

Meeting Minutes for September 6, 2012
Transportation Technical Committee Meeting
Koppers Building
Downtown Pittsburgh

Attendees:

- Steve Shanley, Allegheny County Dept of Public Works
- James Camp, Beaver County
- Tammy Frank, Beaver County
- Joel MacKay, Butler County
- Arthur Cappella, Fayette County
- Kelly Gray, Greene County
- Jeff Grim, Indiana 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
- Kathy Reeger, PennDOT District 10-0
- H. Dan Cessna, PennDOT District 11-0
- Lou Ruzzi, PennDOT District 11-0
- Rob Miskanic, PennDOT District 11-0
- Angela Saunders, PennDOT District 12-0
- Jeremy Shaneyfelt, PennDOT District 12-0
- Lynn Manion, Airport Corridor Transportation Management Association
- Lucinda Beattie, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
- Therese Shearer, Hill International
- Chuck DiPietro, SPC Staff
- Chuck Imbrogno, SPC Staff
- Doug Smith, SPC Staff
- Dan Bernazzoli, SPC Staff
- Matt Pavlosky, SPC Staff
- Domenic D'Andrea, SPC Staff
- Ryan Gordon, SPC Staff
- Darin Alviano, SPC Staff
- (Indicates Voting Member)

1. July 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 July meeting minutes were approved with the addition of one item provided by Domenic D'Andrea on the total cost benefit ratio of the SPC signal program.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. FHWA/PennDOT Central Office Reports

a.) Federal Authorization (MAP-21)

Matt Smoker discussed the new transportation authorization law named Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21). Matt noted that new material continues to be posted on the FHWA MAP-21 website. These materials include the legislation, program summaries, Q&As, presentations, and webinar schedule. Particularly of interest to the TTC are the program summaries on such programs as STP and CMAQ. Matt noted that there will be a lot more information regarding MAP-21 posted on this site, so continue to check it periodically. Matt noted that he is involved in several committees working on the planning regulation rulemaking associated with MAP-21.

Matt Smoker reviewed a memo from the FHWA, Planning, Environment, and Realty Office requesting a review of roads classified as principal arterial within the region and identification of any functional classification changes needed to the principal arterial system. Matt reported that the memo states that a listing of any changes to the classification of principal arterials should be submitted to FHWA Headquarters by September 20, 2012. Matt noted that there may be an option to advance conditional approval given the tight timeline.

Doug Smith noted that he has already been working with the counties on this update and we will work to meet this deadline, with quick response needed from Allegheny County, the City of Pittsburgh, and the PennDOT Districts in the next week.

Chuck DiPietro reviewed some of the key deadlines associated with MAP-21. Chuck added that a key point in these deadlines is to be aware of performance measures associated with the TIP that are upcoming and the need to strengthen TIP development processes in the next update in order to prepare for incorporation of performance measures.

b.) 2012 Discretionary Grants

Matt Smoker reviewed the list of recipients of the 2012 U.S. DOT Discretionary Grants, noting that none of these grant programs exist in the new MAP-21 legislation. Chuck DiPietro noted the four projects in the region to receive funds from the discretionary grant programs:

- Rehabilitation of Cox Farm Covered Bridge in Greene County
- Ohio River Bike and Pedestrian Trail Phase I
- Pittsburgh Water Taxi
- SR 288, Wampum Avenue Bridge over the CSX Railroad in Ellwood City

c.) State Funding Crisis

Kevin McCullough briefly discussed the recent Port Authority transit funding package announcement. Kevin noted that the PennDOT Program Center has not been directly involved with the details of the transit funding package. Kevin stated that he did not have the details on the sources of the State funding contribution. In the past, sources for these state funds have included economic discretionary funds and flex funds. Chuck noted that the next TOC meeting will include a full report from Port Authority on the latest on the transit funding package.

d.) Third Quarter Progress Report (Attachment C)

Chuck DiPietro reviewed Attachment C, which was the third quarter TIP Progress Report. Kevin noted that sometimes these quarter reports can be deceiving because they are a small snapshot of what tends to equalize over a 5 to 6 year period statewide. Kevin noted that for example a large number of lettings in July will have a large influence on the entire fiscal year numbers. Both Chuck and Kevin noted that the SPC region numbers look good.

e.) STC Approval of the STIP/12-year Plan

Matt Smoker stated that the STIP was approved by FHWA back on August 9th. Matt commended the Districts and SPC on the quality of the project narratives. Matt noted that he reviewed the SPC TIP for conformity and fund eligibility. Matt noted that the STIP is now in final review to both FTA and EPA.

Kevin McCullough noted the updated 12-Year Plan was approved by STC at the August meeting.

f.) Obama Administration Action on Idle Earmarks (Attachment D)

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 has been working on this to identify the status of these earmark projects

and intends to issue a policy/strategy on how they intend to reallocate these funds. Kevin noted that the current thinking is to try to reallocate earmarked funds within the same Congressional district as the original earmark. The firm FHWA deadline to have a reallocation plan in place is October 1. Kevin acknowledged that the reallocation of the old earmarks will create a small amount of capacity on the TIP. Lucinda Beattie asked if the Penn/Smallman Street Gateway project that was listed on Attachment D is going to remain funded. Kevin stated that if the project is not moving, and if there is no work currently being done, than the project will lose its earmarked funding. Lucinda asked what the project sponsor needs to do to avoid this. Kevin replied that they need to contact their District 11-0 project manager and prove that the project is current and active.

Dave Cook questioned how the time frame for the earmarks that are eligible to be reprogrammed was selected. No one had an answer for this other than to say there were a lot of idle projects in this time frame. Dave asked if the earmarks from other eras, prior to 2003, will also be subject to reallocation; which is a concern among stakeholders in District 10-0. Kevin responded that at this time no, but it does open up the possibility for similar action in the future. Chuck noted that it may scare some project sponsors into action. At the request of Chuck DiPietro, Kevin will provide TTC with a list of all past earmarks in the region.

Kevin McCullough provided an update on activities regarding August redistribution. Kevin noted that Pennsylvania has submitted its list of eligible projects. At this point it is not known what level of unobligated end of year funds could be coming to the state. Pennsylvania has been successful in the past in securing additional funds through this annual redistribution.

g). Introduction to Planning and Programming Module 4 and PennDOT Modernization Initiatives (Handout 1)

Kevin McCullough conducted the fourth in a series of professional development trainings on planning and programming. The 20 minute training module focused on PennDOT initiatives.

The training covered the following PennDOT initiatives:

- Smart Transportation
- Linking Planning and NEPA
- Right Sizing Transportation
- Core Principals
- Transportation Funding Advisory Committee
- Strategic Plan
- Modernization

Chuck DiPietro reported on a recent conference call the MPO/RPOs had with Secretary Schoch, titled “PennDOT Next Generation - Modernization. Chuck noted that the Secretary touched on several of the same initiatives Kevin highlighted, as he discussed expanded customer service focus in the Department. Chuck added that during a Q&A session the Secretary expressed some dissatisfaction with the last round of STC hearings. Chuck stated that he expects a different approach to the next STC hearings. Art Cappella asked if there was any mention of the Turnpike Commission debt. Chuck responded that it was noted briefly as a concern.

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 (Attachment E)

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.

- o PA 228/I-79 Ramps – adding \$1.3 million construction funds in 2012.

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 (Attachment F)

Rob Miskanic of PennDOT District 11-0 reviewed the requested amendments and administrative actions to the current TIP. District 11-0 had no amendment requests.

Rob explained the moves on the Marine Diesel retrofit and the ACTA PCTI Project were necessary so that obligation authority was not lost to the region. Chuck DiPietro stated that the meeting minutes in the area associated with this move will reflect the fact that the two projects (Port of Pittsburgh, Marine Diesel Retrofit and the ACTA PCTI Airport Mobility) will be added back onto the 2013 TIP in upcoming TIP modifications. Chuck stated that the TTC will continue to honor the previous commitment made to these two projects on the 2013 TIP.

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 (Attachment G)

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. Guidance for Processing Highway and Bridge TIP Modification Measures (Handout 2)

Ryan Gordon provided background and review of Handout 2, which was a one-page guide to processing TIP modifications through the TTC. Ryan noted it takes several pages of text procedures and presents them as a one page decision diagram. It should be much easier to understand than the text version of the procedures. The guidance was sent out for review on August 9th to all the Districts and Kevin McCullough. Ryan noted that testing of this guidance for the TIP modification processing will begin on the 2013 TIP starting next month. Ryan reviewed the four ways TTC processes TIP modifications: three listed across the top (Major TIP Amendment, TIP Amendment, and TTC Administrative Action) require TTC approval. If the answer to each procedural question is no, then the modification is processed as an administrative action not requiring TTC approval and is shown on FCCs for information only. Darin Alviano noted that there still may be some cases in a gray area, but that it cleans up procedures greatly. SPC is requesting that the Districts indicate on their modification request which administrative actions require TTC approval. Dan Cessna recommended that the title of the guidance be altered. After a discussion, it was determined that the title of the guidance should be include “TTC (Title I)” instead of Highway Bridge.

6. Debrief of 2013 TIP Update Process

Chuck DiPietro reviewed feedback on the 2013 TIP update process and some points to consider going into the next TIP update (2015-2018). Chuck highlighted several areas for improvement in the next TIP update:

- Start Project Development Work Groups earlier.
- Screen by county Draft 2013 TIP unaddressed public comments; Screening Form 1
- Earlier identification of new candidate projects from all sources to feed Level 2 forms and project evaluation
- Start earlier with PPP Work Sessions (not fully advertised public meetings)
- Greater utilization of the LPN process in project selection
- Improve communication with Commission members on draft TIP development
- TTC members assist communication with Commission members
- Increase linkage between TIP development and Long Range Plan

Kevin McCullough noted that starting the work sessions earlier last TIP update was a good development for the 2013 update and that earlier work sessions for the 2015 TIP update will further assist implementing the LPN aspects of the TIP development. Kevin added that it is important to close the communication gaps to the Commissioners and to improve their comfort

level with the process and eventual approval. Both Kevin and Chuck noted several other factors that are unknown going into the next TIP update.

7. Other Business

a.) Urban Boundaries and Functional Classification updates: Scheduling Individual County Meetings

Doug Smith explained the background on the urban boundaries and functional class updates. The last time these boundaries were adjusted was following the 2000 census. Doug has met individually with most of the county planning departments to review potential changes. Doug stated that he will quickly be scheduling meetings with each District in order to meet a tight deadline imposed by FHWA in a recent memo. Matt Smoker noted that the date to get approvals of functional classification changes to principal arterials to FHWA Headquarters is September 20th. Chuck DiPietro asked the three PennDOT Districts, City of Pittsburgh, and Allegheny County to coordinate with Doug today on scheduling the remaining work sessions.

b.) Traffic Incident Management Updated

Doug Smith provided a report on the SPC Regional Traffic Incident Management Steering Committee. Doug explained that SPC has taken the lead in establishing a Regional Steering Committee for TIM. The Committee has had several meetings and will next be meeting on November 8th. Doug noted that the first local TIM team has been established in the Warrendale area working with first responders on education and trainings. This local TIM team is having an upcoming training on procedures with cable medium barrier on October 10th. Doug announced that coordination is under way to establish a second local TIM team in the Pittsburgh Airport area. SPC is closely watching the development of the statewide TIM guidance.

c.) 2012-2013 RSAs

Doug Smith reviewed the RSA strategy for the upcoming fiscal year. Typically one RSA is done in the fall and two in the spring. Doug reported that plans are underway to conduct the District 11-0 RSA October 16-18 on Route 837 from Station Square to 33rd Street. RSAs will be conducted at locations to be determined in District 10-0 and District 12-0 in the spring.

d.) Upcoming Commute-Info Meetings

Chuck DiPietro pointed to the date of the next Commute-Info Program meeting, which was scheduled for September 13th.

e.) Next TOC Meeting – September 12th at Koppers Building

f.) August 8th Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee

Ryan Gordon provided a brief overview of the last SPC Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee meeting.

g.) Next TTC Meeting – October 18th

h.) Next Commission Meeting – September 17th