-2025 CMAQ Performance Period Report and the 2026-2029 CMAQ Performance Plan Baseline Report that satisfies the federal requirements;

WHEREAS, at its August 13, 2026, meeting, the SPC Transportation Technical Committee recommended that SPC endorse the 2022-2025 CMAQ Performance Period Report and the 2026-2029 CMAQ Performance Plan Baseline Report.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in accord with federal regulations at 23 CFR 490.105(f), that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission endorses the regional 2022-2025 CMAQ Performance Period Report and the 2026-2029 CMAQ Performance Plan Baseline Report and authorizes staff to transmit it to PennDOT for inclusion in the state's biennial report to FHWA.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 05-26 by Commissioner Sainato which was seconded by Commissioner Warwick.

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

Ethics Forms

- Each commissioner (elected and appointed) received an email on Thursday from Melissa Brown which included required ethics forms you must complete
- These forms are independent of other ethics forms you may be required to complete
- Please return the forms ASAP – you can even complete today before you leave!
- Forms are required every year and cover the preceding calendar year.

Strategic Initiatives Report

- DC Fly In
 - September 29th and 30th
 - Email with details coming to you shortly

- Data Center developments
 - CBA meetings continuing
 - Happy to come to your county!
 - Monitoring regulatory changes
- HB522
 - Bill to change MPO/RPO Boards
 - SPC Communicated with Transportation Committee

Homer City Construction

- Movement of large cargo (205 ft!) through Armstrong, Westmoreland, and Indiana Counties
- Affected by Lock closure on Allegheny River
- Municipalities briefed on Thursday
- 50 transports each over 2 days
- State Police will be included in the escort party
- Periodic bridge closures as a result
- Good for the Allegheny River!

Strategic Initiatives Report

- Army Corps of Engineers Realignment proposal
 - Continue to monitor
 - Rep. Deluzio amendment
- Allegheny County Airport meeting
 - SR 885 Tunnel under runway
- Freight Node Study in West Mifflin
 - US Steel/Nippon Line
- Freight Plan is underway!

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

Economic Development Team Activities

July-August 2026

Out in the Community:

- HUD Roundtable
- EOS Workforce Event
- Butler County Growth Collaborative
- Fayette Small Business Summit
- Washington County
- Industrial Art Works
- Mainstreet Matters Announcement
- Erie – Mainstreet Conference
- Rep. Kincade Seeds in the City

Technical Assistance:

ARC POWER, ARISE, INSPIRE – Closed

What's Next:

- CEDS/LRP Work
- DCED – PREP/Engage

- New Guidelines
- EDA - PWEAA Grants
- Announcements on Funding
- ARC Area Development – LAR

Area Development FY 27 and Local Access Road now open

- Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) is accepting pre-applications (Executive Summaries) for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)'s Area Development funding opportunity and Local Access Road funding opportunity for FY27. Area Development is ARC's landmark funding stream decided by each Appalachian state's recommending agency (DCED).
- Area Development can fund implementation and planning grants for non-construction applications.
 - For construction projects: a cost estimate, preliminary engineering report, and a Basic Federal Agency or Registered State Basic Agency agreement are required.
 - Please talk with SPC for templates/more information.
- Local Access Road: cost estimate, preliminary engineering report, and a RSBA letter from Penn-DOT (or similar agreement) are required. Please talk with SPC for more information.

Information about Area Development

- SPC serves as regional point-of-contact and technical assistance providers for 9 county region as a Local Development District (LDD)
- ARC's Area Development grant opportunity is open now - SPC sends information on project and applicant to DCED; DCED then reviews and sends invites to submit full applications
 - Match must be secured at time of submission
 - Match requirements have changed
- Investment Priorities
- Previously funded grants

Fancy Food Show

- June 28-June 30
- New York City
- PREP – REN/Export Program Sponsored
- SPC was able to provide booth space for:
 - Evanly Bakes
 - Millers Sauces
 - The Sizzle
 - Two Ugly Mugs
- Showcase for December Meeting

Build Back Better – Updated

- No-Cost Extension Received from EDA
- PRIORITY: Spending down remaining dollars
- PRIORITY: Finding follow-on funding for partners
- PRIORITY Match Dollars
- Thousands Trained & Educated
 - Semi-Annual Report submitted
 - Working on impact report of equipment

- Robotics & AI Discovery Day – September 16th 2026
 - David L. Lawrence Convention Center
 - 4,500+ attended last year

9. Other Business

Reminder on the next meeting date

- **Monday, October 26, 2026**

10. Adjourn

4:58 p.m.