

Meeting Minutes for October 18th, 2012
Transportation Technical Committee Meeting
Koppers Building
Downtown Pittsburgh

Attendees:

- Bernie Rossman, Allegheny County Dept of Public Works
- Steve Shanley, Allegheny County Dept of Public Works
- James Camp, Beaver County
- Tammy Frank, Beaver County
- Joel MacKay, Butler County
- Arthur Cappella, Fayette County
- Robbie Matesic, Greene County
- Kelly Gray, Greene County
- Jeremy Kelly, Greene County
- Pat Hassett, City of Pittsburgh
- Jeff Leithauser, Washington County Planning Commission
- Chris Bova, Westmoreland County Planning Department
- Kevin McCullough, PennDOT Central Office
- Matt Smoker, FHWA
- Dave Cook, PennDOT District 10-0
- Doug Dupnock, PennDOT District 10-0
- Victor DeFazio, PennDOT District 11-0
- Rob Miskanic, PennDOT District 11-0
- John Quatman, PennDOT District 11-0
- Angela Saunders, PennDOT District 12-0
- Jeremy Shaneyfelt, PennDOT District 12-0
- Mavis Rainey, Oakland Transportation Management Area
- Lynn Manion, Airport Corridor Transportation Management Association
- Lucinda Beattie, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
- Darin Alviano, SPC Staff
- Dan Bernazzoli, SPC Staff
- Kathy Stephanie, SPC Staff
- Domenic D'Andrea, SPC Staff
- Chuck DiPietro, SPC Staff
- Ryan Gordon, SPC Staff
- Chuck Imbrogno, SPC Staff
- Tom Klevan, SPC Staff
- Matt Pavlosky, SPC Staff
- Sara Walfoort, SPC Staff
- (Indicates Voting Member)

1. September 2012 TTC Meeting Minutes (Attachment A)

Chuck DiPietro called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and reviewed the agenda for the meeting. The September meeting minutes were approved with no revisions.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. FHWA/PennDOT Central Office Reports

a.) FHWA End of FFY 2012 Redistribution of Obligation Authority

Kevin McCullough reviewed the August redistribution of federal obligation authority. The total amount that came to Pennsylvania in the federal obligation redistribution was approximately \$76 million. Kevin noted that this was a larger amount than was expected, but it is really hard to predict the amount of obligation authority that will be left at the end of the fiscal year. Art Cappella asked what was SPC's allocation of this \$76 million. Kevin replied that the additional obligation authority was used immediately on existing projects throughout the state. Kevin noted that all areas of the state benefited from the additional obligation authority. Rob Miskanic noted that much of the obligation authority was used to backfill projects in the last month of the 2011 TIP. Dave Cook noted that this allowed some of the projects on the 2013 TIP to be shifted forward into earlier years. Matt Smoker noted that this additional obligation authority had to be used within days.

b.) 2003 – 2006 Appropriations Earmark Reallocation

Kevin McCullough reviewed the background on the Obama Administration's action reallocating earmarked funds that are idle in the years 2003-2006. Kevin noted that the Program Center tried to reallocate earmarked funds within the same Congressional district as the original earmark. PennDOT has met the FHWA deadline to have a reallocation plan in place (October 1).

Matt Smoker reported that Transportation Secretary LaHood released more than \$470 million in unspent earmarks from fiscal year 2003-2006 appropriations acts. Matt noted that the total amount reallocated in Pennsylvania was \$28.5 million. Matt added that more information including summaries by state and project details are contained in the press release portion of the FHWA website.

c.) Earmark Report (Attachment B)

Chuck DiPietro noted that last month a list of all known earmarks was requested by the TTC. Chuck pointed to Attachment B, which was the latest report of earmark status in the SPC region. Kevin McCullough noted that the attachment includes the legislation from which the earmark originated. Kevin stated that if anyone has any questions on the earmark report to contact him. Art Cappella asked if project earmarks with remaining balances are going to be further reallocated. Kevin noted that that is a possibility although nothing authorizing another round of reallocations has been issued.

d. Continuing Resolution Update on Congress Action & White House Report on Sequestration Impacts (Attachment C)

Matt Smoker noted the House of Representatives approved a six-month continuing resolution (CR) on Thursday, September 20th. The CR will provide funding through March 27, 2013. The CR did not fund any Highway Trust Fund surface transportation programs at the MAP-21 levels. The CR did provide public transportation accounts with the 0.6% across-the-board increase -providing \$65 million for FTA accounts. The CR did not provide the 0.6% across-the-board increase for highway programs. Spending under the CR will be held at 2012 levels.

Matt Smoker highlighted the federal spending sequestration developments. The sequestration process, per the 2012 Budget Reduction Act is required to reduce spending by nearly \$1.2 trillion over the next 10 years (\$600 billion from defense programs and \$600 billion from domestic programs). A Congressional super committee was directed to produce a plan to reduce the deficit. In the event that it failed, the sequestration process would be carried out. The Super Committee failed and on January 2, 2013 the automatic across-the-board cuts (sequestration) are scheduled to begin to reduce spending. Discussions continue in Congress and in the White House. The first \$109 billion in cuts are scheduled to take effect on January 2, 2013. Chuck DiPietro noted that the sequestration scenario is concerning due to the automatic cuts that will be triggered, but it is not expected to hit transportation as hard as some other areas. Chuck noted that it could certainly impact transfers from the General Fund to the Highway Trust Fund that have occurred in recent years.

e.) 2011 Final Pennsylvania Recreation Trails Projects (Attachment D)

Kevin McCullough reviewed the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), which is an assistance program of the FHWA. Federal transportation funds benefit recreation by making funds available to the States to develop and maintain recreational trails. In Pennsylvania, the RTP is administered by the DCNR. Kevin reviewed Attachment D and noted that the region received funding for one project in Armstrong County (Armstrong Trail). Sara Walfoort noted that this is the same trail that loses nine miles of trail due to a Kiski Junction Railroad project.

f.) USDOT FFY 2013-2016 STIP & AQ Conformity Final Approval Letter –

Planning Process Observations & Suggestions (Attachment E)

Matt Smoker reviewed the 2013 STIP and Air Quality Final Approval letter from FHWA and FTA (Attachment E). Matt reviewed the attachment detailing the planning process observations and suggested improvements. Chuck DiPietro noted that the TTC should keep these recommendations in mind as we work to advance the next TIP update process.

g.) October 22-24 PennDOT Annual Planning Partners Meeting at State College

Kevin McCullough noted that a draft agenda is out for the Annual Planning Partners Meeting at State College. Kevin highlighted several of the agenda items noting that the first two sessions are closed sessions (one for the MPO/RPOs only and one for PennDOT only). Chuck DiPietro also noted some of the agenda including sessions on MAP-21, Linking Planning and NEPA, Local Asset Management, the Statewide LRP, NextGen strategies, and many others. Tom Klevan noted that transit is visibly absent from the entire planning partners agenda.

h.) MAP-21 Information

Matt Smoker reminded everyone that the FHWA MAP-21 website continues to be updated with the latest fact sheets, webinars, and FAQs. Matt noted that under the TE program consolidation for the new TA program, project sponsor eligibility has changed. Matt elaborated saying the nonprofit organizations are no longer eligible to be a project sponsor on projects utilizing new TA funds. These types of project sponsors must now team with a municipality or another eligible government entity. Matt noted that a fact sheet on the TA program is forthcoming from FHWA. Note: Draft Guidelines for this program were released on October 26, 2012.

4. Action on Amendments and Modifications to the 2011 to 2014 TIP

The current administrative action and amendment procedures guidance are attached following these meeting minutes.

a.) PennDOT District 10-0 (Handout 1)

Dave Cook of PennDOT District 10-0 reviewed the requested amendments and

administrative actions to the current TIP. District 10-0 had no amendment requests to the current TIP. Dave reviewed one administrative action request.

- US 422 Shawood Pipe – adding the project and preliminary engineering \$190,000 to the TIP.

The TTC motioned and unanimously approved the PennDOT District 10-0 Amendment and administrative action requests to the current TIP.

b.) PennDOT District 11-0 (Handout 2)

Rob Miskanic of PennDOT District 11-0 reviewed the requested amendments and administrative actions to the current TIP. District 11-0 had four amendment requests.

Rob reviewed the amendments:

- All Weather Pavements – adding project and \$330,000 to Construction in 2013
- Three Amendments – adding betterment projects and \$28.5 million (out of Betterment Reserve Line Item) for construction.

Rob also noted a railroad crossing project (Thoms Avenue) that had to be removed from the original fiscal constraint chart.

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

c.) PennDOT District 12-0 (Handout 3)

Angela Saunders of PennDOT District 12-0 reviewed the requested amendments and administrative actions to the current TIP. District 12-0 had no amendment requests this month.

The TTC unanimously approved the PennDOT District 12-0 amendment and administrative action requests to the TIP.

5. Other Business

a). Urban Boundary Update/Functional Classification Revision

Chuck DiPietro reviewed the background on the urban boundaries and functional class updates. The last time these boundaries were adjusted was following the 2000 census. Doug Smith has met individually with the county planning departments to review potential changes. A tight deadline imposed by FHWA to submit revisions to the Principal Arterial network was met. Matt noted that FHWA had received revisions from SPC prior to the September 20th deadline. Chuck noted that at the next TTC meeting we will be seeking the TTC recommendation to SPC regarding the new urban boundaries and

the functional classifications (including the expanded NHS to include changes to the principal arterial network). Request for SPC action is planned for December 10th.

b. LPN Update – August 21st WG; Prep for December 5th LPN Session with TOC & PennDOT Central Office (Handout 4)

Ryan Gordon reviewed several recent activities associated with the Linking Planning and NEPA program. Ryan reviewed the proceedings of two conference calls held on October 15th. The first conference call was the LPN Advisory Committee meeting and the second was the Transit and LPN Work Group. Ryan noted that the LPN Advisory Committee provided feedback on the latest LPN site enhancements that are in development. Ryan noted that mapping in three areas (Project Location, Asset Management, and Environmental Resources) will greatly improve the LPN site as a tool for planning and TIP development. Tom Klevan provided an overview of the LPN in transit planning activities. Tom explained how the work group originated and its current activities. Tom stated that the December 5 TOC is going to be a work session with the transit operators to advance the applicability of LPN to transit planning. Ryan pointed to Handout 4, which detailed the latest information on the new version of the LPN site.

c.) IBM Smarter Cities Challenge Program – City of Pittsburgh Visit (Handout 5)

Chuck DiPietro reviewed SPC's involvement in the recent IBM Smarter Cities Challenge Team visit. Chuck noted that it was an exciting opportunity to have the IBM team of experts here for three weeks evaluating transportation in the City of Pittsburgh. Pat Hassett noted that the City will be incorporating many of the suggestions of the expert panel into the City's comprehensive transportation plan. Pat noted that many of the suggestion utilize technology to improve decision making processes and monitoring programs. Lucinda Beattie noted the importance of the recommendation to centralize all transportation data in one place. Pat noted that the implementation issue is how to make data more accessible.

d.) PA Turnpike Southern Beltway Request – Findlay Connector at 22/30 South to I-79

Chuck DiPietro reviewed a recent meeting with the PA Turnpike Commission staff in regards to the PTC request to add the Southern Beltway, Findlay Connector to I-79, to the TIP/LRP. Chuck described a scenario where the TIP amendment request and air quality conformity report would go to the SPC Commission in February.

Jeff Leithauser asked how the PA Turnpike Commission was planning on paying for the project. Chuck responded that in order for the project to be added to the TIP a valid financial plan for the project must be submitted by the PTC and approved by both SPC and FHWA. Matt Smoker noted that the reason that the project must be placed on the TIP is that it is connecting to an existing Federal Interstate (I-79).

e. October 16-18 – Carson Street Road Safety Audit

Chuck DiPietro noted that Doug Smith and the RSA team are currently finishing up the RSA on Carson Street and will be issuing recommendations.

f. October 29 & December 10 – SPC Commission Meetings – at Chatham 2

g. October 30 – Operations & Safety Committee – at Chatham 2

h. November 1 – CommuteInfo Partners – at Chatham 2

i. November 15 & December 6 – TTC Meetings – at Chatham 2

j. Other

Matt Pavlosky reminded the TTC that SPC staff will be working on PPP reappointments in the next month and he will be working through county planning staff on the new appointments.

Chris Bova asked if there was any timeline for the release of the Act 13 “Highway Bridge Improvement Restricted Account.” Kevin McCullough responded that he believed there was a December deadline for the release of these funds.