

Meeting Minutes for September 18th, 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
- Jim Camp, Braver County Public Works
- Joel MacKay, Butler County Planning Commission
Kevin Gray, Butler County Planning Commission
- Arthur Cappella, Fayette County Zoning, Planning and Community Development
- Jeremy Kelly, Greene County Planning Commission
- * Jeff Raykes, Indiana County Planning and Economic Development
- Amy McKinney, Lawrence County Dept. of Planning
- Patrick Hassett City of Pittsburgh Department of Public Works
- Chris Bova, Westmoreland County Dept. of Planning and Development
Daniel Carpenter, Westmoreland County Dept. of Planning and Development
- Jeffrey Leithauser, Washington County Planning Commission
- Kevin McCullough, PennDOT Central Office
Matt Smoker, Federal Highways Administration
Dave Cook, PennDOT District 10-0
Craig Cheledwill, PennDOT District 10-0
Kathy Reeger, PennDOT District 10-0
Dan Cessna, PennDOT District 11-0
Robert Miskanic, PennDOT District 11-0
Stephanie Spang PennDOT District 11-0
Angela Saunders, PennDOT District 12-0
William Beaumariage, PennDOT District 12-0
Joshua Theakston, PennDOT District 12-0
Lynn Manion, Airport Corridor Transportation Association
JD Fogarty, Port of Pittsburgh Commission
Joseph Logan, Fisher Associates
Jim Hassinger, SPC CEO & Executive Director
Chuck DiPietro, SPC Staff
Chuck Imbrogno, SPC Staff
Darin Alviano, SPC Staff
Matt Pavlosky, SPC Staff
Doug Smith, SPC Staff
Tom Klevan, SPC Staff
Dominic D'Andrea, SPC Staff
Ken Flack, SPC Staff
Ryan Gordon, SPC Staff
- Indicates voting member
- * participated by telephone

Chuck DiPietro called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He notified attendees of changes to the preliminary agenda, which included: handouts for items 3(B)(III), 4, and 7C; addition of item 7H.

1. Action on July 17th Minutes (Attachment A)

Motion was made by Jeff Leithauser and second by Chris Bova to accept the July meeting minutes. TTC approved.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. FHWA/Central Office Reports

A. State Updates

Kevin McCullough and Chuck DiPietro shared updates on the below topics.

I. Third Quarter SPC TIP Progress Report (Attachment B)

SPC obligated funds are slightly ahead compared to rest of the state. PennDOT District Executives continue to be very aggressive at delivering the program for the SPC region, especially at the end of each Federal Fiscal Year.

On September 10, the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced the redistribution of Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 obligation limitation. Obligation limitations are a restriction or “ceiling” on the amount of Federal assistance that can be promised during a specific time period. The USDOT made a total of \$2.1 billion available nationally for redistribution for FY 2014. Pennsylvania received \$103.1 million in additional funds for allocation. This was the third highest in the country only behind Texas and California. The funds management section in the Center for Program Development and Management moved quickly to process 96 authorization requests to utilize the extra funds made available within hours of receiving notice from USDOT. This effort will significantly help Pennsylvania move forward with additional projects as we move into the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program beginning October 1.

II. State Long Range Plan

The Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is a strategic, multimodal plan that updates the state’s previous plan developed in 2006. The Statewide LRTP will develop a regional, statewide, and even national level perspective on current and future transportation opportunities and challenges within the Commonwealth through the year 2040. Pennsylvania’s Comprehensive Freight Movement Plan (CFMP) will be developed in parallel and consistent with the LRTP. LRP outreach and draft plan development are concluding. It is anticipated that a summary will be coming out to MPO/RPO planning partners.

III. Transportation Alternatives Program

PennDOT project selections for their statewide competitive Transportation Alternatives Program have not been announced. There is talk that the awards will not be announced until PennDOT has determined project selections from their Multimodal Transportation

Fund program. Even though PennDOT has not announced awards for the 2014-2015 Multimodal Transportation Funds Program, an announcement was made that they are accepting applications for their 2015-2016 program through September 24th. PennDOT's Multimodal Transportation Fund program is separate from the Commonwealth Finance Authority's program, which made its project selection announcement recently (detail below).

IV. Multimodal Transportation Fund [News Release](#)

The Governor announced the first round of Multimodal Transportation Funds approved by the Commonwealth Financing Authority with a \$40 million investment in 62 projects to support community projects to improve public safety, revive streetscapes, and upgrade multimodal infrastructure. Sixteen projects within the SPC region received funding: Allegheny County (12), Armstrong County (1), Butler County (1), Greene County (1), Washington County (1). For a complete list of projects, please click [here](#).

V. Act 89 County Option to Assess \$5 Vehicle Registration Fee (Attachment C)

A FAQ was provided to members to help in understanding what is involved for counties who so choose to implement a vehicle registration fee.

VI. CCAP Bridge Spending Survey concerning Act 13 Funds

The PennDOT Bureau of Project Delivery had reached out to PennDOT Municipal Services and the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) to inquire about possibly leveraging Act 13 funds with those available for the local bridge bundling effort. CCAP in turn sent a survey to all counties inquiring about this issue. Responses varied. Most were not acceptable to relinquishing their funds to the state unless they were guaranteed a project for inclusion into the bundling program.

B. Federal Updates

Matt Smoker and Chuck DiPietro shared updates on the below topics.

I. Highway Trust Fund Extension/Transportation Reauthorization

The Highway Trust Fund will be kept solvent through May of 2015, and MAP-21 itself is extended through May 31st, 2015.

II. TIGER Program

The U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) announced the recipients of 2014 TIGER grants worth \$584 million for 72 transportation projects in 46 states and the District of Columbia. Overall, applicants requested 15 times the \$600 million available for the program, or \$9 billion for needed transportation projects. The Sports & Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County received \$1,551,632 in design funds for a "cap" over I- 579 reconnecting the Hill neighborhood to the Golden Triangle.

III. The Innovative Bridge Research and Deployment Program

[SR 3110 Shaler Bridge in Allegheny County](#)

At the end of July, the U.S Department of Transportation awarded \$400 thousand to the SR 3110 Shaler Bridge project in Allegheny County for using cutting-edge technologies. The project is an accelerated bridge construction using self-propelled modular transport.

4. Congestion Performance Measures: Overview & Discussion (Handout)

Doug Smith gave an overview of the regional Congestion Management Process (CMP) and explained the floating car method that has traditionally been used to collect travel time and speed data on regional roadways. He highlighted new sources of vehicle probe data and discussed how these continuous data streams provide a much more robust data sample than traditional data collection methods. SPC currently has access to a limited amount of archived data through the University of Maryland's RITIS program and hopes to have access to additional data in the near future as PennDOT upgrades its 511 system and buys additional archived data. SPC has been working with the tools available through RITIS to look at corridor level congestion performance measures and has developed some of its own tools to look at recurring and non-recurring congestion. Doug explained that SPC can still produce the same peak hour recurring congestion performance measure information that has always been produced as part of the CMP, but now the measures are based on continuous data throughout the year rather than very limited sample sizes from a particular day. Doug discussed Posted Speed Reliability Index (PSRI), which is a non-recurring congestion measure that indicates how often you can travel a corridor at or near the posted speed limit, and explained that this measure works well for uncongested corridors but can be somewhat harsh when looking at congested corridors. For this reason SPC has developed a non-recurring congestion measure called Expected Travel Time Reliability Index (ETTRI), which accounts for some level of recurring congestion that people are willing to accept and plan for on a daily basis. The underlying assumption is that people's expectations fall around the Median Travel Time for the corridor where ½ the days are better and ½ the days are worse. When using ETTRI, congested corridor performance looks more realistic. Doug noted some interesting observations that have come from the initial work on these performance measures, such as reliability fluctuation by month of the year, and he showed how the RITIS tools can be used to create videos representing normal recurring congestion patterns for each corridor.

5. Action on Amendments & Modifications to 2013-2016 TIP

A. PennDOT District 10-0 (Attachment D)

Dave Cook of PennDOT District 10-0 reviewed administrative actions for informational purposes only. There were no amendments proposed.

[District 10-0 September TIP Modification Requests](#)

B. PennDOT District 11-0 (Attachment E)

Rob Miskanic of PennDOT District 11-0 reviewed administration actions for informational purposes only. There were no amendments proposed.

[District 11-0 September TIP Modification Requests](#)

C. PennDOT District 12-0 (Attachment F)

Angela Saunders of PennDOT District 12-0 reviewed administration actions for informational purposes only. There were no amendments proposed.

[District 12-0 TIP Modification Requests](#)

6. 2015 SPC TIP Modification Procedures

SPC staff reminded project sponsors that the 2015 TIP Modification Procedures will be in effect as of October 1st. Any questions can be directed to Darin Alviano or Ryan Gordon.

7. Other Business/Status Reports

A. SPC Long Range Plan Update

I. August 11 - Transportation Workshop at IUP

Chuck DiPietro recapped the SPC Transportation Workshop that was held at IUP on August 11th. Presentations included the following: Joseph Dubovi, PennDOT, District 10-0 Overview; James Ritzman, PennDOT, Shaping the Investment in Pennsylvania's Future; Ryan Fischer, Genesee & Wyoming Railroad, Freight Rail Overview and Benefits; Stan Caldwell, Traffic21 Institute, Automated Vehicles; Beth Osborne, Transportation for America (T4A), Innovative Funding; Lew Villotti, SPC Long Range Plan Update.

II. September 5 - SPC Economic Impact Assessment Work Group Meeting

Chuck Imbrogno highlighted the recent meeting of the SPC Economic Impact Assessment Workgroup. The Work Group is assisting SPC in developing a tool to be utilized in assessing transportation projects and impacts on the economy.

B. SPC Transportation Alternatives Program

SPC staff has mailed award notification letters to project sponsors. Project sponsors are to notify their respective PennDOT District to discuss appropriate next steps. Regional TAP projects are to be placed on the 2015 TIP at the October TTC meeting.

C. SPC Livability Through Smart Transportation Program

SPC staff distributed to members the Smart Transportation Program Guidance. There is \$3 million available on the 2015 TIP to support this initiative; \$1.5 million in each of the first two years. With minimal funds available for this program, SPC is soliciting applications from member planning departments only. An email will be sent in the very near future to County/City Planning Directors regarding the program.

D. Non-State Federal Aid System - SPC Web Portal & Interactive Map

Ryan Gordon presented a new Non-State Federal Aid System web portal now on SPC's website. The new content is in response to the Federal certification report recommendation to include more information on condition and functions of the locally owned federal aid system. The certification report recommended that a map showing the Non-State Federal Aid System (NSFAS) be developed. Ryan Gordon reviewed the content of the portal, which includes: a mileage chart by county, links to federal guidance and fact sheets, attribute data tables for the NSFAS in each county, and an interactive map that shows the NSFAS, the NSFAS by condition, and the local bridges eligible for federal aid. Ryan detailed the interactive map demonstrating how to show the condition of the system

and how to view pop-up data tables.

Ryan noted at the November TTC meeting we will have Andrea Bahoric from the PennDOT Bureau of Planning and Research presenting on PennDOT data collection on the NSFAS. Ryan noted that future efforts will include coordination with roadway owners to review the current NSFAS.

E. Public Participation Panels Reappointments

Matt Pavlosky announced that SPC will begin working with the counties to appoint/re-appoint Public Participation Panels for each county. Over the next few weeks, a preliminary letter will be sent to the SPC Commissioners, announcing the re-appointment schedule, the current rosters, and re-appointment guidelines. A reminder letter/follow-up will be sent in mid-November. Final appointments should be in place by February 1, 2015. Matt will be sending information to the county points-of-contact as well, and encouraged any questions or assistance needed with re-appointments. Matt also mentioned that since the 2015-2018 TIP was about to take effect, that the TIP and its related items could be found at the new SPC Public Participation Portal on the SPC website.

SPC staff highlighted both recent and upcoming meetings listed below.

- F. August 19-20 - [Northern Transportation & Air Quality Summit at SPC](#)
- G. September 8-11 - [Pro Walk/Pro Bike/ Pro Place Conference in Pittsburgh](#)
- H. September 16-17 - [FHWA ITS Architecture Workshop at SPC](#)
- I. September 17 - Transit Operators Committee
- J. September 29 & December 15 - Commission Meetings
- K. October 7 - SPC Freight Forum
- L. October 8 - SPC Ped/Bike Committee
- M. October 15 - Joint OH/WVA/PA TIM Conference in Wintersville, Ohio (Attachment G)
- N. October 16 - next TTC Meeting