

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of
April 30, 2007 – 4:30 p.m.
Regional Enterprise Tower – 425 Sixth Avenue, 31st Floor – Pittsburgh, PA 15219

The sixty-third meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission was called to order by Secretary-Treasurer, Charles Camp.

Commission members present were: Andrew Boni, Eric Carlson, Charles Camp, Tom Ceraso, Daniel Cessna, Dave Coder, Robert DeLotto, Patrick Ford, Jim Gagliano, Jr., Judy Gardner, Kevin Gray, Lynn Heckman, David Johnston, James Kennedy, Scott Lowe, Robbie Matesic, Kevin McCullough, David Miller, Larry Morris, Henry Nutbrown, William Peduto, Andrew Quinn, Carmen Rozzi, Rodney Ruddock, Daniel Santoro, Pam Snyder, Gealy Wallwork, and Norma Wintermeyer.

Commission members absent were: Glenn Anderson, Tom Balya, Stephen Bland, Bracken Burns, Orlando Capretto, James Cheatham, Steve Craig, Dan Donatella, Joseph Dubovi III, Patricia Evanko, Richard Fink, Edward Fosnaught, David Frick, Joseph Hardy, Dana Henry, William Hunt, Patricia Kirkpatrick, Allen Kukovich, Mark Lay, Phil Light, Larry Maggi, Terry McMillen, Dan Onorato, Luke Ravenstahl, Jim Ritzman, James Scahill, Mark Schneider, Richard Shaw, Herman Shipman, Michael Silvestri, Mark Snyder, Joe Spanik, Anthony Spossey, Byron Stauffer, Jr., Joe Szczur, Vincent Vicites, Daniel Vogler, Jake Wheatley, and Angela Zimmerlink.

Others: Marilyn Skolnick, Sierra Club; Jayme Graham, ACHD; and Jon Smith, ACTC.

Staff: Jim Hassinger, Kirk Brethauer, Jamie Colecchi, Chuck DiPietro, Linda Duffy, David Ginns, Jeff Grim, Chuck Imbrogno, Vince Massaro, Marge Nalesnick, Shannon O'Connell, Lisa Kay Schweyer, Kay Tomko, Debbie Tritsch, and Lew Villotti.

1. Action on Minutes of the January 29th Meeting:

The minutes of the March 19, 2007 meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission were approved on a motion by Commissioner Gray which was seconded by Commissioner Boni.

The affirmative vote was unanimous.

2. Public Comment:

None

3. Financial Report:

Mr. Massaro presented the financial report for the fiscal period ending March 31, 2007. The report is for the Corporation, the Commission, and the operations of the Regional Enterprise Tower.

Total Project Revenues recognized and recorded to date are \$6,596,771 vs. the annual revised budget of \$10,071,913 or 65.50 % of the budget utilized for the reporting period. All projects within the 2006-07 UPWP and Economic Development area are in progress and are progressing as budgeted for the reporting period. Project completion dates for a few current year UPWP projects have already been extended into the next fiscal year period.

1. Transportation Models Development Yrs 4-5-6 (12/31/07)
2. Eastern Corridor Transit Study Transitional Analysis (12/31/07)
3. Washington County Transit Study (12/31/07)
4. Rail System Capacity Study (12/31/07)
5. ACTA/Robinson Town Centre Mobility Study (6/30/08)

Revenues to date relating to the operations of the Regional Enterprise Tower total \$4,007,324 in rents has been recorded to date vs. a revised budget of \$5,291,000 or 75.74% of the budget. As of March 31st, the building tenant occupancy is at 86%. The leasing agent continues to market space in the building and currently is negotiating with a number of current tenants on lease extensions. For example, Action Housing, a full floor tenant on the 9th floor, is reviewing a proposal to extend their lease to ten years. Conference Center rentals continue to be in line with the budget for the reporting period. Cash Flow from operations remains positive for the reporting period. The revised budget does reflect a draw down from the building Endowment Fund in the amount of \$200,000 and on January 5, 2007 \$200,000 was drawn down and deposited to the account. As of March 31, 2007 the Regional Enterprise Endowment Fund asset value is \$5,019,176 and as of April 27, 2007 the value is \$5,190,367.

Total Project Expenditures recorded to date are \$6,606,010 vs. revised budgeted \$10,071,913 or 65.59% of the revised budget utilized to date. Expenses related to the operations of the RET, before depreciation and amortization expense are \$3,543,612 vs. the revised budget of \$4,570,440 or 77.53% of the budget utilized for the reporting period.

Commissioner Camp congratulated the Property Committee for doing a good job on the building.

Commissioner Camp called on Commissioner Snyder who introduced Judy Gardner as a new county commissioner for Greene County replacing her husband, John Gardner, who recently passed away. Commissioner Camp welcomed Commissioner Gardner and expressed his appreciation for John's service.

4. Action on Resolution 3-07 to Proclaim CommuteInfo Commute Options Awareness Month, May, 2007:

Ms. Lisa Kay Schweyer of the SPC staff reported that SPC has been operating a rideshare program for many, many years. As you know, CommuteInfo is designed to provide options for employers and commuters for work and school based trips. The options include transit, vanpools, carpools, biking and walking.

During 2006:

- 1,020 calls were received from commuters looking for information on commuting alternatives.
- 860 commuters registered with the CommuteInfo program.
- 101,645 visitors went to the CommuteInfo website.

We actively seek opportunities to get even more people aware and involved in the program we give presentations throughout the region. We also produce press releases – some of you may even remember our Valentine’s Day story about the 2 vanpoolers who re-met on the van and got married.

Today we are here to ask you to help us continue to raise awareness of the CommuteInfo program services in another way. We are asking the Commission to officially proclaim May - CommuteInfo Commute Options Awareness Month.

Commissioner Kennedy moved to adopt SPC Commission Resolution 3-07 and Commissioner Coder seconded. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

5. Action on Resolution 4-07 to Authorize Signature of Transportation Conformity SIP Memorandum of Agreement:

Mr. Imbrogno stated that Resolution 4-07 asks for authorization to sign Transportation Conformity SIP Memorandum of Agreement.

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION to authorize signature of the Transportation Conformity State Implementation Plan Memorandum of Agreement.

WHEREAS, the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the US Department of Transportation (USDOT), in accord with the federal Clean Air Act and the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), require that each state cooperatively develop a Transportation Conformity State Implementation Plan (Conformity SIP), and

WHEREAS, the Conformity SIP details the process that will be used to perform conformity determinations, including a federally required interagency consultation process, and

WHEREAS, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are responsible under SAFETEA-LU and the Clean Air Act for transportation conformity determinations in designated nonattainment and maintenance areas; and

WHEREAS, MPOs, states, and other planning partners are responsible under SAFETEA-LU for conducting a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process, and

WHEREAS, within Pennsylvania, SIP revisions are the statutory responsibility of the Department of Environmental Protection (PaDEP) under the Pa. Air Pollution Control Act and the federal Clean Air Act; SIP revisions are submitted by PaDEP to the EPA on behalf of the Commonwealth, and

WHEREAS, within Allegheny County the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) is responsible for air quality regulation, and

WHEREAS, within Pennsylvania, PennDOT is the state agency responsible for statewide transportation planning and programming, and

WHEREAS, PennDOT was designated as the lead agency in developing the Pennsylvania Conformity SIP in consultation with its planning partners and PaDEP, and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Conformity SIP has been developed in accord with federal and state requirements; it includes interagency consultation procedures for each agency responsible for transportation planning, programming, and conformity within designated nonattainment and maintenance areas, and

WHEREAS, SPC, as the MPO responsible for transportation planning, programming and conformity within southwestern Pennsylvania's designated nonattainment and maintenance areas, is required to sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with ACHD, PennDOT, and PaDEP indicating adoption of the Conformity SIP.

Commissioner Coder moved to adopt SPC Commission Resolution 4-07 and Mr. Pat Ford seconded. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

6. Update on Project Region:

Mr. Villotti reported that as of April 23rd the County/District workshops are all complete. We sat down with all of the counties and districts to talk about Project Region, the combined scenario, projects and finances. On May 21st the public comment period for the Draft Plan begins and runs through June 21, 2007.

Schedule of Long Range Public Participation Meetings:

Greene County – May 22nd @ 5:30 p.m., 2nd Floor Conference Room, 93 East High Street, Waynesburg

Lawrence County – May 23rd @ 7:00 p.m., Jury Holding Room, 430 Court Street, New Castle

Armstrong County – May 24th @ 7:00 p.m., County Commissioners Conference Room, Courthouse Annex, 450 Market Street, Kittanning

Fayette County – May 30th @ 5:00 p.m. Fayette Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 65 West Main Street, Uniontown

Westmoreland County – June 5th @ 6:00 p.m., Commissioners Meeting Room, County Courthouse Annex, 2 North Main Street, Greensburg

Beaver County – June 6th @ 7:00 p.m., Commissioners Conference Room, 810 Third Street, Beaver

Indiana County – June 12th @ 7:00 p.m., Large Group Instruction Room, Indiana Area Junior High school, 245 North 5th Street, Indiana

Allegheny County – June 13th @ 5:30 p.m., 31st Floor, Regional Enterprise Tower, 425 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh

Washington County – June 19th @ 5:30 p.m., Room 104, Courthouse Square, 100 West Beau Street, Washington

Butler County – June 20th @ 7:00 p.m., Public Meeting Room, Butler County Government Center, 124 West Diamond Street, Butler

Action to request Plan adoption is scheduled for the June 28th Commission meeting.

7. Staff Report/Other Business/Announcements:

Dr. Hassinger reported that Rand McNally released that Pittsburgh was voted one of the most livable cities in America. This is a lot to be proud of.

Mr. Jeff Grimm fills the vacant position of Transportation Planner at SPC. He will be reporting to Chuck Imbrogno.

8. Next Meeting Date: – June 28th

9. New Business:

None

10. Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles A. Camp
Secretary-Treasurer