

# Meeting Minutes for February 19, 2015 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
- Sally Conklin, Armstrong County Dept. of Planning and Development  
Tom Swisher, Armstrong County Dept. of Planning and Development
- Jim Camp, Beaver County Public Works  
Tammy Frank, Beaver County Liquid Fuels Department
- Joel MacKay, Butler County Planning Commission
- Arthur Cappella, Fayette County Zoning, Planning and Community Development
- Jeremy Kelly, Greene County 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  
Dan Cessna, PennDOT District 11-0  
Cheryl Moon-Sirianni, PennDot District 11-0  
Robert Miskanic, PennDOT District 11-0  
John Quatman, PennDOT District 11-0  
Angela, Saunders, PennDOT District 12-0  
Joshua Theakston, PennDOT District 12-0  
Lynn Manion, Airport Corridor Transportation Association  
Lucinda Beattie, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership  
Lachelle Binion, Oakland Transportation Management Association  
Steve Shadle, Allegheny County Consultant  
Jim Hassinger, SPC Executive Director & CEO  
Doug Smith, SPC Transportation Director  
Darin Alviano, SPC Staff  
Dominic D'Andrea, SPC Staff  
Matt Pavlosky, SPC Staff  
Chuck Imbrogno, SPC Staff  
Tom Klevan, SPC Staff  
Ryan Gordon, SPC Staff  
Erin Kepple, SPC Staff  
Dave Totten, SPC Staff  
Josh Spano, SPC Staff  
Kathy Stefani, SPC Staff
- Indicates voting member
- \* Participated by phone

#### **1. Call to Order**

Doug Smith called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

## **2. Action on the January 15th Minutes (Handout 1)**

A motion was made by Jeff Leithauser and second by Chris Bova to accept the January 19th, meeting minutes as presented. The TTC approved.

## **3. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **4. FHWA/PennDOT Central Office Reports**

Kevin McCullough and Matt Smoker shared updates on the below activities.

### *a. STC Performance Report*

Today the State Transportation Commission (STC) approved the, '2015 Transportation Performance Report'. This high level report is a combined effort of the STC, the State Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and PennDOT. It reviews the system's status, performance within current resources, and opportunities for progress. The report can be accessed through the STC website at: [www.talkpatransportation.com](http://www.talkpatransportation.com)

### *b. Pennsylvania's Long Range Transportation & Comprehensive Freight Movement Plan*

PennDOT is currently finalizing its plan. Its focus is on higher strategic content, which can assist individual Planning Partner Long Range Plan development.

### *c. New Acting PA Secretary of Transportation – Leslie Richards*

Acting Secretary Richards has been meeting with PennDOT's Deputy Secretary for Planning Jim Ritzman to discuss current initiatives.

Secretary Richards has extensive leadership experience in the management of transportation projects both in her private sector work in the planning and engineering fields over the past two decades, as well as in her work in local government. Her private and public sector backgrounds give her a unique perspective on understanding stakeholder issues, and on the importance of bringing projects to completion on time and on budget.

### *d. Mayor's Challenge*

Secretary Foxx announced the Mayor's Challenge as part of his [Safer People, Safer Streets](#) initiative. The Mayor's Challenge calls on local elected officials to make a commitment to improving pedestrian and bicycle safety over the next year. It encourages broader use of existing tools and resources, showcases effective local actions to improve safety, and promotes partnerships to advance pedestrian and bicycle safety.

The primary role of the FHWA Division Offices at this time is to direct interested people to the Mayor's Challenge website at <http://www.dot.gov/mayors-challenge>

## **5. Action on Amendments & Modifications to 2015-2018 TIP (Handout 2)**

### *a. PennDOT District 10-0*

Dave Cook of PennDOT District 10-0 reviewed the requested TIP modifications. There were four administrative actions requiring TTC action (as highlighted within Handout 2). Jim Camp's motion was seconded by Art Cappella and the TTC approved the administrative actions requiring TTC approval, as presented.

*b. PennDOT District 11-0*

Rob Miskanic of PennDOT District 11-0 reviewed the requested TIP modifications. There were four amendments and eight administrative actions requiring TTC action (as highlighted within Handout 2). Ann Ogoreuc's motion was seconded by Patrick Hassett and the TTC approved the administrative actions requiring TTC approval, as presented.

*c. PennDOT District 12-0*

Angela Saunders of PennDOT District 12-0 reviewed the requested TIP modifications. There were two administrative actions requiring TTC action (as highlighted within Handout 2). Art Cappella's motion was seconded by Jeff Leithauser and the TTC approved the administrative actions requiring TTC approval, as presented.

**6. SPC Livability Through Smart Transportation Program Update (Handout 3)**

Darin Alviano provided an update on SPC's "Livability Through Smart Transportation Program". A handout was distributed showing projects that were recommended for funding by the Smart Transportation Review Committee. SPC staff met with PennDOT Districts, Project Sponsors and appropriate jurisdictional members to assess deliverability of those projects recommended for funding. As a result of the meetings, the City of Greensburg and Adams Township were in agreement with SPC and PennDOT that their projects require a detailed study and the funds should be applied to this phase. SPC made no commitment to fund the projects beyond the study, but did indicate to sponsors that by having a study completed would position those projects competitively for future discretionary funds such as the state's Multi-Modal Program. The recommendation to fund the two projects as a study was presented to the Smart Transportation Review Committee prior to today's TTC and was approved.

Jeff Leithauser's motion to approve the projects recommended for funding through SPC's "Livability Through Smart Transportation Program" was seconded by Chris Bova and TTC approved. The recommended project list will be presented to the Commission for their consideration at their March 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**7. Mapping the Future: The Southwestern PA Plan**

*a. Performance Measures Survey*

A heat map was shown which provided an overview of where (using zip codes) SPC has received responses from the Performance Measures Survey. Results of the survey are being compiled and will be shared with the Commissioners at their February 27<sup>th</sup> Long Range Plan Workshop.

*b. Investment Strategies Survey*

<http://www.southwesternpaplan.org/>

Doug Smith informed members that SPC is utilizing a second survey to obtain transportation investment priorities from stakeholders and the public that will help guide the plan. The results of this survey will be used to further develop investment priorities and projects for the Southwestern PA Plan. The survey can be taken at the link above. Preliminary results of this survey will be shared with the Commissioners at their February 27<sup>th</sup> Long Rang Plan Workshop.

- c. *FHWA INVEST Tool (Handout 4)*  
<http://www.sustainablehighways.dot.gov/>

Doug Smith highlighted Handout 4. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) developed INVEST, to help make the nation's transportation systems more sustainable – economically, socially and environmentally. INVEST was created specifically for transportation agencies to evaluate the sustainability of the full lifecycle of their transportation plans and projects. The INVEST self-evaluation tool provides criteria and a scoring system that allows transportation agencies to gauge their level of sustainability and systematically integrate sustainable practices into their actions. SPC intends to use this tool to assess its current Long Range Plan and then use the results to see where improvements can be made in the Long Range Plan that is under development.

A video was shown on how North Central Texas Council of Governments (serves as the council of governments for a 16-county region centered on Dallas and Fort Worth) assessed its adopted long-range transportation plan, *Mobility 2035* using INVEST's System Planning module.

d. *Next Steps*

Doug Smith reminded the Districts, counties, and City of upcoming Long Range Plan work sessions. Project lists will need to be finalized at that time so SPC can move forward in conducting air quality conformity for the plan. The draft plan is scheduled to go out for public comment in May with the Commission considering adoption in June.

## **8. AASHTO Commuting in America Report**

Kathy Stefani presented a report from AASHTO on Commuting in America. The report builds on three prior Commuting in America documents issued over the past three decades. This report consists of a series of 16 briefs analyzing the evolving role of commuting, which accounts for 28 percent of the passenger miles traveled on America's roadways – examines the historical shift in employment from manufacturing and agriculture toward economic diversification and growth in service, information, and technology-related employment sectors. Its purpose is to help those in public policy, planning, research, and education better understand the patterns and trends in the nature of work and commuting that are influencing critical transportation policy issues and investment priorities.

For more information, please feel free to contact Kathy Stefani.

## **9. Other Business/Status Reports**

a. *Transportation Department Reorganization*

Doug Smith provided an overview of the reorganized Transportation Department, which includes establishment of four core planning groups. After assessing current department operations, needs were identified to enhance key planning functions including: :

### Program Development

- Better integration of LRTP & TIP
- Increase focus on corridor studies
- Build on environmental / sustainability work
- Develop locally-owned federal-aid program
- Coordinate projects to pursue discretionary funding opportunities

### Data & Modeling

- Reassign some collateral duties to allow increased focus on data & modeling
- Focus on emerging “big data” sources to enhance planning
- Integrate modeling into work of entire department

### Operations & Safety

- Align operations, safety, signals, TIM, ITS, CMP, and related programs
- Increase emphasis on Safety (1/3 FTE -> 1 FTE)  
FTE = Full-Time Employee

### Multimodal Planning

- Align transit, freight, ridesharing and ped/bike planning into one area
- Point of contact for TMAs
- Increase emphasis on Freight (1/3 FTE -> 1 FTE)
- Increase emphasis on Ped-Bike (1/3 FTE -> 1 FTE)  
FTE = Full-Time Employee

#### *b. Regional Freight Plan RFP*

A request for proposals is out for SPC's Regional Freight Plan.

#### *c. Public Participation Panel Appointments*

Matt Pavlosky informed members that the PPP reappointments are finalized. SPC is grateful to the City and counties for their assistance.

Doug Smith quickly highlighted both recent and upcoming meetings listed below.

- d. February 3 – SPC Freight Forum*
- e. February 12 – CommuteInfo Partners*
- f. February 18 – Transit Operators Committee*
- g. February 19 – Smart Transportation Program Review Committee*
- h. February 27 – Executive Committee Meeting*
- i. February 27 – Commissioners Long Range Plan Workshop*
- j. March 11– Ped/Bike Committee*
- k. March 26 – Transportation Technical Committee (New Date)*
- l. March 30 – Policy Committee, Executive Committee, Commission Meetings*