

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of
October 25, 2010 – 4:30 p.m.
31st Floor • Regional Enterprise Tower • 425 Sixth Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15219

The eighty-sixth meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission was called to order by Chairman Charles Camp.

Commission members present were: Charles Camp, Tom Ceraso, Daniel Cessna, Steve Craig, Terry Daughenbaugh, Kevin Gray, Dave Johnston, Jim Kennedy, Larry Maggi, Kevin McCullough, Mary Jo Morandini, A. Dale Pinkerton, Rod Ruddock, Kelly Shroads, Michael Silvestri, Pam Snyder, Wendy Stern, Gealy Wallwork, and Norma Wintermyer.

Commission members absent were: Tony Amadio, Tom Balya, Shirl Barnhart, Stephen Bland, Andrew Boni, Bracken Burns, Jack Cohen, Rick DeBlasio, Joseph Dubovi, Karl Eisaman, Patricia Evanko, Richard Fink, David Frick, Jim Gagliano, Jr., Jessica Greathouse, Lynn Heckman, Dana Henry, John Paul Jones, Patricia Kirkpatrick, Ted Kopas, James Lokhaiser, Robert Macey, Robbie Matesic, David Miller, Dan Onorato, William Peduto, William Piper, Luke Ravenstahl, James Ritzman, Carmen Rozzi, Jim Scahill, Robert Schiffbauer, Mark Schneider, Richard Shaw, Renee Sigel, Mark Snyder, Joe Spanik, Anthony Spossey, Byron Stauffer, Jr., Rob Stephany, Joe Szczur, Letitia Thompson, Archie Trader, Vincent Vicites, Daniel Vogler, Jake Wheatley, Jr., Vincent Zaposky, and Yarone Zober.

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

Others: Shawn Fox, Allegheny County, Tom Halloran, Urban Redevelopment Authority, John Quatman, PennDOT, Jon Smith, Allegheny County Transit Council, John Verbanac, SPC Consultant and Ken Wolfe, Representative Jake Wheatley's staff.

1. Action on Minutes of the July 26th Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2010 meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission by Commissioner Maggi which was seconded by Commissioner Craig. The affirmative vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Staff Profile – David Pinkosky

Mr. Villotti introduced David Pinkosky, a Development Specialist within the Planning and Development Department. David has been with SPC since 2006. Before joining SPC, David served for 4 years as the City Clerk for the City of Connellsville, a Third Class City of over 9,000 residents located in Fayette County, PA.

Mr. Pinkosky explained the Government Contracting Services at the SPC. The Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) is funded through the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) to

assist companies with government contracting opportunities. SPC is in partnership with the PTAC centers located at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and the Private Industry Council of Westmoreland/Fayette Counties.

4. Financial Report – Vince Massaro

Mr. Massaro reported that the financial report is for the fiscal period ending September 30th and includes the operations of the Corporation, the Commission, and the Regional Enterprise Tower.

Total project related revenues recognized and recorded to date, including encumbrances, are \$5,220,199 vs. the annual budget of \$10,939,056 or 47.72% of the budget. Total carry-over project related revenues recognized and recorded to date, including encumbrances, are \$747,429 vs. the annual budget of \$3,261,047 or 22.92% of the budget. The UPWP carry-over projects include the Federal Highway Administration FY 09-10, the Regional Traffic Signal Program and the Truck Parking Study. All will carry over until September 30, 2011.

Revenues relating to the operations of the RET actual and encumbered to date are \$1,173,106 vs. the annual budget of \$2,346,752 or 49.99%.

Total project related expenditures recorded and encumbered to date are \$5,220,318 vs. the annual budget of \$11,275,162 or 46.30% of the annual budget.

Mr. Massaro further reported that total carry-over project related expenditures, the UPWP projects, are proceeding as scheduled.

Expenses related to the operations of the RET before depreciation and amortization expense, \$1,158,941 vs. the annual fiscal budget of \$2,405,332 or 48.18% of the budget expended.

Mr. Massaro also reported that the auditors are completing their review of FY 09-10 and the final report will be presented in December.

5. Action on Resolution 15-10 to Amend the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program – Tom Klevan

Mr. Klevan explained that the Port Authority of Allegheny County is requesting the Commission to take action to amend the FFY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add discretionary federal funding awarded for the project: State of Good Repair (SGR) Bus Replacement in the amount of \$22,715,025 of the Federal Transit Administration's new State of Good Repair Discretionary Bus Grant Program.

Commissioner Craig moved:

WHEREAS, this funding will enable the Port Authority of Allegheny County to replace buses that have reached or exceeded their useful life with new and more fuel efficient buses; and,

WHEREAS, the Port Authority of Allegheny County intends to provide \$5,495,616 in Commonwealth Capital Bond funds; and, \$183,140 in local funding to match the federal funding for a total project cost of \$28,393,781; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed action conforms with SPC's TIP amendment policies and public involvement process, does not change TIP fiscal balance, does not affect any STIP project, or affect the region's air quality conformity determination; and,

WHEREAS, the Transit Operators Committee (TOC) of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission at its regular meeting on October 20, 2010 took action to recommend that this amendment request be approved by the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, recognizing first its collective interests in the well-being of its residents and in the continued effective operations of the overall transportation system, approves the Port Authority of Allegheny County's request to program \$22,715,025 of federal funds, \$28,393,781 total, in transit funding to fund the State of Good Repair (SGR) Bus Replacement project.

Commissioner Ceraso seconded and the affirmative vote to approve Resolution 15-10 was unanimous.

6. Action on Resolution 16-10 to Recognize the Services of Dave Coder

Commissioner Snyder moved:

WHEREAS, he has had a long and active association with the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, having been a Greene County representative since 1996, and also held the Chairmanship from January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2005.

WHEREAS, he served on the Commission's Executive Committee as well as its Intergovernmental Affairs and Regional Policy Advisory Committees working diligently on Southwestern Pennsylvania's priorities; and

WHEREAS, he also served on the Board of Directors of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation and its Property Committee since 2002, which oversees the development and operations of the Regional Enterprise Tower, the nation's first building of its kind dedicated as a hub for regional development; and

WHEREAS, he has fostered public involvement in planning efforts and accommodated differing views to reach balanced decisions; and

WHEREAS, he brought his skills, experience and enthusiasm to the deliberations of the Commission and gave generously of his time in attending numerous meetings associated with his appointments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Officers, Members and Staff of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation offer their

appreciation for his contributions to the Commission and Corporation and anticipate his continuing participation in the work of the agencies in the years ahead.

Commissioner Snyder said that if she knows Dave he would be honored and will be honored to receive this. He really valued his time leading this organization. Commissioner Snyder also mentioned that Dave is extremely happy in his new role as Congressional Deputy District Director for U.S. Representative Mark Critz.

Mr. Gray seconded.

Commissioner Camp commented that Dave Coder is one of the nicest men he has ever met in his life. He is a real gentleman. He's a great family man. He loves his wife and daughters so much that he dotes on them both. Loves to dabble on ebay. A great public servant (4 terms as an elected commissioner) and prothonotary.

He always took a courageous stand in view of public life and political life. As a diehard Democrat, he only judged people by their character and supported his friends no matter what their political affiliation. I can say publicly how much respect, admiration, and friendship I have with Dave and wish he and his family the best. His dedication to SPC was probably one of the strongest of any member I have ever seen. His belief in regionalism and when you look at where he came from down from the bottom quarter of the state and coming up to Pittsburgh making sure that things work for the whole region. I can't think of a better example of a regional player than Dave Coder.

The motion to approve Resolution 16-10 was unanimous.

7. Staff Report/Other Business/Announcements

Report on PennDOT Planning Partners Meeting – October 18th-20th

Mr. DiPietro reported that in attendance were 23 MPOs/RPOs, and PennDOT District Engineers plus their programming staff, Central Office was represented by Secretary Biehler, Jim Ritzman and his key team members. There were also FHWA, AASHTO, and guest speakers.

Mr. DiPietro highlighted the separate and opening MPO/RPO session with approximately 40 attendees. Discussion focused on actions and possible recommendations to present later to Central Office as part of the Annual Meeting. Coverage highlights included Linking Planning and NEPA input as move to rapid closure statewide, UPWP planning priorities and funding levels, DBE MPO/RPO training needs, and advancing MPO/RPO communication techniques like a Planning Partners Google Group.

A highlight of the annual meeting was a panel on the impacts of Marcellus Shale Gas Drilling. The panel included reports were provided by Penn State research staff, District 3's District Executive, Northern Tier, and Lycoming County staff. Each panelist related their experience regarding economic impact, economic & workforce issues, community impacts, environmental impacts, and taking action locally to shape impacts as you react to opportunities and challenges. District 3 discussed transportation impacts of Marcellus Shale drilling, county task forces in Lycoming County and Northern Tier, road/rail/airport impacts, impacts on local roads and bridges, managing

roadway postings, impacts to PennDOT operations and budget, impacts to employment/housing/real estate/tourism, unfunded needs, and another area where this is just the “tip of the iceberg”.

Other open session highlights included Traffic Count Data/Info/Sites, MPO/RPO Project Presentations (including DVRPC’s Smart Growth Challenge Grant Program, Allegheny County’s West Busway TOD Study, Lebanon Transit PNR Lot, and Mercer County’s Route 19 Corridor Study), Linking Planning & NEPA Update (with extensive MPO/RPO feedback and draft “Rules of Engagement”); and utilizing a tool called “Decision Lens” in which several applications were presented.

The Planning Priorities for MPO/RPO UPWP’s session included a panel from Central Office, a MPO, and a RPO. It was unanimously agreed that there is a need for flexible response by region to the Linking Planning & NEPA Initiative. Discussion also included use of the screening forms, public communication / input via the screening forms and the need for coordinated response to assessment/inventory of each region’s Local Transportation Assets.

FHWA & AASHTO Updates included authorization, trust fund, Obama administration direction, congress, and future revenue collection discussions underway. FHWA’s Every Day Counts Innovative Initiative was also presented and is designed to identify and deploy innovation aimed at shortening project delivery, enhancing the safety of our roadways, and improving environmental sustainability.

Mr. DiPietro said that in Secretary Biehler’s PennDOT Update he thanked MPO/RPO partners for extensive support on multiple fronts over the past years – programming reengineering, financial crisis education/outreach help, stimulus program delivery, and advancing Linking Planning & NEPA. Secretary Biehler also noted that PennDOT staff is now preparing transition documents for the next administration.

State Transportation Advisory Committee reported that two new studies are underway. First, the Local Roadway Needs Study is looking at the financial needs of counties & municipalities. It should be complete by mid-2011. The second study underway is Future Directions for Transportation in Pennsylvania. A workshop was conducted with the PennDOT planning partners to input to the future directions study. The workshop focused on issues demanding attention, key themes for each, and how we should measure progress in addressing each. Ten similar workshops will soon be conducted with a draft report to be developed by mid-December and then presented to the State Transportation Committee. Next Future Directions Study workshops (all in Harrisburg) are scheduled for October 29th, November 5th, and November 12th. The November 5th workshop will also have WebEx access.

Four work groups were formed to advance partner follow-up with Central Office on multiple fronts:

- Local Asset Inventory Data Collection – what data should be collected and in what format;
- IT/Accessible Database – define requirements for development of an accessible data base;
- 2012-2013 UPWP Funding Distribution Formula – look at existing formula and develop base funding formula options; and
- 2012-2013 UPWP Planning Priorities Letter.

Next Meeting Date – December 13th

8. New Business

Mr. Hassinger reminded members said that the SPC Ethics Policy needs to be signed annually by the Commissioners and to please see Kay Tomko for a copy before leaving if they have not already sent in their copy.

9. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Cessna moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Silvestri seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Craig
Secretary-Treasurer