

SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 2-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ("SPC") to amend the region's 2005-2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

WHEREAS, transit agencies throughout the Commonwealth and all of southwestern Pennsylvania are facing a funding crisis; and

WHEREAS, Governor Rendell has requested the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission to flex \$3.5 million in federal highway funds to the Port Authority of Allegheny County to provide interim assistance to the Port Authority's immediate operating budget crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has stated that the amount of money taken out of the statewide highway program over the past two years will reach \$40 million with this request (\$13.5 million from southwestern Pennsylvania alone) at a time when the highway budget is under great strain and cannot adequately repair and maintain the roads and bridges that we have now; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has further stated that using highway program funding to close the entire transit agency funding shortfall is not a responsible action for a number of clearly defined reasons – that the request to flex the highway funds is a last resort – and that approval of any future flex requests by the MPO or federal government will be even more uncertain to deliver; and

WHEREAS, this request is a last resort, stop-gap public transit funding strategy designed to forestall fare increases and service cuts until the Governor, working with the General Assembly, can create legislation to put in place a permanent dedicated funding program for public transit; and

WHEREAS, SPC's Transportation Technical Committee members have worked carefully and conscientiously with the SPC member Planning Directors on a regional response to the Governor's \$3.5 million highway flex request so as to close the transit funding gap while minimizing the impact on existing programmed projects as much as possible; and

WHEREAS, that in the future our limited highway dollars should first be used to repair our existing roads and bridges, not close holes in the transit budget; and

WHEREAS, the SPC Executive Committee has reviewed these recommendations and recommends the flexing of a total of \$3.5 million (federal) in Title I highway program funds to the Port Authority of Allegheny County as an interim response to the transit funding crisis. Project sources are identified in the following list:

	<u>Federal Amount to Flex</u>
I-79 from Route 910 to the Butler County line	\$2,677,500
Project Management 2, City of Pittsburgh	400,000
Mansfield Bridge, Allegheny County	261,500
Green Garden Road Bridge, Beaver County	15,000
Spaces Corner 3R, Armstrong County	15,000
Route 228 Improvements, Butler County	15,000
SR-21 Kiwi Road/I-79 Intersection, Greene County	16,000
I-70 Master Plan, Washington County	25,000
SR 31 @ Turnpike exit 9, Donegal, Westmoreland County	75,000

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments have been reviewed by the Transportation Technical Committee and recommended for approval in accordance with SPC's TIP amendment policies and public involvement process; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments maintain overall TIP fiscal balance; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments will not interfere with the implementation of any STIP project; and

WHEREAS, approval of this amendment to the 2005-2008 TIP will not alter the finding of conformity between 2005-2008 TIP and the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission approves the requested amendment to the 2005-2008 TIP.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director is authorized to work with PennDOT, the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration so that the category of funding meets federal flex requirements.

I, Dan Onorato, HEREBY CERTIFY that I am Secretary-Treasurer of the SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION: that the foregoing resolution was adopted, in accordance with the By-Laws by the Members of said Commission at a meeting duly called and held on the 31st day of January 2005, a quorum being present and that said resolution is now in full force and effect.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I hereto subscribe my name as Secretary-Treasurer.

Secretary-Treasurer