

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of
June 26, 2006 – 4:30 p.m.
Regional Enterprise Tower – 425 Sixth Avenue, 31st Floor – Pittsburgh, PA 15219

The fifty-sixth meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission was called to order by Chairman, Bracken Burns.

Commission members present were: Stephen Bland, Andrew Boni, Bracken Burns, Charles Camp, Eric Carlson, Daniel Cessna, Dave Coder, Robert DeLotto, Patrick Ford, Lynn Heckman, David Johnston, James Kennedy, Larry King, Allen Kukovich, Mark Lay, Phil Light, Scott Lowe, Larry Maggi, Kevin McCullough, David Miller, Larry Morris, Henry Nutbrown, William Peduto, Andrew Quinn, James Scahill, Mark Schneider, Bernie Smith, Pam Snyder, Anthony Spossey, Gealy Wallwork and Norma Wintermeyer.

Commission members absent were: Glenn Anderson, Tom Balya, Karen Bennett, Susan Borinsky, Orlando Capretto, Tom Ceraso, James Cheatham, Steve Craig, Dan Donatella, Joseph Dubovi III, Richard Fink, Edward Fosnaught, David Frick, John Gardner, Jim Gagliano, Joseph Hardy, Dana Henry, Ellen Kight, Patricia Kirkpatrick, Robbie Matesic, Terry McMillen, Bob O'Connor, Dan Onorato, Dennis Regan, Carmen Rozzi, Rodney Ruddock, Daniel Santoro, Joe Szczur, Richard Shaw, Michael Silvestri, Mark Snyder, Joe Spanik, Byron Stauffer, Jr., Vincent Vicites, Daniel Vogler, Jake Wheatley, and Angela Zimmerlink,

Others: Jim Creedon, Department of General Services, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Karen Fitch representing Honorable Jake Wheatley, Jr.; Troy Geanopulos; Sean Pressmann, Department of General Services, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Marilyn Skolnick, Sierra Club; and Jon Smith, Allegheny County Transit Council.

Staff: Jim Hassinger, Kirk Brethauer, Linda Duffy, Ken Flack, Chuck Imbrogno, Vince Massaro, Amanda Miller – Intern, Marge Nalesnick, Sreevatsa Nippani, Shannon O'Connell, Doug Smith, Kay Tomko, Debbie Tritsch, Zimife Umeh – Coro Center Intern, Carol Uminski, Lew Villotti and Sara Walfoort.

1. Action on Minutes of the April 24th Meeting

The minutes of the April 24, 2006 meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission were approved on a motion by Representative DeLotto which was seconded by Representative Kukovich. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

2. Public Comment

Ms. Marilyn Skolnick stated that she is looking for a study that Michael Baker Corporation did for the Mon-Fayette Project to analyze their financial position.

Staff will follow up on the question.

Mr. David McGuirk representing Citizens for Alternatives to New Toll Roads commented that according to Joe Brimmeier and the Consad Report there is not enough funding for the Mon-Fayette and Southern Beltway. He was disappointed when SPC was invited to a recent presentation on the financial status of the Mon-Fayette project and nobody attended. There are 24 miles of corridor with no construction costs. Citizens are denied the opportunity to review regulations and need more time to give comments.

Chairman Burns reported that Mr. Larry Morris has been reappointed as Commission member from the Transit Operators Committee for a three year term and introduced Mr. Stephen Bland as the new CEO of the Port Authority of Allegheny County.

3. Financial Report

Mr. Massaro presented the 11-month combined Financial Report for the Corporation, Commission and the Regional Enterprise Tower for the period from July 1, 2005 to May 31, 2006. The report shows major funding sources, federal grants, state grants, Commission Members' dues which match programs, contributions, interest and other revenues.

Total project related revenues are \$9.9 million on a revised annual budget and \$6.2 million had been recorded to date. This was 62.6% of the budget which had been used. Carryover budget items from prior years were budgeted at \$695,000 and \$278,000 had been recorded, or 40% of the budget. The projects under this category are from the Federal Highway Administration, PA Department of Transportation and other Transportation Project Matches that have been extended by PENNDOT into the next fiscal year.

Revenues from the operation of the Regional Enterprise Tower were \$10.6 million on a revised budget or 61% of the budgeted \$6.5 million. The operations of the Regional Enterprise Tower which includes the rents from tenants, revenues for the activities of the conference center through May 31, 2006, the revised budget for the fiscal year is \$4.7 million, recorded to date \$4.6 million or 98% of the budget.

The Endowment contribution was budgeted at \$500,000, to date we drew down \$501,000 or 100% of the budget. Total revenues were \$15.9 million and actual to date recorded at \$11.7 million or 73% of the budget. That number looks a little unusual because we are 11 months through the year but there are a couple of projects that have been put on hold pending revised Scopes of Work and they have a significant effect on the revenues and related expenditures that were originally budgeted.

The projects put on hold all fall under the Transportation Model Development Project Years 2004, 2005 and 2006. Specifically, the External Cordon Intercept Survey Study which is currently under contract with Wilbur Smith. There are also Transit User and Non User Surveys. Data collection for new trip distribution models for the contracts under these programs, the total is \$1.1 million of federal, state and local funding. Another project is the Port of Pittsburgh Water Transit Study which has been an ongoing study. This project has been extended through June 30, 2007. The total funding equals \$587,000. Those two together total about \$1.7 million that hasn't been recorded, and hasn't been extended by the contractor. So if you add that back to the actual to date you come up with almost \$13.5 million which is very close to the total for the year

or 12 month period. The number just looks a little out of synch this time of the year because of these two projects.

On the expenditures side, we budgeted 10.6 million for project related expenditures, \$6.3 million recorded or 63% of the budget. Carryover projects and related expenditures are \$615,000, budgeted \$188,000 recorded or 30% of the budget. Total project expenditures are \$10.6 million budgeted, \$6.5 million recorded or 61% of the budget.

The building activities before the amortization and depreciation of capital items for the building budgeted \$4.6 million, recorded to date \$4.1 million or 89% of the budget. Total overall combined expenditures for the Corporation are \$16.5 million, \$11.8 million recorded or 71% of the budget.

The financial report for the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission was approved on a motion by Mr. DeLotto which was seconded by Mr. Kukovich. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

4. Action on Resolution 12-06 to Amend the 2005-2008 Transportation Improvement Program to add SR 28 Betterment Project from SR1009 in O'Hara Township to Bailey Run Road in East Deer Township, Allegheny County

Mr. Flack presented a resolution to add a Betterment project in Springdale between Tarentum and Oakmont for PennDOT District 11-0. PennDOT will be doing concrete patching, and addressing 14 bridges for repair work.

Mr. Spossey moved:

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION to amend the region's 2005-2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

WHEREAS, PENNDOT District 11-0 requests the following amendment to the region's 2005-2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

Add the Route 28 Betterment Project to the 2005-2008 TIP for a two-year construction phase (\$10,100,500 federal and \$4,055,000 state) FFY 2007 and (\$1,800,000 federal) FFY 2008, for a total project cost of \$15,955,500. The project extends from SR 1009 in O'Hara Township to Bailey Run Road in East Deer Twp, Allegheny County. The estimated contracting date is October 26, 2006.

The source of funds for this new project includes: 1.) Reducing the Betterment Line Item funding by (\$8,154,000 federal) in 2007 and (\$1,800,000 federal) in 2008. 2.) Reducing the Rt. 19/West End Bridge South Approach, final design funding by (\$1,400,000 federal) and utility funding by (\$546,500 federal) both in 2007 with the funds re-programmed on the 2007-2010 TIP Update. 3.) Reducing the 876 State Matching Funds by (\$4,055,000 state) in 2007 from a statewide share of funds that are additional money to the region.

WHEREAS, the proposed amendment has been reviewed by the Transportation Technical Committee and recommended for approval in accordance with SPC's TIP amendment policies and public involvement process; and

WHEREAS, a 30-day public comment period was held for the proposed amendment consistent with the SPC Public Involvement Policy and did not identify any adverse issue requiring a response by the Commission, and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendment maintains overall TIP fiscal balance; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendment will not interfere with the implementation of any STIP project; and

WHEREAS, approval of this amendment to the 2005-2008 TIP will not alter the finding of conformity between 2005-2008 TIP and the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission approves this amendment to the 2005-2008 TIP.

Mr. King seconded and the affirmative vote was unanimous.

5. Action on Resolution 13-06 to Approve Functional Classification Designation of the Mon/Fayette Expressway and Southern Beltway as Principal Arterials

Mr. Smith stated that this is a request from the Pennsylvania Turnpike to functionally classify the Mon-Fayette and Southern Beltway. These roadways were added to the National Highway System based on Congressional legislation in TEA-21 that recognized these corridors as High Priority Corridors. They are already on the National Highway System. This is a request to give the projects a functional classification.

Mr. Quinn moved:

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION to approve a functional classification designation for the Mon/Fayette Expressway in Allegheny, Washington, and Fayette Counties and the Southern Beltway in Allegheny and Washington Counties as principal arterials. Both of these roadways will be owned and maintained by the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission.

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Pennsylvania Division Office has determined that the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission's Mon/Fayette Expressway and Southern Beltway projects are included on the National Highway System (NHS) based on Congress's inclusion of these projects in the TEA-21 legislation as High Priority Corridors; and,

WHEREAS, inclusion of the Mon/Fayette Expressway and Southern Beltway on the NHS requires that these roadways be functionally classified; and,

WHEREAS, PennDOT and SPC planning staffs recommend that these roadways be functionally classified as Principal Arterials; and,

WHEREAS, the Transportation Technical Committee has reviewed and recommended said designation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission approves the designation of the Mon/Fayette Expressway and Southern Beltway as Principal Arterials on the National Highway System.

Mr. King seconded and the majority of those present voted in favor of the functional classification designation for the Mon/Fayette Expressway. Councilman Peduto voted against this action.

6. Action on Resolution 14-06 to Approve Functional Classification Revisions in the Borough of Edgewood, Allegheny County

Mr. Smith stated that this resolution is an administrative action that we have identified through the course of daily activities in the Borough of Edgewood. This resolution changes the functional classification of West Swissvale Avenue from Minor Arterial to Urban Collector and adds Greendale Avenue, Race Street and a section of Pennwood Avenue to the Federal Aid system to make it continuous. The Federal Aid system will then be connected on both ends.

Mr. Quinn moved:

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION to approve a functional classification revision in the Borough of Edgewood, Allegheny County that changes the classification of West Swissvale Avenue from Minor Arterial to Urban Collector and adds portions of Greendale Avenue, Race Street and Pennwood Avenue to the Federal Aid Highway System. All of these roadways are owned and maintained by the Borough of Edgewood.

WHEREAS, Federal Highway Administration functional classification guidelines call for connectivity from both ends of federal aid routes to other roads on the Federal Aid Highway System; and,

WHEREAS, PennDOT and SPC planning staffs have identified a discontinuity in the Federal Aid Highway System on the eastern end of West Swissvale Avenue in Edgewood Borough, Allegheny County; and,

WHEREAS, Greendale Avenue - Race Street and Penwood Avenue - West Swissvale Avenue function as a system of one-way pairs providing access from the Borough of Edgewood to the Penn Lincoln Parkway (I-376); and,

WHEREAS, PennDOT and SPC planning staffs recommend that these roadways be included on the Federal Aid Highway System and functionally classified as Urban Collectors; and,

WHEREAS, the Transportation Technical Committee has reviewed and recommended said designation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission approves the functional classification revision in the Borough of Edgewood, Allegheny County, that changes the functional classification of 0.50 miles of West Swissvale Avenue from Minor Arterial to Urban Collector and adds 0.37 miles of Greendale Avenue, 0.26 miles of Race Street and 0.07 miles of Pennwood Avenue to the Federal Aid Highway System as Urban Collector.

Commissioner Scahill seconded and the affirmative vote was unanimous.

7. Action on Resolution 15-06 to Approve and Endorse the Region's Area Development Project Priority Listing and Authorize Submission of the Application for Funds

Mr. Villotti stated that in our role as the Local Development District we annually adopt an Area Development Program. The program is a submission of potential projects throughout the region for Appalachian Regional Commission funding. The projects are submitted to SPC's Area Development Committee which is made up of representatives from each of your counties and the city. The Committee has the opportunity to review the applications and rank the applications in accordance with the recommendations and guidelines set forth by the Appalachian Regional Commission and the State. The projects are submitted to the State and to the Appalachian Regional Commission for their approval.

Mr. Quinn moved:

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION (SPC) to approve and endorse the region's Area Development project priority listing, and authorizing submission of application for funds.

WHEREAS, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) provides funding for projects through the 201 Local Access Road program; and,

WHEREAS, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) provides funding for projects through the 214 Construction and 302 Non-Construction programs; and,

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Local Development District (LDD) to establish a process for submitting construction and non-construction projects to ARC for funding; and,

WHEREAS, this is a competitive process for limited funding wherein county projects are prioritized and submitted to the State; projects from across Pennsylvania compete for prioritization and are submitted to ARC for funding; and projects from all thirteen states in the Appalachian region compete for ARC funds; and,

WHEREAS, the eligibility and the ratio of funding is dependent upon the level of economic distress, as determined by ARC, of the county in which the project is located; and,

WHEREAS, SPC facilitated a meeting of its Area Development Committee, comprised of the Planning Directors in each county, on June 9, 2006 to establish a ranked regional project list; and,

WHEREAS, SPC's regional Enterprise Development Program (EDP) approved by Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation Board of Directors Resolution 13-06 and Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission Executive Committee Resolution 4-06 on April 24, 2006 is the top regional project for ARC's 302 Non-Construction funds and will provide direct hands-on assistance to businesses through international trade assistance, low interest loans, government procurement, and electronic commerce, and will provide direct assistance to communities through economic planning and research, and technology assistance; and,

WHEREAS, the 201 Local Access Road projects, priority ranked by the region's Area Development Committee, include:

1. Meadow Ridge Business Park Access Road, Greene County - \$250,000
This project will improve the marketability of Meadow Ridge Business Park in cooperation with RIDC, Perry Township, Perry Township Planning Commission, PENNDOT District-12, Greene County Planning Commission and local business owners, by constructing improvements addressing the safety, efficiency, and aesthetics of the travel route into the Park which includes Mt. Morris Interchange, SR 2009 and the existing access road.
2. Indiana Regional Medical Center Access Road, Indiana County - \$356,000
The Indiana Regional Medical Center with project administration by PENNDOT District-10, is proposing to construct an access road to expand the medical center campus for new and additional healthcare services. The proposed access road would intersect with SR 954, located in White Township, Indiana County.

WHEREAS, the 214 Construction and 302 Non-Construction projects, priority ranked by the region's Area Development Committee, include:

1. Apollo Borough Brownfield Remediation, Armstrong County - \$50,000
This project will ARC funds will used to complete an economic revitalization project through the environmental remediation of an industrial brownfield site adjacent to the Apollo Borough Central Business District (CBD).
2. Hope for the Homeless in Our Community, Fayette County - \$100,000
This project will help to provide permanent housing to the homeless.
3. Mars Borough Revitalization, Butler County - \$32,000
This project will involve streetscape improvements, including construction of new sidewalks, crosswalks, trees, lighting and other aspects that will enhance the central business district of Mars Borough.
4. Indiana County Small Business Incubator Renovation Project, Indiana County - \$200,000
This project will partially fund the renovation of approximately 43,000 square feet of

the existing Robertshaw Building that houses the Indiana County Small Business Incubator program.

5. Midland KOZ Business Park, Beaver County - \$200,000

The project will provide public water to the Midland KOZ Business Park (70 acres), a brownfield site in Midland Borough, Beaver County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Members of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission adopt and approve the aforementioned lists and projects, and authorize the Commission Executive Director and the Corporation President to submit all necessary applications and enter into all agreements and contracts pursuant thereto.

Commissioner Scahill seconded and the affirmative vote was unanimous.

8. Action on Resolution 16-06 to Adopt a Meeting Schedule for 2006-2007

Mr. DeLotto moved:

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION to adopt a Meeting Schedule for 2006-2007.

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Sunshine Law 84 requires that a Schedule of all Commission, Executive Committee and Advisory Committee Meetings for the fiscal year be adopted.

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

Commissioner Scahill seconded and the affirmative vote was unanimous.

9. Presentation on Cooperative Purchasing

Secretary James P. Creedon, Department of General Services gave a presentation on Cooperative Purchasing. Part of our effort is Governor Rendell's overall goal to reform and reduce the cost of state government. A big of part of this is taking a look at how we did our procurement and reforming how we operate at the state level and develop ways that local counties, school districts, municipalities and non-profit organization can benefit from some of the material that we learn along the way.

10. Update on Project Region

Mr. Villotti stated that the Economic Development workshops have been completed. There were eleven workshops held throughout the Region in conjunction with PennDOT, PA DCED, DCNR, Allegheny Conference, Counties and the City members. The total attendance at the meetings was 188.

The meetings were held in various locations. The state gave presentations on Transportation, Land Use for Economic Development and the Keystone Development Principles. The

Allegheny Conference discussed what their priority agenda is. Through this forum we have had an opportunity to collect the state, private sector, counties and city strategies.

Two questions were asked. What economic development strategies are the best fit for this area? What economic development strategies are the best fit for the region? We prioritized the strategies using our interactive active polling devices. This was a very interactive discussion laying the policy ground work for development of Project Region scenarios.

A general economic development theme throughout the region that was discussed is “Coordination”, “Cooperation” & “Collaboration”.

Transportation Themes: Local transportation included access, intermodal/multimodal, transit, corridors and project specific. Regional transportation included multimodal/intermodal, regional transit, and maintenance of transportation infrastructure.

Land Use Themes: Locally, there were discussions on Brownfields, targeted investment in existing areas, preservation of natural resources, agriculture and urban areas. Community revitalization was also presented. Regional Land Use discussions included balanced approach, Brownfields, preservation, community revitalization, and a lot of discussion on the importance of how we do community/place building.

Economic Development Themes: The local themes included tourism, alternative energy, assistance for small businesses, development of clusters, expansion of infrastructure, property tax reform, workforce development, linkages with universities. These are all sort of things that were mentioned on the local level. On a regional level themes included promote the region, tourism, talent/youth retention, an effort to see what we need to do to reduce the cost of doing business in the region as an important economic development driver in the future, communications and connectivity (broadband, etc), property taxes and link education and workforce.

Meeting locations: The locations of the meeting were part of the Project Region development as we broke down county boundaries and looked at areas differently. All of these meetings were across county lines. In addition to that, they were targeted at specific locations to give us diverse feedback.

Urban areas included Charleroi, Ellwood City, Oakland and New Kensington. These were the only meeting locations where they spoke about specific transportation infrastructure projects. At these meeting locations regional transit and multi-modal connectivity took on an advanced discussion. They were talking about the connections between transit and development. How do we get goods and move people from one section to another. Brownfield development and community revitalization & preservation were also discussed. Topics such as adaptive reuse, increased subsidization to promote Brownfield development and community revitalization and housing development were part of the discussion.

Suburban areas included Cranberry, Findlay, New Stanton and Southpointe. At several of these locations the subject of transit oriented development was discussed. These are the only locations in the region where the subject was talked about. Upgrading and maintaining existing transportation networks, access to interstates, trail system, equity and balance in development were topics of interest. Also, the geographic targeting of investments at a corridor level and

coordinated infrastructure planning and development to advance the economic development potential of the region was discussed.

Rural areas included Blairsville, Masontown and West Kittanning. At every meeting in the rural areas, the subject of the expansion of water and sewer infrastructure was discussed. Broad band access is needed in the rural areas. Agri-business and agricultural preservation was heavily discussed in the rural areas. Property tax reform and alternative energy were also topics of discussion.

11. Staff Report/Other Business/Announcements

Dr. Hassinger reported on the opening of the Public Comment Period. A notice was sent out about three important draft documents that will be available for public review online at www.spcregion.org, at the SPC Office, Pittsburgh Department of City Planning, at County Planning offices, and at many public libraries around Southwestern Pennsylvania. The draft documents are the 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Amendments to the 2030 Transportation and Development Plan and the Air Quality Conformity Determination for the TIP and Long Range Plan. The public comment period will be from June 27, 2006 through July 27, 2006. People throughout the region can attend and make comment at any of ten meetings in the region during the period and can submit testimony throughout the period by a variety of other means throughout the entire 30 day comment period. All comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on July 27, 2006.

Dr. Hassinger introduced Zimife Umeh, an intern from the Coro Center; Amanda Miller, an Intern from the University of Pennsylvania; and Dr. Sreevatsa Nippani, a new full time employee with SPC as a Data Analyst IV Modeler.

Congratulations to The Beaver County Transit Authority on receiving the 2006 Outstanding Public Transportation System Achievement Award from The American Public Transportation Association.

Next Meeting Date – July 31st

12. New Business

None

13. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles A. Camp
Secretary-Treasurer