

**Meeting Minutes for March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014**  
**Transportation Technical Committee Meeting**  
SPC Offices  
Two Chatham Center, Pittsburgh

Attendees:

- Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County Dept. of Economic Development
- Steve Shanley, Allegheny County Dept. of Public Works
- Chris Jaros, Armstrong County Dept. of Planning and Development
- Tammy Frank, Beaver County Dept. of Public Works
- Joel MacKay, Butler County Dept. of Planning
- Arthur Cappella, Fayette County Zoning, Planning and Community Development
- Jeremy Kelly, Greene County Planning Commission
- Crystal Simmons, Greene County Economic Development
- Jeff Raykes, Indiana County Planning and Economic Development
- Amy McKinney, Lawrence County Dept. of Planning
- Marcel Newman, City of Pittsburgh Dept. of Public Works
- Jeff Leithauser, Washington County Planning and Economic Development
- Chris Bova, Westmoreland County Dept. of Planning and Development
- Kevin McCullough, PennDOT Central Office
- Dave Cook, PennDOT District 10-0
- Dan Cessna, PennDOT District 11-0
- Cheryl Moon-Sirianni, PennDOT District 11-0
- John Quatman, PennDOT District 11-0
- Angela Saunders, PennDOT District 12-0
- Bill Beaumariage, PennDOT District 12-0
- Joshua Theakston, PennDOT District 12-0
- Lynn Manion, Airport Corridor Transportation Association
- Mavis Rainey, Oakland Transportation Management Association
- Jim Hassinger, SPC CEO and Executive Director
- Chuck DiPietro, SPC Staff
- Sara Walfoort, SPC Staff
- Chuck Imbrogno, SPC Staff
- Darin Alviano, SPC Staff
- Ryan Gordon, SPC Staff
- Matt Pavlosky, SPC Staff
- Dom D'Andrea, SPC Staff
  
- (Indicates Voting Member)

Chuck DiPietro called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He notified attendees of changes to the preliminary agenda, which included a revised FCC and narrative for PennDOT District 12-0, addition of a handout for item 3(b)V, addition item 3(b)VI “FHWA Asset Management Video”, and addition of item 5(c) “HSIP SPC Line Item”. Lastly, Chuck announced that the meeting is being recorded for minute taking purposes only.

**1. Action on February 13<sup>th</sup> Minutes (Attachment A)**

Motion was made by Jeremy Kelly and second by Chris Bova to accept the February meeting minutes with no revisions. TTC approved.

**2. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**3. FHWA/Central Office Reports**

**a. State Update**

**I. [PennDOT Posted/Bonded Viewer](#)**

Kevin McCullough highlighted PennDOT’s Posted and Bonded Viewer, an easy and simple way to visualize Posted and Bonded Roads throughout Pennsylvania. Click on the link above to see posted and bonded roads in your area of interest.

**b. Federal Updates**

Chuck DiPietro shared comment on the below issues.

**I. [TIGER Program](#)**

The Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, or TIGER Discretionary Grant program, provides a unique opportunity for the US DOT to invest in road, rail, transit and port projects that promise to achieve critical national objectives. Since 2009, Congress has dedicated more than \$4.1 billion for six rounds to fund projects that have a significant impact on the Nation, a region or a metropolitan area. The TIGER program enables US DOT to examine a broad array of projects on their merits, to help ensure that taxpayers are getting the highest value for every dollar invested. In each round of TIGER, US DOT receives many applications to build and repair critical pieces of our freight and passenger transportation networks. Applicants must detail the benefits their project would deliver for five long-term outcomes: safety, economic competitiveness, state of good repair, livability and environmental sustainability. The deadline for applications for the 2014 TIGER program is April 28<sup>th</sup>. See above link for information on the application process.

**II. [INVEST Program Round 2](#)**

The intent of the INVEST research funding opportunity is to develop case studies and analysis showing sustainability improvements that transportation agencies can make through self-evaluation with INVEST and subsequent exploration of promising sustainability practices. The INVEST Round 2 Program was seeking projects and activities, with particular focus on Operations and Maintenance (O&M). The deadline

for submitting letters of interest was February 28<sup>th</sup>. Additional information on the INVEST tool may be found at the link above.

### **III. MAP-21 Rulemaking Schedule Update – Safety Measures**

A key feature of MAP-21 is the establishment of a performance- and outcome-based program. The objective of this performance- and outcome-based program is for States to invest resources in projects that collectively will make progress toward the achievement of the national goals. MAP-21 establishes national performance goals for the Federal-aid highway program in seven areas: safety, infrastructure condition, congestion reduction, system reliability, freight movement and economic vitality, environmental sustainability, and reduced project delivery delays. Notice for proposed rulemaking for safety measures is out and can be viewed on the following link <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tpm/rule.cfm>. USDOT encourages the public to review each of the proposed rules as they become available in the Federal Register and to submit comments to the docket for each rule.

### **IV. Highway Trust Fund Shortfall (Handout 1)**

US DOT has updated its Highway Trust Fund Ticker, and a chart on Handout 1 shows that the Highway Trust Fund shortfall could now be as early as the end of July. US DOT notes that the HTF “will encounter a shortfall before the end of fiscal year (FY) 2014,” adding that “the surface transportation program continues to outlay at a greater pace than receipts are coming in” and that the balance has dropped by nearly \$3.3 billion since \$9.7 billion was transferred from the General Fund after the start of the fiscal year. By the end of February, the Highway Account cash balance stood at \$8.6 billion. To view the Highway Trust Fund Ticker, [click here](#).

### **V. [President's Proposed Transportation Budget](#) & Reauthorization Proposal (Handout 2)**

The President's plan states it will improve America's highways and transit networks, continue building on the US DOT's overall safety record, and ensure a stable funding source for rail. The proposed budget would be paid for \$150 billion from transition revenue generated from business tax reforms, along with current revenues from the gas tax. For more details, click on the above link. Handout 2 was prepared by Ken Flack of SPC and it is his interpretation of what the President's Transportation Budget proposal's impact would be on the SPC region.

### **VI. FHWA Asset Management Video**

An FHWA video that provides a brief high-level overview of asset management principles was shown to the TTC. To view, click on the following link [FHWA Asset Management Video](#).

#### **4. Action on Modifications to 2013-2016 TIP**

##### **a. March 10<sup>th</sup> Commission Action**

Chuck DiPietro noted that the Commission, after completion of the public comment period, approved the amendment requests to add the Birmingham Bridge Rehabilitation, PA Route 50 Highway Reconstruction, and PA Route 906 Rockfall projects to the current TIP.

##### **b. District 10-0 (Attachment B)**

Dave Cook of PennDOT District 10-0 reviewed the requested amendments and administrative actions to the current TIP. Jeff Raykes' motion was seconded by Chris Jaros and TTC approved the amendments and administrative actions requiring TTC approval, as presented.

[D10-0 March Modifications Fiscal Constraint Chart](#)

##### **c. District 11-0 (Attachment C)**

John Quatman of PennDOT District 11-0 reviewed the requested amendment and administration actions requiring TTC approval to the current TIP. Ann Ogoreuc's motion was seconded by Amy McKinney and TTC approved the amendment and administrative actions requiring TTC approval, as presented.

[D11-0 March Modifications Fiscal Constraint Chart](#)

##### **d. District 12-0 (Attachment D)**

Angela Saunders of PennDOT District 12-0 reviewed the requested amendment and administration actions requiring TTC approval to the current TIP. Jeff Leithauser's motion was second by Chris Bova and TTC approved the administrative actions requiring TTC approval, as presented.

[D12-0 March Modification Fiscal Constraint Chart](#)

#### **5. Advance 2015-2018 TIP Update**

##### **a. 2015 Final Financial Guidance Document & Final Schedule**

Kevin McCullough stated that the Final Financial Guidance Document from PennDOT Central Office should be provided shortly. Program unit is working with Fiscal unit in regards to ACT 89 funds availability for TIP years.

##### **b. Central Office Response to SPC Preliminary Draft TIP Submission**

Central Office is working to clean-up the draft TIP. The following are some of the activities taking place: reviewing HSIP projects, making sure CMAQ program is properly attached, aligning of funds to program networks (NHPP, STP) to make sure projects are utilizing proper funding type, and programming of DOI projects in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> four years of the 12-year program

**c. HSIP SPC Line Item**

Darin Alviano and Kevin McCullough indicated that the approximately \$9m/yr in safety funds (HSIP) allocated to the SPC Region for the TIP update is being placed in a regional line item. The HSIP funds for the first two years of the TIP (FFY's 2015, 2016) are being fully utilized on current TIP carryover projects; for the last two years of the TIP (FFY's 2017, 2018), SPC in cooperation with PennDOT will establish a program for distributing funding. Once the draft program guidelines are developed, TTC members will have an opportunity to comment.

**d. Air Quality Conformity**

Chuck Imbrogno informed that in order to meet SPC TIP adoption date of June 30th, air quality conformity report is needed by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Chuck still requires an Interstate list, Spike list, and an updated turnpike project list before he can run the conformity model.

**e. PPP Update**

Matt Pavlosky mentioned that public meetings for the 2015 TIP Update will begin around mid May ending in mid June (30-day public review and comment period). Matt also mentioned that SPC has launched the Public Participation Portal webpage on the SPC website. Initial feedback has been positive.

**f. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)**

Sara Walfoort updated the status of the TAP. Applications are being accepted electronically via PennDOT's website. Deadline for submission is April 4<sup>th</sup>. Upon close of application process, PennDOT Central Office will provide SPC with all applications received from this region. The SPC TAP Work Group will review, evaluate, and recommend to TTC allocation of approximately \$3.4m to projects. Those projects not selected for funding by SPC will be eligible for funding as part of PennDOT's statewide TAP.

**g. TIP Modifications Review Work Group Report**

Darin Alviano and Ryan Gordon reported that the TIP Modifications Review Work Group met on March 12<sup>th</sup>. One more meeting will be required to complete the review. This meeting is anticipated for early April. The Work Group recommended draft Memorandum of Understanding (set of procedures to be used by SPC and its member agencies: PennDOT, the counties/city, and transit operators for processing TIP modifications) will be included as part of the advance April TTC agenda for review. At its April meeting, the TTC will be asked to approve the draft MOU, which will be part of the draft 2015 TIP document that goes out for Public Comment.

**h. LPN Update**

Ryan Gordon reviewed the status of Linking Planning and NEPA activities associated with the Draft TIP update. Ryan noted that he will be coordinating with the District Planning and Programming Departments to approve and assign a status to all of the Level 2 screening forms that were completed for candidate projects that were

considered for the draft TIP. Ryan also noted that there is an upcoming conference call with PennDOT Central Office, SPC, and DVRPC to discuss Linking Planning and NEPA activities.

**6. LRP Update: District Work Groups Design/Schedule (Handout 3)**

Chuck DiPietro presented some general planning activities under development as part of the Long Range Plan update for the Transportation element, which included some of the following: Applying existing regional plan policy statements and MAP-21 planning factors to establish associated plan evaluation criteria/regional performance measures; Considering future factors and needs to identify key corridors or sub areas within each county; Reviewing baseline SPC financial revenue assumptions, projections, and current allocations by investment category.

**7. Regional Operations Plan Update**

Chuck DiPietro noted that on February 25<sup>th</sup> there was a ROP plan meeting and ITS round table. The group utilized work maps and indentified areas of concern. Chuck liked the work map exercise and envisions possibly using similar approach for identifying transportation issues and concerns as part of the Long Rang Plan Update.

**8. Other Business/Status Reports**

SPC staff highlighted both recent and upcoming meetings listed below.

- a. March 11 - ATWIC Kick-Off Meeting
- b. March 12 - Ped/Bike Committee
- c. March 20 - CMAQ Evaluation Committee "Debrief" Meeting
- d. April 9 - I79/I76 Local TIM Team in Cranberry
- e. April 10 - Airport Corridor TIM Team
- f. April 15-17 - South Braddock Avenue RSA
- g. April 16 - Transit Operators Committee at MMVTA in Charleroi
- h. April 17 - Next TTC
- i. April 21 - Commission Meeting
- j. May 21 - SPC Annual Freight Conference at Station Square

- k. ECMS Training (Attachment E)

Now that the ECMS Local Projects functionality has gone live, PennDOT is beginning a training plan that will start March 18-19, with a pilot in Harrisburg. Twelve training classes are currently scheduled hitting most PennDOT districts. Attachment E is a copy of a letter that was mailed to municipalities outlining the training schedule.

- l. [PA Turnpike Advisory Panel](#)

Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission is providing an opportunity for the public to join its Traveler Advisory Panel. Click on the above link for more details.