



Transportation Plan Development

Successful places that compete well have good planning, and the growing recognition of the value of regionalism and the importance of regional consensus-building were cornerstones in developing a plan that transcends boundaries, empowers the region and builds on successful foundations.

The 2040 Transportation and Development Plan for Southwestern Pennsylvania, our Region's Plan, is the mechanism for connecting the region's vision to an official, coordinated implementation program of projects and actions. Our Region's Plan was developed through an unprecedented community engagement process called Project Region. Project Region was led by the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, and was conducted in partnership with a wide range of other public, private and non-profit organizations.

The Project Region process was a set of organized activities to help the 10 counties of Southwestern Pennsylvania work together to develop regional consensus on a growth plan by using analytical tools, community involvement and scenario development to create the most effective strategies. Our Region's Plan is intended to maximize regional assets and infrastructure to achieve balanced, cost effective growth; to capitalize on investments in existing communities; and to strengthen quality job creation and regional economic competitiveness.

SPC Commissioners also work continually to advance the region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which evaluates the region's long-term goals in the context of available resources and applies them to a prioritized list of highway and transit projects programmed for advancement over the next four-year period. The TIP is Stage I of the 2040 Plan, and is the key funding mechanism for Plan implementation and for individual project delivery. The current TIP, The 2013 - 2016 Transportation Improvement Program for Southwestern Pennsylvania, identifies \$2.8 billion in highway and transit improvements. Individual project phases selected for inclusion in the TIP are determined through regional needs assessments, specialized studies and technical analyses. SPC will soon be updating the TIP for the period 2015 - 2018. The update process will include public meetings and ongoing public participation and technical workshops throughout the region.

The next TIP (2015-2018) will become effective on October 1, 2014 and include fiscal years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018. For the next phase of a currently programmed project not already included in the 2013-2016 TIP, this is the opportunity to be considered for federal or state funding. Given the continuing state and federal funding crisis, the opportunity for new candidate project is extremely limited at this time.

Preliminary Development Schedule for the 2015-2018 TIP



- Winter-Spring 2013 SPC will participate with statewide planning partners in developing Financial Guidance and General and Procedural Guidance for the individual 2015-2018 TIP's across Pennsylvania and for the 2015 Statewide Twelve Year Program.
- Spring 2013 SPC conducts Public Participation Panel (PPP) orientation. These meetings serve as the first opportunity to discuss the overall transportation planning process relating to the 2015-2018 TIP update.
- Spring-Summer-Fall-Winter 2013/2014 SPC conducts work sessions with member planning departments, the region's transit operators, and PennDOT to develop the draft 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program.
- Fall 2013 SPC conducts public meetings in member counties to receive public comment on Draft TIP. Input received will be submitted for consideration by planning partners in District work sessions.
- December 30, 2013, SPC preliminary draft TIP submitted to PennDOT (Harrisburg) for review.
- March-April 2014 Conduct Air Quality Testing on Draft Project List.
- May-June 2014 Distribute Draft 2015-2018 TIP, conduct public meetings in member counties to receive public comment, and transmit the testimony with staff response to Commission members.
- June 2014, Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission will consider action on 2015-2018 TIP and Air Quality Conformity Assessment.
- October 1, 2014, SPC 2015-2018 TIP becomes effective with