

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of
April 27, 2009 – 4:30 p.m.
31st Floor – Regional Enterprise Tower – 425 Sixth Avenue – Pittsburgh, PA 15219

The seventy-fifth meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission was called to order at 4:35 p.m. by Secretary-Treasurer Rodney Ruddock.

Commission members present were: Tom Balya, Andrew Boni, Bracken Burns, Tom Ceraso, Daniel Cessna, Dave Coder, Steve Craig, Terry Daughenbaugh, Karl Eisaman, Kevin Gray, Patricia Kirkpatrick, Larry Maggi, Robbie Matesic, Kevin McCullough, David Miller, Larry Morris, Carmen Rozzi, Rodney Ruddock, Kelly Shroads, Michael Silvestri, Pam Snyder, Joe Spanik, Anthony Spossey, Vincent Vicites, Gealy Wallwork, and Yarone Zober.

Commission members absent were: Tony Amadio, Shirl Barnhart, Peter Behrman, Stephen Bland, Rick DeBlasio, Charles Camp, Joseph Dubovi III, Patricia Evanko, Richard Fink, David Frick, James Gagliano, Jessica Greathouse, Lynn Heckman, Dana Henry, Michael Herron, David Johnston, James Kennedy, Donald Kinosz, Allen Kukovich, James Lokhaiser, Jack Machek, Dan Onorato, William Peduto, Dale Pinkerton, William Piper, Luke Ravenstahl, James Ritzman, Daniel Santoro, James Scahill, Robert Schiffbauer, Mark Schneider, Richard Shaw, Mark Snyder, Byron Stauffer, Jr., Joe Szczur, Letitia Thompson, Daniel Vogler, Jake Wheatley, Jr., Norma Wintermeyer, and Angela Zimmerlink.

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

Others: Dan DeBone, Port Authority of Allegheny County, Jon Schmitz, *Post-Gazette*, Jon Smith, Allegheny County Transit Council, and John Verbanac, SPC Consultant.

1. Action on Minutes of the March 9th Special Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2009 special meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission by Commissioner Dave Coder which was seconded by Commissioner Tom Ceraso. The affirmative vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Financial Report

Mr. Massaro said the financial report reflects the operations of the Corporation, the Commission, and the Regional Enterprise Tower and is for the nine-month period of Fiscal Year 08-09. 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 \$6,706,396 vs. the revised annual budget of \$9,301,838 or 72.10% of the budget expended and recognized. Mr. Massaro mentioned that there are three projects carried over to FY 09-10 which are the Regional Traffic Signal Design and Service Program, the Truck Parking Study, and also the West Busway TOD Study. The Carryover Project Related Revenues recognized and recorded to date include encumbrances of \$156,491 vs. the annual budget of \$198,154 or 78.97% of the budget recognized for the reporting period.

Total Revenues for operations of the Regional Enterprise Tower to date are \$4,086,113 in rents recorded vs. annual budget of \$5,415,686 or 75.45%. The transfer Endowment includes \$224,096 actual and encumbrance to date vs. the annual budget of \$224,764 or 99.70%.

Total Revenues revised budget is \$15,140,442 and actual and encumbrance to date is \$11,173,096 or 73.80% of the budget.

Mr. Massaro said on the expenditure side we see project related expenditures of \$6,714,112 actual and encumbrance to date vs. the revised annual budget of \$9,350,891 or 71.80%. Carryover related expenditures include \$145,754 vs. the revised annual budget of \$149,101 or 97.76%.

The Regional Enterprise Tower expenditures before amortization/depreciation are \$3,867,157 actual and encumbrance to date vs. the revised annual budget of \$5,072,281 or 76.24%. And the Regional Enterprise Tower amortization/depreciation is \$939,487 vs. a budget of \$1,269,108 or 74.03%.

Mr. Massaro also mentioned that the Regional Enterprise Tower is at 85% occupancy. We have had some tentative discussions with tenants renewing their leases. He said that California University's lease will expire on June 30th of this year and they have decided to consolidate their space and they will occupy 11,000 sq. ft.

Mr. Michael Silvestri moved to approve the financial report which was seconded by Commissioner Larry Maggi. The affirmative vote to approve the financial report was unanimous.

4. Action on Resolution 8-09 to Proclaim May as CommuteInfo Commute Options Awareness Month

Staff member, Lisa Kay Schweyer, talked about the CommuteInfo program, particularly the annual recognition of May being CommuteInfo Commute Options Awareness Month. She said

that information had been included in the meeting handout packets along with a flyer for the "CommuteInfo Triple Play" Pirates games. Ms. Schweyer mentioned the Triple Play was an opportunity for the regional commuters, transit operators, CommuteInfo partners to raise awareness about commuting alternatives in a different way by providing discounts to the commuters to attend one of the Pirates games and to participate in the Pirates green weekend. Ms. Schweyer then referred to the Pittsburgh Pirates Flyer, pointed out all of the participating partners and extended an invitation for Commission members to join the CommuteInfo partners for any or all of the 3 dates to watch the Pirates play.

Ms. Schweyer reported that in calendar year 2008, the CommuteInfo program saw over a 200% increase in requests for information. We know that the price of gas topped over \$4 a gallon and we think that is the number one reason why we had the rising level of interest and activity in the program. Financial security, people trying to save money, finding ways to cut back, is another reason why we may have seen an increase in activity. Ms. Schweyer also mentioned that last year the Association for Commuter Transportation recognized Commissioner Rozzi and Sherri Krupa for their work in bringing transportation alternatives to their worksite (Boyers Iron Mountain site).

WHEREAS, approximately sixty percent of the Southwestern Pennsylvania region's 1.5 million workers travel outside their resident municipality to work; and

WHEREAS, commuting options are an integral part of the region's employers and workers life; reducing the number of people driving to work alone can benefit the region by easing traffic congestion and improving air quality; and

WHEREAS, it is important that all commuters be aware of the various commuting options available to them; and

WHEREAS, CommuteInfo, celebrates over 30 years of promoting commuting options in the region by providing information on transit, sponsoring vanpools, helping arrange carpools and providing biking and walking resources through the program website www.commuteinfo.org or by calling toll-free 1-888-819-6110; and

WHEREAS, the month of May includes National Transportation Week, National Bike to Work Day, National Employee Health and Fitness Day, and National Clean Air Week;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Members of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission encourage the citizens of this region to welcome and emphasize the value of ridesharing, and offers support by declaring May 2009 as "CommuteInfo Commute Options Awareness Month" in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Commissioner Balya moved to approve Resolution 8-09 which was seconded by Mr. Rozzi. The affirmative vote to approve the resolution was unanimous.

4. Action on Resolution 9-09 to amend the 2009-2010 UPWP for the City of Washington

Staff member, Tom Klevan, explained that this is a routine amendment request to the UPWP for the City of Washington. They are initiating a planning study to conduct an evaluation of the City's fixed route structure services/recommendations for implementation – to provide a more efficient and cost effective service to the public. The study will follow recommendations from the Washington County Transit Study with focus on the Intermodal Transit Facility/Garage Project being developed for the East Chestnut Street Garage in the City's Main Street/Business District. Mr. Klevan also mentioned that monies lined up include \$32,000 Previously Allocated Federal Section 5307 Formula Program funds and \$8,000 non-federal match for a \$40,000 Project Total. He also said that this project was added to the FFY 2009-2012 TIP by the Transit Operators Committee at their March 18, 2009 meeting.

WHEREAS, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) authorizes funding and support of transportation planning, research and demonstration activities; and

WHEREAS, the following new transportation planning project is proposed for funding in the 2009-2010 Program:

1. "Route Assessments" at a total cost not to exceed \$40,000 (\$32,000 Federal Section 5307 Formula Program funds; \$8,000 non-federal match) to perform an evaluation of the City's fixed route structure and services and to gain recommendations for implementation in order to provide a more efficient and cost effective service to the public. This assessment is to also follow recommendations contained in the recent Washington County Transit Study and is to be developed with focus on the Intermodal Transit Facility/Garage Project being developed for the East Chestnut Street Garage in the City's Main Street/Business District.

WHEREAS, the Transit Operators Committee acted at its March 18, 2009 meeting to include the project on the 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program for funding in FY 2009; and

WHEREAS, planning projects must also be included on an approved Unified Planning Work Program before federal funding can be approved.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission approves revisions to the 2009-2010 UPWP to include the planning project "Route Assessments" as requested by the City of Washington.

Mayor Spossey moved to approve Resolution 9-09 which was seconded by Commissioner Maggi. Mayor Spossey commented that as Mayor of the City of Washington, he appreciates consideration of this project. The affirmative vote to approve the resolution was unanimous.

5. Action on Resolution 10-09 to Transfer FTA's Designated Recipient Status for the Job Access Reverse Commute and New Freedom Initiatives program from the Port Authority of Allegheny County to SPC

Tom Klevan said we are asking for Commission action on Resolution 10-09 to transfer FTA designated recipient status for Job Access Reverse Commute and New Freedoms Initiative from

the Port Authority of Allegheny County to SPC. We are responding to requests from Port Authority of Allegheny County and PennDOT Bureau of Transportation for SPC to become the Designated Recipient of the region's Federal Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedoms Initiative (NFI), as well as the Commonwealth's Welfare to Work (w2w) Transportation Program Funds. Mr. Klevan also said that over a year ago SPC started having discussions with the Port Authority of Allegheny County about the potential for this and those discussions resulted in the Port Authority action on Friday and this is in response to that action. He said that requests were taken to the Executive Committee last month.

Mr. Klevan presented a Regional Programs Current Status Overview:

- Eligible sub-recipients are private non-profits, public entities, operators of public transportation services
- PennDOT administers programs for areas with population under 200,000
- Direct apportionment to urbanized areas with population of 200,000 or more
- Governor assigned the designation for Pittsburgh Urbanized Area to PAAC (Designated Recipient Pittsburgh Urbanized Area for FTA 5307 – sub-recipients are direct FTA grantees)
- PAAC was awarded the first ISTEPA JARC through competitive grant application and the recipient of the discretionary funds.
- Since TEA-21, the program has grown to cover much of the 10 county region.

Mr. Klevan then reviewed the SW Regional Funding for FY 2009 Program of Projects:

- Urban program \$7.7 million
 - Federal - \$3 million
 - State - \$2.5 million
 - Local - \$2.2 million
- Small Urban \$756,000
 - Federal - \$605,000
 - State - \$151,000
- Non-Urbanized (Rural) \$82,000
 - Federal - \$41,000
 - State - \$41,000

Mr. Klevan explained the Potential Role/Responsibilities of SPC:

- Solicit/Assist Development of Projects
- Monitor Projects for Compliance/Eligibility
- Federal and State Regulations
- Locally Developed Performance Measures
- Project Contract Management
- Federal and State Grants Management

Mr. Klevan then explained the potential next steps:

- PAAC Board (April 24th) - resolution to formally request SPC to become the designated recipient of JARC and NFI Urbanized Area funding.
- SPC (April 27th) - Commission resolution to formally accept responsibility to administer the JARC and NFI Urbanized Area programs and funding.
- Governor re-designation/FTA approval

- Formal agreement entered into between SPC and PennDOT for other programs administration

WHEREAS, Federal transit law, as amended by SAFETEA-LU, requires that projects selected for funding under the Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310), JARC, and New Freedom programs be “derived from a locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan” and that the plan be “developed through a process that includes representatives of public, private, and non-profit transportation and human services providers and participation by members of the public”; and

WHEREAS, the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) adopted the “SWPA Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan” in January 2008; and

WHEREAS, SPC entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Port Authority of Allegheny County, and the Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board with support from The Pittsburgh Foundation (ATWIC – Access to Work Interagency Cooperative) for the overall purpose of building a foundation of support in the region for a more focused regional process for the implementation of integrated transportation and workforce development strategies that support economic development and employment growth in this region; and

WHEREAS, the Access to Work Task Force in collaboration with regional stakeholders has overseen the Regional Job Access program since its inception 1999 in response to welfare reform legislation and the identification of transportation as key to its successful implementation; and

WHEREAS, SPC staff has participated on the Access to Work Task Force and Executive Committee since 1999 and currently provides technical assistance and oversight guidance to ATWIC; and

WHEREAS, the Regional JARC and NFI programs have implemented twenty projects in eight counties, brought more than \$51 million dollars in resources to the region for coordinated mobility related transportation initiatives, and developed a working collaborative made up of key stakeholders including transportation providers, human service agencies, public welfare offices, transportation planning agencies, job developers, private foundations and others; and

WHEREAS, the Governor designated Port Authority of Allegheny County to administer the Pittsburgh Urbanized Area formula funds and programming; and

WHEREAS, Port Authority of Allegheny County, due to the regional nature of the programs, has requested SPC to fulfill the Governor’s designation to administer the formula funds and programming; and

WHEREAS, Port Authority of Allegheny County’s Board of Directors passed a resolution on April 24th, 2009 to request SPC to become the designated recipient for the Pittsburgh Urbanized Area JARC and NFI program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission agrees to accept and administer the Federal Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedoms Initiative (NFI) programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission recommends that the Governor of Pennsylvania re-designate SPC as the Pittsburgh Urbanized Area designated recipient to administer the Federal Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedoms Initiative (NFI) programs.

Commissioner Balya moved to approve Resolution 10-09 which was seconded by Mr. Miller. Commissioner Ruddock noted that Mr. Dan DeBone of the Port Authority of Allegheny County was present and asked if he would like to offer any thoughts on this change in designation. Mr. DeBone said that the Port Authority has been involved in JARC for several years, from when it was a discretionary program. At one point in time we probably had more than \$40 million, but as we've moved from discretionary down to formula, we have also moved to a regional coordinated plan. Jim Hassinger and his staff were very involved in this over the past couple of years. We felt that this is a better fit as we move to coordinate all of these funding sources together, not only JARC, but the New Freedoms Initiative for people with disabilities seeking sustaining jobs. We think is a good move and a good thing to do.

Commissioner Ruddock asked if taking on these additional responsibilities would require additional staff at SPC. Mr. Klevan stated that analysis is being done on how much extra work this might bring in, but no decisions have been made to add staff. He explained that as with most federal transit grants, there are allowable costs for administrative functions. Mr. Dan DeBone of the Port Authority of Allegheny County stated that there is administrative funding in the JARC and New Freedoms Initiative grants, and that money will transfer to SPC with the program.

The affirmative vote to approve the resolution was unanimous.

6. Staff Report/Other Business/Announcements

Dr. Hassinger announced that SPC is hosting a workshop to help local governments understand what is available to them from the federal government's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Stimulus Package. This workshop is sponsored by Senators Arlen Specter and Robert Casey. It will be held on Friday, May 1, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Regional Learning Alliance in Cranberry Township. All are invited to attend.

Also, I want to remind you that we have requested appointments to our Water Policy and Technical Committees. It is up to the Commissioners in the counties to make those appointments. There are also appointments to be made at the state level. We would like to show progress on that effort by the middle of next month. If you haven't settled on appointments, I want to call your attention to places where you can get names for this Board. There are people who have already been working on the IOP Task Force and technical advisory level. Those names are on the Water Task Force Website. There is also a resource recommended to us by a Corporate Board member, Georgia Berner, called Women on Boards Initiative. That web site is www.ewcpittsburgh.org/wob has within it resumes that you can search of volunteers for boards -

corporate and public boards. Most of the population in that Initiative is in Allegheny County; but, they want to expand on that website to make appropriate names available for board appointments around the region.

Commissioner Ruddock asked if there were any other announcements adding that the support and supportive relationships among law enforcement from the entire region are important and appreciated considering the events of recent days in which policemen lost their lives. Commissioner Spanik also noted the need for all counties to review their 911 call handling protocols.

Next Meeting Date – June 29, 2009

8. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rodney Ruddock
Secretary-Treasurer