



# SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION

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## Southwestern Pennsylvania Active Transportation Forum

**March 23, 2016  
Meeting Summary**

### Officers:

Lawrence County  
Steve Craig  
*Chairman*

Westmoreland County  
Charles W. Anderson  
*Vice-Chairman*

Washington County  
Larry Maggi  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

### Executive Committee:

Allegheny County  
Rich Fitzgerald

Armstrong County  
David Battaglia

Beaver County  
Joseph Spanik

Butler County  
A. Dale Pinkerton

City of Pittsburgh  
William Peduto

Fayette County  
Alfred Ambrosini

Greene County  
Chuck Morris

Indiana County  
Rodney Ruddock

Lawrence County  
Steve Craig

Washington County  
Larry Maggi

Westmoreland County  
Charles W. Anderson

At-Large  
Ricky V. Burgess  
Tyler Courtney  
Lynn Heckman

Governor's Office  
Erin Molchany

PA Dept. of Community &  
Economic Development  
Johnna A. Pro

PA Dept. of Transportation  
James D. Ritzman

Executive Director  
James R. Hassinger

### Attendance

Amy

Andrea

Betsy

Carol

Caren

Chris

Courtney

Doniele

Donna

Eric

Jane

Jared

Jeb

Jeffrey

Jerrold

Jina

John

Josh

Judy

Kathleen

Kathryn

Katie

Laurie

Linda

Monica

Robert

Roy

Scott

Zaheen

Mathieson

Elock

Aiken

Reichbaum

Glotfelty

Sandvig

Mahronich

Russell

Green

Boerer

Kaminski

Burkett

Feldman

McCauley

Green

O'Neill

Turack

Krug

Wagner

McCaig

Schlesinger

Klenbaum

Lafontaine

Gwinn

Garrison

Genter

Weil

Thompson-Graves

Hussain

ACTA

Port Authority

Murrysville Trail Alliance

University of Pittsburgh/WalkWorks

Allegheny County Parks Foundation

Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group

The Progress Fund/Trail Town Program

Lawrence County

Regional Trail Corporation

BikePGH

BikePGH

Indiana County Office of Planning & Development

McKees Rocks CDC

Friends of the Riverfront

Northside Bike-Ped Committee

Oakland TMA

Penn State/Smart Growth

Indiana County Office of Planning & Development

Allegheny County Parks Foundation

Cranberry Twp

Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group

City of Pittsburgh/DCP Intern

C & I Trail Council

Blairsville Community Development Authority

Black Girls Do Bike

Mackin Engineering

Trail Volunteer Fund, Free Wheeling Easy

Whitman, Requardt & Associates

Millvale Community Development Corporation

### SPC Staff

Andy

Chuck

Daniel

Waple

Imbrogno

Alwine

Transportation Program Development Manager

Models & Data Analysis Manager

Project Development Specialist

Kathy	Stefani	ATWIC Program Manager
Ken	Flack	Transportation Planner
Leann	Chaney	Transportation Planner
Lisa Kay	Schweyer	CommuteInfo Program, Program Developer
Matt	Pavlosky	Public Involvement/Outreach
Tom	Klevan	Manager, Multimodal Planning

### 1. Welcome & Introductions

Leann Chaney opened the meeting and asked for introductions by those in attendance.

### 2. Administrative

Leann shared that SPC will be hiring IUP student, Paige Bogats, as a summer intern. She will work with the multimodal transportation planning team and will assist with data collection and fieldwork to support development of the region's active transportation plan.

### 3. Planning

Active transportation planning: Leann Chaney, SPC

Leann provided an update on SPC's active transportation planning activities, stating that SPC is conducting background work for a regional Active Transportation Plan that will launch in the coming fiscal year. Focus areas will include equity; public health and transportation; best practices in active transportation; on-road and off-road bike facility planning; identification of active transportation plans, policies and programs in the region; and implementation of a bicycle and pedestrian data collection program.

Leann also stated that SPC staff is available to provide technical assistance to communities who may be interested in applying for Bicycle Friendly Community designation, noting the next deadline is August 9, 2016

(<http://bikeleague.org/community>).

Women and Biking: Jane Kaminski, Membership and Outreach Manager/BikePGH

Jane Kaminski described how BikePGH's outreach now includes specifically encouraging women to bike. Women tend to be more concerned about safety than men, and are recognized as an important part of the gateway to normalizing cycling as a mode of transportation. Through their women & biking program, dubbed the Spinnsters, they offer learning opportunities, coffee meetups, happy hours and casual bike rides for women.

Black Girls Do Bike: Monica Garrison, Founder

Monica Garrison, founder of Black Girls Do Bike, described that the group was founded in 2013 and now has 55 chapters in the U.S. and Antigua. Their goal is to share positive

images of ladies and their bikes to affirm the truth that black girls do indeed bike. Their purpose is to champion efforts to introduce the joy of cycling to all women, but especially, black women and girls (blackgirlsdobike.com). Once a month each chapter is required to have a beginner-friendly “No Woman Left Behind” ride (<http://www.blackgirlsdobike.com/>).

Health in All Policies: Carol L. Reichbaum, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, Center for Public Health Practice

Carol Reichbaum presented on Health in All Policies and explained how neighborhood design, by promoting physical activity, can significantly reduce the risk of chronic diseases including diabetes, dementia, and obesity. She also provided an overview of WalkWorks -a PA Department of Health collaboration that works with partners to create a network of community-based walking routes and walking groups.

#### **4. Capacity building**

Indiana County WalkWorks Program: Jared Burkett, Indiana County Office of Planning & Development.

Jared Burkett described the WalkWorks programs in seven Indiana County municipalities, focusing on how walking routes have brought people together and how it helps de-industrialized towns.

#### **5. Engineering/Projects**

SPC TAP & SMART Funded Projects: Andy Waple, SPC

Andy Waple described SPC’s Livability through Smart Transportation Program. Initiated in 2014 to create transportation facilities that are safe, sustainable, responsive to the needs of all users, and support community planning goals, the program allocates \$3.5 million for FY 2017-2018 for candidate projects. Funding, which can support planning, design, or construction, must be applied for through the County, with prequalification requests due in early March and project applications in mid-April. The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) consolidates several programs to provide funding for programs and projects including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities. SPC’s region has been funded with \$3.5 million per 2-year cycle, with an additional \$9 million of funding available state-wide from PennDOT. TAP provides 100% of construction funds, while project sponsors are responsible for planning, design, and any necessary right-of-way acquisitions.

#### **6. Funding Opportunities**

Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act ("FAST Act"): Dan Alwine, SPC

Dan Alwine described that the federal “Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act” (FAST Act) authorizes \$305 billion in funding over fiscal years 2016–2020 to provide long-term funding certainty for surface transportation.

The FAST Act directs the Federal Highway Administration to disperse funding to each State, which is then divided among apportioned programs. Nationally, set-aside funding for the Transportation Alternatives Program is \$835 million for FY 2016-2017 and \$850 million for FY 2018-2019.

**7. Education & Advocacy**

Updates were shared during the networking lunch, rather than in a roundtable format.

**8. Upcoming events**

- BikePGH—Women & Biking Forum (Pittsburgh, PA): April 2, 2016
- BikePGH –Women’s Confident City Cycling Class: April 3, 2016
- Safe Routes to School Conference (Columbus, OH): April 5-7, 2016
- May 2016: National Bike Month, National Bike Week (16<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup>), Bike to Work Day (May 20<sup>th</sup>)

**9. Future meeting dates**

- May 11, 2016
- September 7, 2016
- November 9, 2016

**10. Networking lunch**