

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of
July 27, 2009 – 4:43 p.m.
31st Floor • Regional Enterprise Tower • 425 Sixth Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15219

The seventy-seventh meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission was called to order at 4:43 p.m. by Vice Chairman, Charles Camp.

Commission members present were: Shirl Barnhart, Bracken Burns, Charles Camp, Dave Coder, Steve Craig, Terry Daughenbaugh, Patricia Evanko, Richard Fink, Kevin Gray, Lynn Heckman, David Johnston, John Paul Jones, Patricia Kirkpatrick, Jack Machek, Mary Jo Morandini, Kevin McCullough, David Miller, A. Dale Pinkerton, Carmen Rozzi, Rodney Ruddock, Kelly Shroads, Michael Silvestri, Pam Snyder, Joe Spanik, Joe Szczur, Vincent Vicites, and Norma Wintermeyer.

Commission members absent were: Tony Amadio, Tom Balya, Stephen Bland, Rick DeBlasio, Andrew Boni, Tom Ceraso, Daniel Cessna, Joseph Dubovi III, Karl Eisaman, David Frick, James Gagliano, Jessica Greathouse, Dana Henry, Michael Herron, James Kennedy, Donald Kinosz, James Lokhaiser, Larry Maggi, Robbie Matesic, Dan Onorato, William Peduto, William Piper, Luke Ravenstahl, James Ritzman, James Scahill, Robert Schiffbauer, Mark Schneider, Richard Shaw, Mark Snyder, Anthony Spossey, Byron Stauffer, Jr., Rob Stephany, R. Letitia Thompson, Daniel Vogler, Gealy Wallwork, Jake Wheatley, Jr., Angela Zimmerlink, and Yarone Zober.

Staff: Jim Hassinger, Kirk Brethauer, Chuck DiPietro, Linda Duffy, Chuck Imbrogno, Tom Klevan, Vince Massaro, Marge Nalesnick, Shannon O'Connell, Kay Tomko, Debbie Tritsch, and Lew Villotti.

Others: Jackie Boesiner, Envista Corp.; Karen Rollins Fitch, City of Pittsburgh; Cheryl Moon-Sirianni, PennDOT District 11-0; Jon Smith, Allegheny County Transit Council; and John Verbanac, SPC Consultant.

1. Action on Minutes of the June 29th Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the June 29, 2009 meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission by Commissioner Coder which was seconded by Mr. Barnhart. The affirmative vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Financial Report

Mr. Massaro said the financial report is for the Fiscal Year completed July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. It reflects the operations of the Corporation, the Commission, and the Regional Enterprise Tower. This report compares the actual to date and the actual encumbrances to date against the revised budget.

Total Project Related Revenues recognized and recorded to date including encumbrances are \$8,300,073 vs. the revised annual budget of \$9,301,838 or 89.23% of the budget expended and recognized.

The Carryover Project Related Revenues recognized and recorded to date include encumbrances of \$151,658 vs. the revised annual budget of \$198,154 or 76.54% of the budget. Carry-over projects include the Regional Traffic Signal Design and Service Program, the Truck Parking Study, and the West Busway TOD Study.

Revenues related to the operations of the Regional Enterprise Tower to date are \$5,428,400 in rents recorded vs. the revised annual budget of \$5,415,686 or 100.23%. As of June 30, the total tenant occupancy rate is at 84.61%. As of July 1, we will lose 3% of total occupancy as California University has vacated their space due to downsizing. They had about 12,000 sf.

Mr. Massaro then reported total project related expenditures of \$8,332,731 actual and encumbered to date vs. the revised annual budget of \$9,350,891 or 89.11%. Carry-over related expenditures include \$123,704 vs. the revised annual budget of \$149,101 or 82.97%.

The Regional Enterprise Tower expenditures before amortization/depreciation are \$4,936,666 actual and encumbered to date vs. the revised annual budget of \$5,072,281 or 97.33%.

Dr. Hassinger updated the commission members on the State Budget and its impact on SPC. The budgets we worked from last year, particularly on the economic development side, are the Local Development Districts line item that are allocated annually for the state – and the state programs of World Trade PA, Business Retention Program, and Shared Municipal Services will be lower. Last year the regional allotment was \$1,358,000. The proposed budgets, whether it be the Governor's or the House budget, will be lower. It is recognized that the new fiscal year beginning July 1, there will be dollars cut from the budget. Currently, the House budget, as we understand it for the new fiscal year, is at \$944,006, our share for the region on the same items, and the Senate's version of the proposed budget for the same current fiscal year is at \$335,301. So there is a significant difference not only between budgets from last year that ended in June, but also between the two houses of the legislature for the current year. You should also know that we are shepherding the money as carefully as we can and as tightly as we can. We did generate over a two-month period (May and June) invoices for work done last year and due to the state budget problems there is still a hold on payouts to us. These invoices amount to approximately \$700,000 which is a significant amount. We did ask that in any conversations you have with your legislators that you bring up that LDD line item and we do appreciate the work you have done. Dr. Hassinger also said he wanted everyone to know that it is a serious situation, and we will do what is necessary as things develop, but we appreciate the work that everybody's doing regardless. For example, we have a copy of a letter from Beaver County that was sent to Senator Elder Vogel and we appreciate that. If anybody wants to see a copy of Beaver County's letter, it is being passed around.

Commissioner Camp added that we do encourage you to write your Senator or Representative. He pointed out two particular senators that you can write to, Senator Scarnati from Jefferson County and Senator Costa from Allegheny County. They will probably be on the conference committee with the Governor. So let them know that these Local Development Districts are

important to projects that they ask us to fund for them, to give them our insight that we are watching them, and ask for these monies to be put back into the budget for next year.

4. Action on Resolution 16-09 to Amend the 2009-2010 UPWP to Include Additional Supplemental PL Funds for Road Safety Audits Project

Mr. DiPietro provided a brief overview of the request to amend the 2009-2010 UPWP to include additional SPC Road Safety Audit Projects. A pilot project was completed under the 2008-2009 UPWP at the intersection of Franklin Road and Peters Road in Butler County's Cranberry Township. The following three additional Road Safety Audits are already funded in the 2009-2010 UPWP:

1. October – Freeport Road in Allegheny County's Brackenridge and Harrison Township
2. November – Route 519 at Thomas-Eighty Four and Brownlee Roads in Washington County's North Strabane Township
3. March (2010) – Route 56 from Route 66 to Balsiger Road in Armstrong County's Apollo Borough and Kiskiminetas Township

Approval of this UPWP supplemental funding will allow an additional three Road Safety Audits to be advanced in the SPC region.

Mr. Silvestri moved:

WHEREAS, in order to be eligible to receive federal funding a transportation planning project must be identified in the UPWP; and

WHEREAS, the SPC 2009-2010 Unified Planning Work Program identifies transportation and transportation-related planning tasks performed between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010 in the Southwestern Pennsylvania Transportation Management Area; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PENNDOT) is receiving a limited number of requests from metropolitan and rural planning organizations for federal supplemental planning funds (PL) for small priority tasks; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission amend the 2009-2010 Unified Planning Work Program to add the SPC Road Safety Audit task with total funding of \$41,250 (\$33,000 federal and a \$8,250 local match provided by the local partner in the selected road safety audits). The requested completion date is June 30, 2010. The amended task will be included in the UPWP Work Order contract with PennDOT; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director, on behalf of SPC, is hereby authorized to enter into Agreements and/or Supplements with the Federal Highway Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation relating to this task.

Commissioner Snyder seconded and the affirmative vote was unanimous.

5. 2010 Census Update

Mr. Brethauer explained the 2010 Census Update. Packets of information were provided to those in attendance.

Why do we take the Census?

- The US began conducting a census of population and housing in 1790.
- The U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 2, mandates an apportionment of representatives among the states for the House of Representatives every 10 years.
- Apportionment is the process of dividing the 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives among the 50 states.
- By law, the U.S. Census Bureau must deliver a report of population counts to the president of the United States within nine months of Census Day (on or before Dec. 31, 2010).
- This report will provide the population counts by state, and the number of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives apportioned to each state.

The 2010 Census vs. Census 2000

The changes include:

- A significantly enhanced Master Address File to modernize census address information.
- A “short form” only census - the shortest questionnaire in U.S. history and can be completed in about 10 minutes.
- More detailed socioeconomic information is being collected monthly from a small percentage of the population through the American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS has been used to collect this more detailed household data nationwide since 2005. It is unlikely that households will be asked to participate in the ACS more than once every five years. During the 2010 Census cycle, some households will receive both the ACS and the census questionnaires. Households should complete both.
- Use of a hand-held computer for the Address Canvassing operation starting in April 2009.

Response rates from Census 2000

- % of households who completed and returned a Census form without the need for a follow up visit:
 - Nationally: 67%
 - Pennsylvania: 70%
 - Allegheny County: 71%
 - City of Pittsburgh 61%
 - Armstrong County: 71%
 - Beaver County 74%
 - Butler County 71%

Fayette County: 61%
Greene County: 70%
Lawrence County: 72%
Indiana County: 67%
Washington County: 70%
Westmoreland County: 74%

- Census saves approximately \$89 million for every 1% increase in the response rate.

Uses of Census Data

- Distribution of more than \$435 billion annually in federal funds, or \$4 trillion over 10 years
- Redistricting of state legislative districts
- Forecasting of future transportation needs for all segments of the population
- Determining areas eligible for housing assistance and rehabilitation loans
- Assisting federal, tribal, state and local governments in planning and implementing programs and services in education, healthcare, transportation, social services and emergency response.

SPC Support of Census

- SPC is a PA State Data Center Affiliate and a repository for Census data
- In 2008, SPC worked with county staff to provide accurate street maps in GIS to support address canvassing
- Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) – SPC worked with county staff to designate Census Tract and Block Group boundaries for reporting 2010 data. Ensure continuity with 2000 data and create common sized areas with emphasis on physical boundaries.

Local Outreach

- Pittsburgh Field Office is currently serving 19 counties. Will be responsible for most of Allegheny County
- Establishing Field Offices in Beaver Falls, Greensburg, Johnstown, Altoona to open this Fall
- Group Quarters validation is next focus. Locate places that house groups of unrelated people such as long term health care facilities, group homes, dormitories, and prisons to ensure complete count
- Primary focus is outreach to traditionally undercounted populations, such as geographic or cultural isolation, language barriers, low literacy levels, etc.
- Will hire between 600 and 1000 enumerators in the early winter for work in the Spring to follow up with households who do not respond to the mailed forms.

Complete Count Committees (CCCs):

- Incorporate local knowledge, influence, and resources to educate residents and promote the participation in Census 2010
- Partnerships with state, and local governments; community-based organizations; faith-based groups; schools; businesses; the media; and others
- Current CCCs have been formed in Washington and Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh

Timeline

- July 2009 – Address canvassing completed
- October 2009 – April 2010 – Census worker recruitment
- November 2009 – Census 2010 website launched
- March 2010 – Post Office delivers questionnaires
- April 1, 2010 - Census Day
- May – July 2010 – follow up with households that did not return questionnaires
- December 31, 2010 – Census delivers counts to the President

Remember

The Census is Easy, Safe and Important.

- Easy - There are 10 questions – No Long Forms
- Safe - Information is not shared with any other government agency
- Important - allocation of \$435 billion in federal funding, determines US congressional representation

More Info:

Ms. Benita M. Johnson, Partnership Specialist

Tel: 215-717-7600

Benita.M.Johnson@census.gov

www.2010.census.gov

Commissioner Camp commented that Kirk's presentation shows another valuable area where SPC operates. Not only does SPC deal with transportation issues, but also acts in promoting the Census which impacts reimbursement funding for county projects and programs. Efforts on accounting for transit spending, highway improvements, congestion, air quality, population and water resource planning are various aspects of regional issues SPC is involved in.

6. Staff Report/Other Business/Announcements

Dr. Hassinger remarked that as Kirk said the Census and GPS technology and what has happened since 1990 has allowed a lot of advances in the presentation of the geography and all the attributes on the ground in our region.

Dr. Hassinger informed the Commission on what we're doing right now to update presentations

that will be made available to run in Xplorion as a media center relating to the G-20 Summit. We are working with the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, the Allegheny Conference, and Visit Pittsburgh in developing the Xplorion space as a temporary media center for correspondents from the U.S and around the world. We are doing this so that they can learn more about the G-20 activities, and about the region as well. We will populate more information about the region into readily accessible kinds of presentations down in Xplorion where visitors will find that they have a resource to develop stories and learn more about who to talk with. We will do this for a period of time starting in the next week or two through the week of G-20.

Dr. Hassinger said our next meeting date is September 28th, which is after the G-20.

Dr. Hassinger also mentioned several events that are coming up: July 30-31 FTA Triennial Review – FTA management tool for examining grantee performance and adherence to current FTA requirements and policies. Conducted at least every three years (desk review of materials and site visit), it examines how recipients of Urbanized Formula Program funds meet statutory and administrative requirements in 23 areas. Dr. Hassinger also welcomed Mary Jo Morandini to her first meeting with the Commission for this round of her chairmanship of the TOC.

August 6-7 Certification Review of Pittsburgh Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process – US DOT – There will be a public meeting related to that and it will be advertized in the newspaper.

August 21st State Transportation Commission Public Hearing on the state transportation program and the update process to the Twelve Year Program – This could be a significant meeting with the state coming up in the near future.

Dr. Hassinger said relating back to the G-20 Summit we asked our members if you would donate to us a county flag that could be displayed downstairs in Xplorion and during Commission meetings. Dr. Hassinger was pleased to report that we have received all of the County logos and we anticipate creating a display of all of the county seals on one of the walls in Xplorion with the flags which can be used after the G-20 Summit. We've received flags from Beaver, Washington and Fayette Counties. Allegheny already has one displayed in Xplorion and the city of Pittsburgh has one and anticipates an additional one specifically for this purpose. So those are coming in and we're really pleased to get those up and displayed on your behalf.

Commissioner Camp said we still need flags from Armstrong, Butler, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, and Westmoreland Counties.

Dr. Hassinger also mentioned that if anyone needed work on logos to contact us. We won't make any changes, just enhancements. Just let us know.

The next meeting will be on Monday, September 28, 2009.

6. New Business

None

7. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rodney Ruddock
Secretary-Treasurer