

Meeting Minutes for September 16th, 2010
Transportation Technical Committee Meeting
Regional Enterprise Tower - Pittsburgh, PA

Attendees:

- Lynn Heckman, Allegheny County Economic Development
Bernie Rossman, Allegheny County Department of Public Works
Steve Shanley, Allegheny County Department of Public Works
- Darin Alviano, Armstrong County Planning Commission
- Tammy Frank, Beaver County
- Joel MacKay, Butler County Planning Department
- Arthur Cappella, Fayette County Planning Commission
- Amy McKinney, Lawrence County Planning Department
- Pat Hassett, Pittsburgh Department of Public Works
- Jeff Leithauser, Washington County Planning Department
- Chris Bova, Westmoreland County Planning Department
Brian Lawrence, Westmoreland County Planning Department
- Kevin McCullough, PennDOT Central Office
John Quatman, PennDOT Central Office
Dave Cook, PennDOT District 10-0
Kathy Reeger, PennDOT District 10-0
Dan Cessna, PennDOT District 11-0
Cheryl Moon-Sirianni, PennDOT District 11-0
Rob Miskanic, PennDOT District 11-0
Stephanie Spang, PennDOT District 11-0
Stacy Rabatin, PennDOT District 12-0
Angela Saunders, PennDOT District 12-0
Lucinda Beattie, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
Lynn Manion, Airport Corridor Transportation Management Association
Liz Tillman, Oakland Transportation Management Association
Mary Joe Morandini, BCTA
Tom Fontaine, Tribune-Review
Chuck DiPietro, SPC Staff
Chuck Imbrogno, SPC Staff
Sara Walfoort, SPC Staff
Doug Smith, SPC Staff
Domenic D'Andrea, SPC Staff
Karen Franks, SPC Staff
Matt Pavlosky, SPC Staff
Tom Klevan, SPC Staff
Dave Totten, SPC Staff
Ryan Gordon, SPC Staff

- (Indicates Voting Member)

1. July 15th, 2010 TTC Meeting Minutes (Attachment A)

Chuck DiPietro called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and reviewed the agenda for the meeting. The July 15th, 2010 meeting minutes were approved with no revisions. Note there was no TTC meeting held in August.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. FHWA/PennDOT Central Office Reports

a.) Governor's Transportation Funding Crisis and Statewide Legislature Outreach (August 5th-6th in SPC Region)

Kevin McCullough reviewed the Governor's tour of the state to discuss the transportation funding crisis back in early August. Discussions are ongoing amongst the state legislators on a solution to the current transportation funding crisis. Kevin noted that he does not have any inside information on the progress of various proposals that are under consideration. It appears that progress on the revenue increase for transportation is pending until at least the resolution of the Marcellus Shale tax issue. The Governor's proposal also includes increases in various fees associated with motor vehicle licensing and registration. Chuck DiPietro noted House Bill 8, now under discussion in the PA House of Representatives.

b. State Transportation Commission's August 12th Quarterly meeting in Pittsburgh

Kevin McCullough reported that the State Transportation Commission held its Quarterly meeting back on August 12th in the region. Overall, Kevin characterized the meeting as reinforcing the continuing a bleak outlook on the inadequate level of future of investment in transportation infrastructure in Pennsylvania. Kevin noted that the data and trends are showing that revenues continue to be far below the current needs. The condition and deterioration of the infrastructure and the ability to keep up with maintenance at current funding levels is troubling stated Kevin. Chuck DiPietro noted that the STC chairman referred to the following two studies being conducted at the request of the STC that are of interest for our region monitor: a) Financial Needs of Counties and Municipalities – anticipated to be completed by mid 2011, b) Future Directions for Transportation in Pennsylvania – to be completed in late 2010 Chuck DiPietro commented that he has seen a steady increase in the level of discussion on the local network needs in many statewide forums and conversations. Chuck believes a wider discussion of local needs will be a topic of conversation at the upcoming statewide planning partners meetings in October. Kevin stated that Central Office is currently trying to get a handle on what local highway and bridge data is available and how best to collect and assemble it. Lynn Heckman

stated that PennDOT's increased attention and focus on local infrastructure is appreciated.

c.) Federal Funding Updates

Kevin reviewed the fact that the current SAFETEA-LU extension expires at the end of the calendar year. Recently, there was some talk from the administration about another round of stimulus funds, which was received as a nonstarter with Congress. Kevin stated that there has been a lot of concern within PennDOT about the lack of preliminary engineering funds in the STIP. Without sufficient preliminary engineering, it is very challenging for key projects to be prepared to capitalize on another stimulus. Kevin noted that a lot of the already designed projects were funded through the first stimulus.

Kevin noted that it appears that another extension to SAFETEA-LU will be required because serious reauthorization talk has stalled. Kevin stated that the extension through the end of the calendar year has retained obligation authority to fund the current program and the rescissions have not negatively impacted the program. An appropriations bill is expected to further extend the current SAFETEA-LU level of funding.

Kevin reported on the Federal August redistribution of DOT funds not obligated by the other states, which resulted in an additional \$66 million going to Pennsylvania. Kevin noted that this will likely not result in any new projects being added to the program, but the funds will help to reimburse state funds used in advance construct projects.

d.) PCTI Round 2 Status Report

Kevin McCullough reported that the application deadline for the second round of the Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative (PCTI) grants was yesterday (9/15). The Department has set aside \$24 million in the first two years of the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program to support potential projects that exhibit Smart Transportation principles. Kevin pointed to the handout, which was a graphic illustrating the number of PCTI application received by PennDOT District. A total of 221 applications and approximately \$147 million in project funding requests were received with 50 applications coming from the SPC region (seven in District 10, 23 in District 11-0, and 20 in District 12-0). A detailed listing of all PCTI candidates submitted from the SPC region will soon be provided by Kevin for distribution to the TTC members. Kevin noted that in the first round \$60 million was available statewide through PCTI funding, however, in this second round only \$24 million will be available statewide for the first two years. Kevin noted that the applications are being reviewed by an eight-member committee at Central Office. The Districts are providing input in the form of a feasibility and constructability analysis and the planning partners will be also able to provide input. Kevin hopes that there will be an announcement in December as to which applications

(Attachment A)

have been selected. Pat Hassett asked what the issues are with the constructability analysis. Kevin responded that the Districts have experience with managing these types of projects and have experience with aspects that may result in delayed delivery. The Districts also have experience with the project delivery performance of some of the applicant organizations. Both Jeff Leithauser and Cheryl Moon Sirianni noted that the timeline for delivery is very tight, with an obligation deadline in 2012. Cheryl stated that it may remove most candidate projects that include right-of-way acquisitions. Dan Cessna emphasized that sponsors should understand that the obligation deadline and quick project deliverability is a critical factor. Kevin noted that the PCTI application was much improved over the first application, which should help in submittal evaluations. Lynn Heckman suggested that a sample agreement with PennDOT be developed for the planning projects. Kevin noted that in the future Central Office will likely develop guidance based on previously successful PCTI projects. Kevin noted that the current PCTI projects have received a very high priority at the Districts and as a result about 95 percent of the projects have been obligated.

e.) Third Quarter Central Office Progress Reports (Attachment B)

Kevin McCullough pointed to Attachment B, which was the third quarter progress report, which covered activity through the end of June. Kevin noted that the region will hit 100 percent of the target by the end of the fiscal year, citing the fact that a lot of big projects are going to be delivered after the end of the third quarter report. Chuck DiPietro highlighted the fact that the statewide Act 44 spending has already exceeded the target and that enhancement spending in the region has almost met the target.

f.) Linking Planning and NEPA Update (Handout 1)

Chuck DiPietro pointed to two newsletters related to the PennDOT initiative to link planning and NEPA; the “Smart Transportation Quarterly” and “The Link.” Chuck stated he still expects there will be work sessions held in the Districts regarding the implementation of the Linking Planning and NEPA process. Kevin McCullough noted that more progress needs to be made and that Central Office is focusing now on the electronic screening forms. The goal is to have a demo of the electronic screening forms at the annual Statewide Planning Partners meeting in October, there are still some aspects where consensus needs to be reached. Overall, Kevin characterized the efforts to link planning and NEPA as a work in progress, which will require adjustments in implementation and over time.

g.) Livable Communities Act of 2009 (Handout 2)

Chuck DiPietro pointed to Handout 2, which included a summary of the Act

(Attachment A)

(S1619/HR4690) and frequently asked questions. The Act provides for \$400,000 in competitive grants over four years to help communities develop comprehensive regional plans that incorporate transportation, housing, community development, economic development, energy, and environmental needs and goals. The Act authorizes \$3.75 billion for sustainable challenge grants over three years.

Chuck DiPietro noted that the FHWA Office of Planning just completed the *Livability in Transportation Guidebook: Planning Approaches that Promote Livability*. The primary purpose of this Guidebook is to illustrate how livability principles have been incorporated into transportation planning, programming, and project design, using examples from State, regional, and local sponsors. Chuck noted that the guidebook contains a lot of tools and best practices that apply to livability to transportation planning. Chuck stated that SPC will make the document available on the website.

h. U.S. DOT Marine Highway Program (Attachment C)

Sara Walfoort summarized the new U.S. DOT Americas' Marine Highway Program. The program identifies 18 marine corridors, eight projects, and six initiatives for development of the marine highway system. With the program, \$7 million is available through a competitive grant process to provide funding assistance to the identified programs. Sara noted that one of the 18 marine corridors is the Ohio River (referred to as M-70) in addition there are corridors associated with the Great Lakes (M-71/77) and the Lake Erie Crossing (M-90). Sara pointed to Attachment C, which contained a summary of the program from the Maritime Administration website and fact sheets on the M-70, M-71/77, and M-90 Marine Corridors. Both Chuck DiPietro and Sara noted that this is anticipated to be highly visible in SAFETEA_LU reauthorization proposals, as an increase focus on freight movement is expected. Lynn Heckman noted that she sits on the Port of Pittsburgh Board and will pass this program information along to that group.

g. TIGER II Candidate Projects

Kevin McCullough reported that he has no information at this time on the TIGER II candidate projects. Chuck DiPietro noted that in talking with the FHWA PA Division Office a full list is not yet assembled and ready for distribution. Chuck added that when SPC receives a list of the TIGER II candidates it will make it available to the TTC.

4. Action on Amendments and Modifications to the 2009 to 2012 TIP

a.) PennDOT District 10-0 (Attachment D and Handout 3)

(Attachment A)

Dave Cook of PennDOT District 10-0 pointed to the amendment requests and administrative actions to the 2009-2012 TIP. District 10-0 had no amendment request this month. Dave reviewed the one bridge project (112th Infantry Alpha Bridge) that was added since the mail out agenda attachments.

No approval was required by the TTC for the PennDOT District 10-0 administrative action requests to the TIP.

b.) PennDOT District 11-0 (Attachment E)

Rob Miskanic noted that District 11-0 had only administrative actions this month. The administrative actions were all straight forward and there were no questions. Approval from the TTC was required because some of the administrative actions involved greater than \$1 million.

The TTC motioned and unanimously approved the PennDOT District 11-0 and administrative action requests to the TIP.

c.) PennDOT District 12-0 (Attachment F)

Stacy Rabatin of PennDOT District 12-0 pointed to the administrative actions to the 2009-2012 TIP. District 12-0 had no amendments this month. The administrative actions were all straight forward and there were no questions.

No approval was required by the TTC for the PennDOT District 10-0 administrative action requests to the TIP.

5. Regional Operations Plan Update

Chuck DiPietro stated that Doug Smith is looking for TTC input into the Regional Operations Plan (ROP) update. Doug Smith provided a presentation on the background and status of the ROP update. Doug explained that the ROP emerged in 2007 to identify regional operations projects for the LRP. The focus areas of the original ROP were emergency management, signals, institutional issues, and traveler information. Doug reviewed the progress on each of these areas. Doug reviewed the newly identified areas for the ROP update as: freeway and arterial operations, transit and highway integration, freight operations, and research. Doug noted that the newly identified focus areas could become potential areas for future UPWP planning projects.

Lynn Heckman added that she would like to see more of an intermodal approach to the second focus area (Transit and Highway Integration) and that the waterways should be an important aspect of the freight focus area. Doug noted the involvement of Carnegie Mellon University in

the research focus area. Doug believes that having research as a focus area on the ROP may assist in obtaining funding for research initiatives and expand regional partnerships.

6. Other Business/Status Reports

a.) Road Safety Audits (Handout 4)

Doug Smith reviewed the Road Safety Audit Program and the locations for the upcoming road safety audits. Doug noted four road safety audits will be conducted this year:

- o SR 51 from SR 168 to SR 4004 in South Beaver & Darlington Townships, Beaver County
- o SR 22 from Conemaugh River to SR 2029 in Blairsville and Burrell Township, Indiana County
- o SR 21 from Duck Hollow Road to Business Route 40 in South Union Township and City of Uniontown
- o SR 68/356 from Alameda Park Road to McKean Street in Butler Township and City of Butler, Butler County.

Doug noted that one additional location (SR 51 from the County line to SR 3008 in Westmoreland County) is planned for the fall of 2011.

b.) Regional Signal Program, Phase 2

Domenic D'Andrea reviewed Handout 5, which detailed the applicant projects for the second round of the Regional Traffic Signal Program. There were 29 total applications with nine from the District 10-0 area, 16 from the District 11-0 area, and four from District 12-0 area. Domenic stated that he will be meeting with the signal program advisory committee to review all applications with a selection announcement anticipated in late October. Domenic stated that he also has an RFQ out for a consultant to support round two activities of the program, the deadline on the RFQ is September 21st. Domenic stated that several projects from round 1 of the program will be going to bid this month in District 11-0 and 12-0.

c.) August 11th Pedestrian/Bicycle Committee

Sara Walfoort provided a brief recap of the recent Pedestrian/Bicycle Committee. Topics discussed included the second round of the PCTI funding, Active Allegheny status report, City of Pittsburgh Transportation Plan update, bike suitability mapping status report, various trail development reports. Sara noted the ribbon cutting for the Millvale Trail

along the Allegheny River will be held on September 17th.

d.) October 13th Pedestrian/Bicycle Committee

Sara Walfoort briefly reviewed the topics planned for discussion at the upcoming Pedestrian and Bike Committee. Among the items Sara expects will be discussed are metrics regarding pedestrian and bike performance measures for incorporation into the Long-Range Plan. Sara noted that the challenge is to move from the previous qualitative measurements to more quantitative data based measurements. Sara explained that the City of Pittsburgh is moving in this direction with some of its performance measures.

e.) West Busway TOD Report

Sara Walfoort noted that the West Busway TOD Report is completed and will soon be available on both the Allegheny County website and the SPC website. Sara reported that she has gotten positive feedback on the study from a number of local officials along the busway. Lynn Heckman noted that a presentation is under development on the study. Lynn noted that Tom Klevan will be presenting the west busway TOD Study at a December PennDOT safety conference in State College. Chuck DiPietro noted that he will also be presenting the West Busway TOD study at the Annual PennDOT Planning Partners meeting in October.

f.) Active Allegheny Update

Lynn Heckman reviewed the status of the Active Allegheny Plan. The plan will integrate walking, biking, and other active, healthy travel modes into the existing comprehensive plan. The plan will assist in prioritizing investment in commuter bike routes and walking facilities that will enhance the existing transportation network. Lynn noted that the study was PCTI funded and is nearing completion. Lynn noted that the draft document will be available for review next month on the project website; Lynn encouraged the TTC members to review the document. Lynn highlighted the amount of input and ideas they received from a wide variety of stakeholders.

Kevin McCullough asked if the study has generated any PCTI applications. Lynn responded that it will generate PCTI applications in future rounds. Sara Walfoort stated that she was aware of one PCTI application that was generated out of the discussions surrounding the Active Allegheny Plan development.

g.) September 14th Transit Operators Committee

Mary Joe Morandini, chair of the Transit Operators Committee, stated that all of the transit operators are very concerned about the current transportation funding crisis. Mary Joe cited several reasons why not only the Port Authority is in trouble, but other regional

(Attachment A)

operators as well. These include the negative impacts on future funding formulas, cuts in funds to rural areas, and potential impact on shared expense of busway facilities. Mary Joe stated that the transit agencies have been working to make local legislators aware of the extent of the crisis. Chuck DiPietro reinforced the fact that this funding crisis will create ripple effects to the other transit agencies across the region and Pennsylvania.

Tom Klevan noted that there continue to be TOD/TRID studies conducted in the Pittsburgh area: including the South Metro TRID Study and the East Liberty TRID Study. Tom also mentioned an AIA grant funded three-day charret to assess transit in the Route 51 south corridor. The TOC also discussed the PennDOT performance review recently conducted on the Fayette Area Coordinated Transit. Tom noted that the TOC included a look at some preliminary SPC staff modeling that simulates what will happen next year with the transit cut backs. The TOC also discussed the update of the transit aspects of the LRP.

h.) October 5th Freight Forum

Sara Walfoort briefly reviewed the topics planned for discussion at the upcoming Freight Forum, which include the development of performance measures and how to better input to freight related decisions.

Next Transportation Technical Committee – October 14th

Next Commission Meeting – September 20th and October 25th.