

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of
March 30, 2015 – 4:30 p.m.

Two Chatham Center • Suite 400 • 112 Washington Place • Pittsburgh, PA 15219

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

Members present were: Alfred Ambrosini, Charles Anderson, Vonne Andring, Robert Brooks, Tom Ceraso, H. Daniel Cessna, Jack Cohen, Tyler Courtney, Steve Craig, Patricia Evanko, Rich Fitzgerald, Lynn Heckman, Fred Junko, Clifford Levine, Robert Macey, Larry Maggi, Jeff Marshall, Robbie Matesic, Kevin McCullough, David Miller, Erin Molchany, William Peduto, A. Dale Pinkerton, Mavis Rainey, James Ritzman, Marc Roncone, Rod Ruddock, Michael Silvestri, A. Keith Staso, Byron Stauffer, Jr., James Struzzi, Archie Trader, Diana Irey Vaughan, and Blair Zimmerman.

Members absent were: Tony Amadio, Michael Baker, David Battaglia, Robert Bower, Scott Bricker, Ricky Burgess, Albert D'Alessandro, Robert Del Signore, Joseph Dubovi, Rich Fink, Jim Gagliano, Jr., Joe Grata, Kelly Gray, David Johnston, Reginald Lovelace, Bruce Mazzoni, William McCarrier, Ellen McLean, Laura Mohollen, Charles Morris, Dennis Nichols, Rich Palilla, Carmen Rozzi, Daniel Shimshock, Harlan Shober, Renee Sigel, Joe Spanik, Joe Szczur, Edward Typanski, Daniel Vogler, Dwan Walker, Christopher Wheat, and Angela Zimmerlink.

Others: Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County Department of Economic Development; Jon Smith, Allegheny County Transit Council; Lucinda Beattie, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership; and Michael Alexander, Western Pennsylvanians for Passenger Rail.

Staff: Jim Hassinger, Kirk Brethauer, Dominic D'Andrea, Linda Duffy, Chuck Imbrogno, Tom Klevan, Vince Massaro, Matt Pavlosky, Shannon O'Connell, Doug Smith, Abigail Stark, Kay Tomko, David Totten, and Lew Villotti.

1. Chairman Craig called to order the March 30, 2015 meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

- a. Quorum – There being a quorum present the meeting proceeded.
- b. Any Conflict of Interest Declarations on Action Items – None.

2. Action on Minutes of the December 15, 2014 Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2014 meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission by Fred Junko which was seconded by Commissioner Ambrosini. The affirmative vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

3. Public Comment – None.

4. Staff Profile – Lew Villotti/Abby Stark

Mr. Villotti introduced staff member Abigail Stark. She is a Development Specialist in the Planning and Development department. Ms. Stark's presentation included her education, work history, and current activities.

5. Financial Report – Vince Massaro

Mr. Massaro reported on the financials for the fiscal period ending February 28, 2015 which includes the approved budget and reflects the operations of the Commission, the Corporation and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Regional Corporation.

Ms. Heckman moved to accept the financial report and Ms. Molchany seconded. The Commission accepted the financial report as presented.

6. Action on Resolution 1-15 to Approve Livability Through Smart Transportation Project Recommendations – Lew Villotti

Mr. Villotti explained that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission established a "Livability Through Smart Transportation Program" designed to encourage sponsors to plan and implement strategies that link transportation improvements with land use development strategies to create sustainable, livable communities consistent with policies of the region's adopted Long Rang Plan. The initiative utilizes Federal Surface Transportation Program Urban funding and sets aside a maximum of \$1,500,000 for the first two years of the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Eligible project categories consisted of Pedestrian/Bicycle, Corridor Management/Congestion Reduction, Intermodal/Transit Oriented Development, Land Use and Transportation Linkage, Planning and Redevelopment, Road/Intersection/Network Improvements, and Streetscapes/Traffic Calming. A review committee consisting of a representative from each SPC jurisdiction, two representatives from PennDOT (one from Central Office, one representing the three Districts), a representative from the Port Authority of Allegheny County, and one representative from SPC's Transit Operators' Committee evaluated applications and provided recommendations to SPC's Transportation Technical Committee (TTC). The TTC at its February 26, 2015 meeting approved the Committee's projects recommendation list to be considered for advancement through the Program by the Commission.

Mr. Silvestri moved to approve Resolution 1-15 and Mr. Ceraso seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Draft Keystone West High Speed Rail Study – Tom Klevan

Mr. Klevan explained the Pennsylvania Keystone West Passenger Rail Study goals which are to extend higher speed rail service from Harrisburg to Pittsburgh; increase passenger rail ridership; and stimulate regional economic development. Needs were identified to support potential improvements. He provided a summary of alternatives and analysis along with a summary of improvements and costs for a menu of options. He noted that the next steps include decisions on incremental improvements based on need, expected benefits and funding availability; more detailed evaluation of demand, benefit; safety implications and potential funding needed; and

PennDOT to work with MPOs/RPOs in Keystone West corridor to evaluate potential for funding proposed improvements.

8. On Track to Accessibility Study – Presentation by Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership

Ms. Lucinda Beattie spoke on the On Track to Accessibility Study. She introduced Michael Alexander, a representative of the Western Pennsylvanians for Passenger Rail (WPPR), who was instrumental in getting the study completed. The report studied the costs and benefits of increasing service on the *Pennsylvanian*.

Chairman Craig urged SPC to write a letter to PennDOT Secretary Leslie Richards expressing our support for increasing passenger rail service recommended in the “On Track” Study along Amtrak’s Pennsylvania service route between Pittsburgh and Philadelphia/New York City from one train daily to three. Commissioner Courtney moved to approve the letter of support and Commissioner Pinkerton seconded. The motion passed with Commissioner Trader voting no.

9. Other Business/Announcements – Jim Hassinger

- Next Meeting Date—June 29th at 4:30 p.m.
- ITS America 25th Annual Meeting “Bridges to Innovation” – June 1st-3rd, David L. Lawrence Convention Center

10. New Business – None.

11. Adjourn

There being no more business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Larry Maggi
Secretary-Treasurer