

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission  
Minutes of the Meeting of  
March 10, 2014 – 4:30 p.m.  
Two Chatham Center • Suite 400 • 112 Washington Place • Pittsburgh, PA 15219

The one hundred seventh meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission was called to order by Chairman Steve Craig.

Members present were: Tony Amadio, Chuck Anderson, Tom Ceraso, Daniel Cessna, Jack Cohen, Steve Craig, Albert D'Alessandro, Rich Fink, Rich Fitzgerald, Jim Gagliano, Jr., Joe Grata, Kelly Gray, Lynn Heckman, David Johnston, Clifford Levine, Robert Macey, Larry Maggi, Jeff Marshall, Bruce Mazzoni, David Miller, Charles Morris, Rich Palilla, A. Dale Pinkerton, Michael Silvestri, Joe Spanik, Archie Trader, Dwan Walker, and Tyler Courtney.

Members absent were: Alfred Ambrosini, Michael Baker, David Battaglia, Robert Bower, Robert Brooks, Ricky Burgess, Brigid Hynes-Cherin, Robert Del Signore, Joseph Dubovi, Mary Ann Eisenreich, Patricia Evanko, Fred Junko, Robbie Matesic, William McCarrier, Kevin McCullough, Ellen McLean, Laura Mohollen, Dennis Nichols, William Peduto, James Ritzman, Marc Roncone, Carmen Rozzi, Robert Rubinstein, Rod Ruddock, Dan Shimshock, Harlan Shober, Renee Sigel, Mark Snyder, Keith Staso, Byron Stauffer, Jr., James Struzzi, Joe Szczur, Diana Irey Vaughan, Daniel Vogler, Christopher Wheat, Angela Zimmerlink, and Blair Zimmerman.

Others: Charles Camp, PA Turnpike Commission, Debbie Lestitian, City of Pittsburgh, Mayor's Office; Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County Department of Economic Development; Mark Shegog, Citizen – Beaver County, Paul Svoboda, Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh.

Staff: Jim Hassinger, Kirk Brethauer, Chuck DiPietro, Linda Duffy, Zora Fye, Chuck Imbrogno, Tom Klevan, Vince Massaro, Shannon O'Connell, Matt Pavlosky, Kay Tomko, Lew Villotti, and Sara Walfoort.

1. Action on Minutes of the January 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2014 meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission by Commissioner Pinkerton which was seconded by Commissioner Macey. The affirmative vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

2. Public Comment – None

Commissioner Craig welcomed Charlie Camp of the PA Turnpike Commission. Mr. Camp is a former SPC Chairman and Commissioner from Beaver County.

3. Staff Profile – Vince Massaro / Zora Fye

Mr. Massaro introduced Zora Fye who is a staff accountant in SPC's Accounting Department. Zora has worked for SPC for almost 20 years. She is a central part of the department in organizing and accounting for the financial information, the financial statements, and the audit reports which she helps to prepare.

Zora is currently a resident of downtown Pittsburgh and has lived at Gateway Towers Condominiums for almost 10 years; prior to that she lived at Chatham Towers Condominiums for 6 years. Zora gave up her car in 1998 and since then has used Port Authority buses and the T for grocery shopping, doctor's appointments, and other personal needs. She is a vegetarian and in the summer takes advantage of the Farmers Market at the City County Building to purchase all her fruit and veggies. Zora participates in the many cultural venues, i.e. the Opera, the Broadway Series, the O'Reilly Theater and the City Theater on the South Side. She is a graduate of Robert Morris University with a degree in Accounting

She has worked for SPC almost twenty years. Prior to joining SPC, she worked as an auditor for two of the Big Eight CPA firms at that time (Coopers & Lybrand and Touche Ross); she also worked as the Division Controller for a Fortune 500 Company. At that time, she lived in Pittsburgh and her territory was the West Coast, i.e. her staff was located in an office in San Leandro, CA., the sales offices were in Long Beach, Ione and Oakland, CA.; she also worked as the Director of Budget and Financial Planning for a major Pittsburgh bank.

Zora's main work duty at SPC is preparing the monthly PennDOT billing report which covers work accomplished under the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and to prepare billings related to federal and state grants for the Economic Planning and Development Program. She also assists with the preparation of the monthly financial statements assuring that all income and expense items are coded properly along with preparing and filing the quarterly financial reports for the agency's federal and state grants. She works closely with our independent auditors, Maher Duessel, CPA's, in preparing audit schedules for the grant compliance audits along with the Annual Single Audit Report.

She also is responsible for the semi-annual and year-end reconciliation of the loan portfolio for the ARC, EDA, and SBF loans.

Zora thanked Shannon O'Connell and Mary Brangan for putting together her Power Point presentation.

4. Action on Resolution 6-14 to Amend 2013-2016 TIP/2040 Plan-Birmingham Bridge Rehabilitation, PA Route 50 in South Fayette, and PA 906 Rock Fall Repair in Westmoreland County – Act 89 Funded Projects

Mr. Pavlosky announced that all three project descriptions are inside the agenda packets you received today. SPC kicked off the Public Comment period for projects seeking to amend the TIP and Long Range Plan. It began on Wednesday, January 29 and concluded on Monday, March 3. Public review of the documents was made available in Allegheny County, the City of Pittsburgh, and Westmoreland County where these projects are located, as well as their libraries and SPC offices and website.

Mr. Pavlosky reported the total cost of the projects: Birmingham Bridge - \$40.9M; PA Route 50 to Washington County Line - \$16.25M; and PA Route 906 Rockfall Repair - \$11.25M).

He explained that no public comments were received on the projects themselves.

Mr. Hassinger announced if any of these projects present a conflict of interest for personal gain, please abstain from voting in accord with our policy.

Ms. Heckman moved to approve SPC Resolution 6-14.

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.P.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 projects for construction with 100% state funding (\$68,400,000) made available through PA Act 89, the Comprehensive Transportation Funding Program:

Birmingham Bridge, Bridge Rehabilitation	\$40,900,000
PA Route 50, Highway Reconstruction	\$16,250,000
PA Route 906 Rock Fall Repair	\$11,250,000

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 costs are greater than \$10 million, were made available for public review and comment consistent with SPC's established public review procedures from January 29, 2014 through March 3, 2014 including public meetings on February 11th and February 19th; and

WHEREAS, documentation of the public review and comment period was compiled and presented to the Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission approves the request made by PennDOT to amend the 2013-2016 TIP to include the Birmingham Bridge Rehabilitation; PA Route 50 Highway Reconstruction; and PA Route 906 Rock Fall Project.

Commissioner Spanik seconded. The affirmative vote to approve Resolution 6-14 was unanimous.

5. Launch of a New Public Participation Page on SPC's Website

Mr. Pavlosky explained that the page provides an opportunity to feature what's going on in the southwestern PA region. This is an opportunity for us to be able to bridge the gaps between major meeting points not only between public participation panels, but a place for our commissioners or staff to refer the public to who have questions about the Commission's projects and activities.

The page provides a meeting schedule, a sample of visible activities going on with SPC, and feature stories by SPC program area.

Mr. Pavlosky explained that if you scroll over the regional information map, you will get information of a range of SPC partner agencies like each PennDOT district, transit and county websites. We will also feature videos.

Mr. Pavlosky suggested the Commission members to take a look at the page and give us your feedback. It's a link on SPC's main website.

6. Action on Resolution 7-14 to Adopt the 2014 Update of the SPC Title VI Program

Mr. Klevan explained that this resolution is to review and approve the required update of SPC's Title VI Program. The draft of the update is included in your packet. The highlighted portions are the updated sections.

Mr. Klevan explained that in terms of the Federal Transit Administration, SPC is actually three inter-related, but subtly different entities: 1) We are a direct recipient of program FTA funds for Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and new Freedom programs – we have open grants for both of those programs; 2) We are a sub-recipient of FTA funds as part of the local sub allocation process of the urban area formula funding program (SPC Commute Info project); and 3) We're also a pass through recipient of federal funds for transit planning under contract with PennDOT every year.

Mr. Klevan further explained that the first two identities trigger an FTA review process for all of our programs including Title VI. It's on a 3-year review cycle. The cycle expired on January 31, 2014 and the grantee normally submits the required documents 60 days prior to that. We did receive good input and review from FTA Region 3 regarding updates to the program document. They did suggest that they would like to see a formal approval, thus today's resolution. The current changes for your consideration today are minor language changes, and there's an update to show we hired a new Human Resources Director.

Commissioner Craig asked if a required updated is needed every time we change a staff position or is there an annual update where we just address such edits? Mr. Klevan explained that the technical way we do those kinds of minor changes is this document is actually attached to our profile page in the Grants Management Systems for FTA. These types of changes can be done in that on-line document.

Commissioner Cohen moved to approve SPC Resolution 7-14.

WHEREAS, the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission as a recipient and sub-recipient of Federal Transit Administration financial assistance, as well as a contract-holder for the pass through of Federal

Transit Administration financial assistance to certified sub-recipients, is required to comply with Title VI and subsequent nondiscrimination laws; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title 49, Chapter 53, Section 5332 of the United States Code and the Federal Transit Administration's Circular 4702.1B, the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission is required to submit its Title VI plan to the Federal Transit Administration for review every three years; and,

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration received Southwestern Pennsylvania's Title VI program in November 2013 to replace the Title VI program that was set to expire on January 31, 2014; and,

WHEREAS, the procedures described in the updated Title VI program help ensure that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance; and,

WHEREAS, any transportation project or program to be constructed or conducted within the Southwestern Pennsylvania region and to be paid for with federal funds must receive approval by the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission before any federal funds can be expended; and

WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes that Title VI components are a required element of the Long Range Plan, the Transportation Improvement Program, the Unified Planning Work Program and other planning products produced under the provisions of federal transportation planning legislation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission hereby adopts the updated Title VI Program dated March 2014.

Commissioner Amadio seconded and the affirmative vote was unanimous.

#### 7. 2015-2018 TIP Status Report – Chuck DiPietro

Mr. DiPietro gave the Commission members a brief update on 2015 TIP Development status:

##### **Recent Activities**

- Highway/Bridges – Staff conducted a fifth round of Highway TIP Development Work Group sessions in February. A preliminary draft list of projects were discussed and subsequently submitted available to PennDOT Central Office for review and comment.
- Public Transportation – Staff transmitted, on behalf of the Region's transit operators, draft programs of projects listings to PennDOT Central Office for review and comment. Compilation of the programs of projects was achieved by use the Transit TIP Share Point site on the SPC website and email.
- CMAQ – Staff sent the CMAQ Evaluation Committee's (CEC) recommendations to PennDOT Central Office for review.
- Air Quality Conformity – Preparations for the air quality conformity assessment began in late February. Air quality emissions modeling procedures were reviewed and updated as needed.

Staff began the required interagency consultation process with PennDOT, EPA, PaDEP, FHWA, and FTA to confirm the planning assumptions and analysis years for SPC's conformity analysis.

- TAP – Staff formulated a Work Group consisting of planning partners to assist with prioritizing candidate projects for Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding.
- Public Participation – Staff has developed a public participation information webpage that will be launched through the SPC website. The page will inform Public Participation Panel members and the general public of SPC's transportation planning public involvement processes and news. Webpage launch expected this month.

#### **At this Time in the Process**

- Highway/Bridges – PennDOT Central Office is reviewing SPC's preliminary draft project listing. Central Office will be reviewing all candidate projects, and is working to negotiate/resolve any remaining issues, including any spike issues.
- Public Transportation – PennDOT Bureau of Public Transportation is reviewing SPC's draft programs of projects submission.
- CMAQ – Staff is working with PennDOT Central Office and the local PennDOT District offices to select projects for the 2015-2018 TIP's CMAQ Program from the CEC's recommended list, subject to fiscal constraint.
- Air Quality Conformity – Staff is reviewing the project descriptions in the draft 2015-2018 TIP to ensure that information needed for the conformity assessment is included in the TIP.
- TAP – Applications for funding are being accepted through PennDOT's website. Applications are due by Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup> to PennDOT Central Office.
- SPC Staff and group of key stakeholders are conducting a review of SPC's TIP Modification/Amendment Procedures, before start of Public Comment period in May.
- Public Participation is preparing for the May/June draft TIP Public Meetings, by selecting locations and coordinating schedules with county planning agencies, PennDOT, and transit partners. "Save the Date" notices will be sent out in Late March to place the TIP public comment period on stakeholders' calendars.

Commissioner Craig asked about the Draft TIP financial constraint requirement and where are we with federal reauthorization and with the resolution of the pending highway trust fund crisis. Mr. DiPietro responded that we have a draft TIP now through work sessions that is fiscally restrained consistent with the projections agreed to statewide by all PennDOT planning partners. It reflects Act 89. At the federal level, it reflects past MAP-21 direction. It does not reflect direction of pending reauthorization on Highway Trust Fund resolution. The Highway Trust Fund could in effect be shut down as early as late August, well before the September 30<sup>th</sup> end of the current federal. There are different proposals that are beginning to surface to both address the highway trust fund crisis and the need for federal reauthorization before Map-21 expires on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### 8. Other Business/Announcements – Jim Hassinger

- a. Report on SPC Executive Committee/Board and Northwest Commission Board Joint Meeting on February 21st at Westminster College

Commissioner Craig reported that there were four quality speakers who spoke on transportation projects in their respective regions: Grace Gallucci, Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (Cleveland MPO); John Getchey, Eastgate Regional Council of Governments (Youngstown MPO); Pat Getty,

Benedum Foundation; and Sam Giannetti, Oh-Penn Interstate Regional Workforce Collaborative. The format was something that we'll try to follow up this summer with the full Commission and where we stand with federal and state transportation funding and what that means as to where we stand with reauthorization of MAP-21 and the Highway Trust Fund solvency.

- b. Comments on Proposed Primary Freight Network – PennDOT

Mr. Hassinger referred the members to a letter in their packet from PennDOT Deputy Secretary for Planning, Mr. Ritzman, to USDOT. This letter refers to comments from PennDOT in response to the public comment period on the proposed freight network designation.

- c. SPC Regional Freight Forum – May 21, 2014, Sheraton at Station Square
- d. PA Rail Freight Conference Hosted by SPC, May 21st-22nd, Sheraton at Station Square

Mr. Hassinger informed the Commission members of the low 1.75% interest rate on our Small Business First loan program. He urged the members to get the word out to small businesses.

- e. Next Meeting Date – April 21st

9. New Business

10. Adjourn

Commissioner Pinkerton moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Fink seconded. There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Maggi  
Secretary-Treasurer