

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of
September 23, 2013
Two Chatham Center • Suite 400 • 112 Washington Place • Pittsburgh, PA 15219

The one hundred third meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission was called to order by Chairman Rod Ruddock.

Members present were: Alfred Ambrosini, Chuck Anderson, Daniel Cessna, Tom Ceraso, Tyler Courtney, Steve Craig, Albert D'Alessandro, Terry Daughenbaugh, Rich Fitzgerald, Joe Grata, Kelly Gray, Lynn Heckman, Fred Junko, Clifford Levine, Robert Macey, Larry Maggi, Jeff Marshall, Robbie Matesic, William McCarrier, Kevin McCullough, David Miller, Charles Morris, A. Dale Pinkerton, James Ritzman, Marc Roncone, Carmen Rozzi, Rod Ruddock, Michael Silvestri, Joe Spanik, Byron Stauffer, Jr., Wendy Stern, Archie Trader, and Diana Irey Vaughan.

Members absent were: Tony Amadio, David Battaglia, Robert Bower, Robert Brooks, Ricky Burgess, Brigid Hynes-Cherin, Jack Cohen, Robert Del Signore, Joseph Dubovi, Mary Ann Eisenreich, Patricia Evanko, Rich Fink, David Frick, Jim Gagliano, Jr., David Johnston, Bruce Mazzoni, Ellen McLean, Laura Mohollen, Dennis Nichols, Rich Palilla, Luke Ravenstahl, Robert Rubinstein, Richard Shaw, Dan Shimshock, Harlan Shober, Renee Sigel, Mark Snyder, James Struzzi, Joe Szczur, Daniel Vogler, Christopher Wheat, Angela Zimmerlink, Blair Zimmerman, and Yarone Zober.

Others: Tom Halloran, URA Pittsburgh; Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County Department of Economic Development; Helen Gerhardt, and Connie Washington, Pittsburgh for Public Transportation; Doug Straley, Sports and Exhibition Authority; and Jon Smith, Allegheny County Transit Council.

Staff: Jim Hassinger, Kirk Brethauer, Chuck DiPietro, Chuck Imbrogno, Sarah Koenig, Vince Massaro, Erin McCracken, Shannon O'Connell, Dee Pamplin, Matt Pavlosky, Kay Tomko, Lew Villotti, and Sara Walfoort.

1. Action on Minutes of the June 24th Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2013 meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission by Commissioner Anderson which was seconded by Commissioner Pinkerton. The affirmative vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

2. Public Comment - None

3. Public Comment on Lower Hill District Street Grid Long Range Plan/Transportation Improvement Program Amendment Request – Matt Pavlosky

Mr. Pavlosky reported that the resolution in the packet today is to amend the Transportation Improvement Program and the Long Range Plan to include the Sports and Exhibition Authority of the City and Allegheny County's proposed Lower Hill District Street Grid Project.

The project went through SPC’s standard public review and comment process. Specifically under review was the construction of three new streets; reconstruction of the four existing streets; and, traffic signal and pedestrian improvements, with an overall cost estimated at \$21 million.

Matt said the public comment period began on August 7, 2013 and concluded September 11, 2013. General advertisements and public review of documents occurred in Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh. The public meeting was held in SPC’s North Meeting Room at Two Chatham Center. Eight comments were received. Seven were public comments and one was from the Port Authority of Allegheny County.

Mr. Ceraso said when we first received the packet it talked about the TIGER Grant and looking at the funding now its RACP, PennVest, and SEA. Are there now federal funding sources involved with the project? Mr. Straley from SEA responded that at first we did apply for a TIGER Grant for a portion of this work but we didn’t get it this year. We are looking at allocating other federal funding sources to this. The City is looking at unused funds from existing projects to be reallocated. We also plan on resubmitting other federal applications, and we think this action enhances our ability to do that.

4. Action on Resolution 13-13 to Amend the Long Range Plan/Transportation Improvement Program to Include the Lower Hill District Street Grid – Matt Pavlosky

Ms. Heckman moved:

WHEREAS, Federal transportation law (Section 134 of Title 23 U.S.C. and Section 5303 of Title 49 U.S.C.) and metropolitan transportation planning regulations (Part 450.220 of Title 23 C.F.R.) require that Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) conduct a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process and develop and maintain a Long-Range Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program that conform with various Federal requirements; and

WHEREAS, projects involving federal transportation funding or projects that require federal actions, regardless of funding source, must be included on the adopted TIP and Plan before federal funding can be made available for the project, or before federal actions can be approved; and

WHEREAS, the sponsor is currently programming the LHR projects for construction with 100% local funding (\$21,600,000), but is seeking TIP approval because SEA anticipates future federal funding from discretionary and/or lower priority TIP sources to be included in the project. The Lower Hill Redevelopment projects will be advanced with current funding and are not dependent on the future federal funds. The local funding sources include:

PA Commonwealth – Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP)	\$15,000,000
Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority – PennVest Loan	\$ 2,300,000
Sports and Exhibition Authority – Equity Sources	\$ 4,300,000

WHEREAS, the proposed TIP amendments will maintain overall TIP fiscal balance and will not interfere with the implementation of any projects, commitments, or requirements of applicable air quality State Implementation Plans (SIPs); and

WHEREAS, approval of this amendment to the 2013-2016 TIP will not alter the finding of conformity between the TIP and the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990; and

WHEREAS, the proposed TIP amendments have been reviewed by the Transportation Technical Committee and recommended to the Commission for approval; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments, because the total project cost is greater than \$20 million, were made available for public review and comment consistent with SPC's established public review procedures from August 7, 2013 through September 11, 2013 including one public meeting on August 27th; and

WHEREAS, documentation of the public review and comment period, public comments received, and responses to comments have been compiled and presented to the Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission approves the request made by the Sports and Exhibition Authority to amend the 2013-2016 TIP to include the SEA's proposed Lower Hill Redevelopment projects.

Mr. Macey seconded. The affirmative vote carried.

5. Financial Report – Vince Massaro

Mr. Massaro reported on the financials for the Corporation and Commission for the period July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. Total project related revenues to date are \$14,957,175 compared to the approved annual budget of \$17,331,000 or 86.3% of the budget recognized to date. There is approximately \$1.8 million of federal and state money that will carry-over into the next fiscal year from this fiscal year. He explained that there were no unexpected revenue items to report at this time. On the carry-over project related revenues, actual and encumbered to date are \$139,000 compared to the approved annual revised budget, of \$139,000, or 100% of the budget recognized to date, which includes the Regional Traffic Cycle I projects and they are 100% complete. Of the total project related expenditures of \$14,997,000 versus the approved revised annual budget of \$17.3 million or 86.3% of the budget expended to date. Funding on both the revenue and expenditure sides carry over into the new fiscal year.

Mr. Massaro informed the Commission that the auditors are still in the office conducting the annual financial audit, and they would probably be here for another two to three weeks. We can expect to see a draft audit report by mid-October or early November for the Audit Committee's review. Presentation to the SPC Board will be at the December meeting.

6. Update on Water Resource Center – Lew Villotti

Mr. Villotti introduced the new SPC Water Resource Center team, Erin McCracken and Sarah Koenig. Since they are new, we're having them do their profiles so the Commissioners can get to know them. We'll update you on the Water Resource Center and what we're doing now, and what we would like to accomplish in the future.

Ms. Erin McCracken, Water Resource Manager, was born in Pittsburgh and grew up in Warren County. She has a BS in Environmental Biology from Clarion University. In college she did various internships including working for the Corp of Engineers as a park ranger, and for Pennsylvania DEP, doing black fly and West Nile Virus suppression program work, and stream assessments. She has done research at Clarion University and also worked for the US Forest Service. Other types of work she has done include wildlife management, forestry management, and environmental education.

She began her career as the water specialist for the Warren Conservation District dealing with agricultural BMPs to flooding issues, stream erosion, grant writing, and public education. She worked as an environmental planner for Mill Creek MetroParks and she got the first water plan approved in that part of the state in 2007. She also managed park lands. She worked as a water resources planner for the Delaware River Basin Commission doing Act 167 reviews, and also managed their stormwater retrofit monitoring program. She worked in the private sector as an environmental scientist for Wallace & Pancher, Inc., and worked with the state of New Hampshire DES and the DOT in municipalities. She was Habitat Restoration Project Manager for Buffalo Niagara Riverkeepers. Most recent work experience was as an Ecologist with Ecotone Environmental Consultants. She is an avid outdoorswoman who likes to travel and look for Native American artifacts.

Sarah Koenig, Water Resources Planner, is originally from Fort Pierce, Florida and has been in Pittsburgh for six years. Sarah has a BA in Anthropology and thought she would be an archaeologist, but in graduate school switched to environmental geography and focused on water resources. At ALCOSAN she was on the Wet Weather Program Management Team for six years doing environmental science and GIS. Being on the project management team she worked with the seven basin planning consultants. Over the last year she has done some urban forestry, and before that was a field scientist doing assessments. She enjoys volunteering and has worked with Nine Mile Run Watershed Association, Allegheny Clean Ways, and Tree Pittsburgh.

Mr. Villotti continued by reading the SPC's Water Resources Center Mission Statement: The SPC Water Resource Center will promote regional collaboration on water topics; be a leader in facilitating coordination and education; and, provide technical assistance to its member governments.

He summarized the Water Resources Center's progress to date, and its short term goals:

How Did We Get Here?

- ◆ 1999 - SPC holds conference on sewage related problems
- ◆ 2002 - Three Rivers Wet Weather Regionalization Report
- ◆ 2002 – Pennsylvania Economy League of Southwestern PA Investing in Clean Water Report
- ◆ 2002 – National Research Council Report, Regional Cooperation for Water Quality Improvement in SW PA
- ◆ 2005 – H. John Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management at Carnegie Mellon University
- ◆ 2006 – IOP Framing Paper
- ◆ 2006 – IOP Regional Water Management Taskforce Formations
- ◆ 2006 – Task Force Phase 1 Report
- ◆ 2007 – Task Force Recommendation
- ◆ 2008 – SPC Annual Policy Conference focuses on recommendation

- ◆ 2008 – SPC Regional Policy Committee Recommendation
- ◆ 2008 – SPC Board approves resolution
- ◆ 2013 – SPC creates Water Resource Center

Stormwater – Initial Focus

- ◆ Limited County-wide regulatory jurisdiction related to water
- ◆ Limited Funding
- ◆ County-wide regulatory = Act 167
- ◆ Member counties = various stages of SWMP
- ◆ Municipalities = varying stages of adoption & implementation
- ◆ Initial State \$\$ for Act 167 no longer available
- ◆ Affect many other related issues through stormwater program (localized flooding, aging infrastructure, etc.)

Ms. McCracken continued summarizing the Water Resource Center’s goals:

Regional Cooperation & Coordination

- ◆ Water Resources Technical Committee
 - ◆ Planning Directors
 - ◆ Issue-specific subcommittees as needed
- ◆ Facilitate regional approach to water planning
- ◆ Provide updates to Commission on regional water issues

Technical Assistance / Regional Clearinghouse

- ◆ Develop website
 - ◆ Best Management Practices (BMPs)
 - ◆ Existing Storm Water Management Plans & associated ordinances
 - ◆ Model ordinances
 - ◆ Funding opportunities
 - ◆ Case Studies
 - ◆ Federal & State regulatory information
 - ◆ Key Concepts/Terminology
 - ◆ Free & low-cost modeling tools for use in determining cost, benefits, & performance
 - ◆ Data typically used in phase 1 Storm Water Management Plans
 - ◆ Links to Wet Weather & Fish Consumption Advisories

Education

- ◆ Catalog existing related efforts in region & Identify potential partners
- ◆ Develop educational & outreach priorities
- ◆ Develop and/or adapt materials to meet the needs of the region (data, education, ordinances, etc)
- ◆ Sponsor, develop, & coordinate educational seminars & workshops

Ms. Koenig continued the presentation commenting that it’s exciting to be working on the water topic because a lot of people have reached out with interest to work with us on all these water topics.

Progress to Date

Regional Cooperation and Coordination

- ◆ Held meetings with key contacts / partners, including:
 - ◆ Darla Cravotta, Special Projects Coordinator for Rich Fitzgerald
 - ◆ Tim Bruno, DEP (Northwest Region)
 - ◆ US Army Corps of Engineers (Pittsburgh District)
 - ◆ Westmoreland County Conservation District
 - ◆ Deb Lange, CMU Steinbrenner Institute
 - ◆ Allegheny County Planning Department
 - ◆ Armstrong County Planning Department
 - ◆ Greene County Planning Department
 - ◆ Washington County Planning Department
 - ◆ Participated in Headwaters of the Ohio Committee with CMU, ORSANCO, USGS, others
 - ◆ Attended Penn's Corner Conservation District Alliance Meeting
 - ◆ Held first Water Resources Technical Committee Meeting
 - ◆ Held phone meeting with Rita Coleman, DEP (Southwest Region)

Technical Assistance / Regional Clearinghouse

- ◆ Developing website in coordination with Web & Communications team
- ◆ Coordinating with GIS team to acquire key data sets for stormwater planning
- ◆ Acquired existing Phase 1 & Phase 2 Stormwater Management Plans
- ◆ Conference call with Chester County GIS department to explore options for generating impervious cover dataset for SPC region

Education

- ◆ Staff trained & certified as Municipal Stormwater Inspectors
- ◆ Developing core content for educational portion of website
- ◆ Adapting Municipal Training materials developed by DEP

Further Regional Coordination

- ◆ Meetings scheduled with additional key contacts, including:
 - ◆ Lawrence County Planning
 - ◆ Beaver County Planning
 - ◆ Westmoreland County Planning
- ◆ Meetings to be scheduled: Indiana County, Fayette County and Butler County Planning Departments

Mr. Villotti concluded the presentation by showing a map of Act 167 status in the SPC region:

Initial Focus

- ◆ Developing funding proposal to bring entire SPC region into Act 167 compliance
 - ◆ Cost estimate \$1-1.5 Million
 - ◆ Completion of County Phase 1 & 2 Plans
 - ◆ Development of curriculum for continuing education for municipalities
- ◆ Developing SPC Water Resource Center Website

Secondary Focus

- ◆ Develop information on regional coordination & cooperation issues & opportunities
- ◆ Newsletter
- ◆ Explore future water resource management opportunities and issues
 - ◆ Regional topics
 - ◆ National topics

Regional Topics of Interest to Date

- ◆ Aging infrastructure
- ◆ Water Quantity
- ◆ Water Quality
- ◆ Acid Mine Drainage (AMD)
- ◆ Energy Production

National Topics of Interest to Date

- ◆ Climate Change
- ◆ Atmospheric Deposition
- ◆ Contaminants of Emerging Concern (Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products)

7. Report from PennDOT on Current Status of Transportation Funding in Harrisburg - Jim Ritzman

Jim Ritzman, PennDOT Deputy Secretary for Planning, provided status reports on the following transportation items:

- Federal
 - MAP-21 – TIP Update will require significant adjustment to reflect new National Highway Priority System (NHPP) addition, and the elimination of the federal bridge program as a separate category as part of the dramatic structural funding program changes from SAFETEA-LU to MAP-21. Bridge projects must now compete and be funded under individual system based programs (like NHPP or STP).
 - Highway Trust Fund – only solvent until end of September 2014, per current cash flow projections.
 - Enhanced NHPP – under MAP-21 now over 60% of available funds – yet only 15% of system miles – money will be heavily focused on the major core highway system. This will present a severe challenge to maintain the non NHPP systems statewide that are critical statewide to individual regions.
- State
 - Governor/House/Senate transportation funding proposals – it appears we may be close to legislative action on new transportation funding, as PA legislature is back in session today through October 15th. Mr. Ritzman emphasized the urgent need for action by mid-October.
 - Expanded State & Local Bridge Postings – PennDOT recently made changes to their Risk Based Postings Policy to slow down the deterioration and extend the life of our structurally deficient bridges. PennDOT had one of the more liberal bridge posting policies prior to Secretary Schoch's action. The revised posting policy is consistent with national load-rating policy guidelines and focuses on bridges that are deemed

structurally deficient. Also highlighted PennDOT's revised posting policy in comparison to other states.

- Local Bridge Structurally Deficient Story – highlighted for both state and locally-owned bridges. Pennsylvania currently leads the nation in the number of structurally deficient bridges with a total of 4,479. Before the revised posting policy, Pennsylvania ranked 35th in the nation with the percent of structurally deficient bridges that are posted or closed – with the new posting policy in place, Pennsylvania will still only rank 27th in the nation in posted or closed bridges.
- House Bill 1717 – Secretary Schoch's message is we need to work to not let this legislation move forward, and he has reached out to individual legislators to educate them on the dangers of the language in this bill. It “diverts all funds immediately to bridges, now and into the future, and requires all structurally deficient bridges to be fully repaired or replaced”. The consequences of this language are unacceptable.

8. TIP Update – Chuck DiPietro

Chuck DiPietro directed the Commission members to the handout packet and pointed out a few things on the *Commissioners 2015 TIP Update Briefing*.

Recent Activities

- Concluded the second round of Highway TIP Work Group sessions in July. Screened project candidate proposals from public input and from on line.
- TOC conducted its first work group to update the transit part of the TIP. A Transit Operators page was added to the SPC TIP Development Share Point site.
- CMAQ process is underway. We held a forum with Sustainable Pittsburgh to present an overview of the TIP Update process.
- Statewide Financial Guidance Group discussed how big is the pie but what is our share.

At this Time in the Process

- Data, evaluation, and analysis of all candidate projects. Even with the limited money we are screening candidates. If they don't make it to this TIP, they will be considered in the next TIP.
- Mark Roncone's Transit Operators Committee is waiting for more direction from the Financial Guidance Work Group.
- 46 CMAQ candidate project applications were received. Total CMAQ funding requested was nearly \$165 million. Less than \$50 million is expected to be available for new CMAQ projects on the 2015-2018 TIP.
- Fall Public Participation Panel meetings are being scheduled with member planning departments.

Upcoming Milestones & Schedule

- Work group meetings starting in District 10-0 next week. Work from these group meetings will be further screened and a review of 2013 TIP carryover projects will be conducted.
- CMAQ Evaluation Committee meets this week to begin its task of preparing the list of over three to one.
- Financial Guidance Work Group meetings October 8.
- Statewide Planning Partners Meeting scheduled for October 30 – November 1.

Chairman Ruddock recalled that at our last meeting there was a request from the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission for the Southern Beltway Expansion. There was some dialogue at that meeting. They were invited to come back, but at this point they have not decided to do so. I think they are looking at some funding issues specific to the Turnpike Commission and also how it affects the TIP for Westmoreland County.

9. Action on Resolution 14-13 to Honor the Services of Dana Henry

Commissioner Anderson read Resolution No. 14-13:

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION (SPC) to honor the services of Dana Henry.

WHEREAS, Dana Henry has served with distinction as Indiana County's Citizen Representative on the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) since 1998; and

WHEREAS, he has furthered the Commission's role as a forum for cooperative planning and decision making in Southwestern Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, he brought his skills, experience and enthusiasm to the deliberations of the Commission; and

WHEREAS, he has been an active member of Indiana County's Public Participation Panel since 1998, and provided sound leadership as the PPP co-chair from 2000-2013; and

WHEREAS, the SPC has benefited considerably from his enthusiastic participation in our planning process; and

WHEREAS, he recently retired and has stepped down as a Commissioner on SPC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Officers, Members and Staff of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission offer their appreciation for his years of service and anticipate his continuing interest in the work of SPC in the years ahead.

Mr. Stauffer moved to approve and Commissioner Anderson seconded. The affirmative vote to approve Resolution 14-13 was unanimous.

10. Appoint 2014 Nominating Committee

Mr. Hassinger noted that the Nominating Committee needs to be appointed for 2014. It is the Chairman's wish that we appoint the Committee with Chair, Jim Gagliano, Lawrence County; Lynn Heckman, Allegheny County; Rich Fink, Armstrong County; Dick Shaw, Beaver County; David Johnston, Butler County; Joe Grata, Fayette County; Robbie Matesic, Greene County; Byron Stauffer, Indiana County; Mike Silvestri, Washington County; Tyler Courtney, Westmoreland County; and request that we hold the Pittsburgh nomination out of respect for the upcoming election. This would

be the suggested slate for the Nominating Committee. Commissioner Maggi motioned to approve and Tom Ceraso seconded. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

Joe Grata wanted to publicly recognize and thank SPC and SPC staff Laura Mundell and Ryan Falcone for introducing the Belle Vernon School Board to the energy savings program. We are now 96% in a contract with Chevron, \$4.2 million worth of work, 100,000 sq. ft. of roof replaced, 6,500 indoor and outdoor light fixtures, and the building envelope on five buildings. I encourage others to do the same to municipal buildings in their communities. The best part of the Guaranteed Energy Program is that's \$4.2 million worth of work and the cost of the taxpayer is zero.

11. Other Business/Announcements – Jim Hassinger

Mr. Hassinger reported that last week the International Trade Week group met here. Overseas trade representative meetings are coordinated with SPC's international trade staff and partners around the region together with overseas trade representatives from the state. The state contracts with overseas representatives to help local companies do business in foreign markets. There were 26 trade representatives here who held 241 one-on-one meetings with local companies about expanding their business overseas. This was a very significant and successful event. We look forward to continuing work with the international representatives next year.

Next Meeting Date – October 28, 2013

12. New Business None

13. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Charles Anderson
Secretary-Treasurer