

Meeting Minutes for March 26, 2015
Transportation Technical Committee Meeting
SPC Offices
Two Chatham Center, Pittsburgh

Attendees:

- Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County Dept. of Economic Development
- Sally Conklin, Armstrong County Dept. of Planning and Development
Tom Swisher, Armstrong County Dept. of Planning and Development
- Jim Camp, Beaver County Public Works
- Joel MacKay, Butler County Planning Commission
- Arthur Cappella, Fayette County Zoning, Planning and Community Development
- Jeremy Kelly, Greene County Planning Commission
- Amy McKinney, Lawrence County Planning Department
- Patrick Hassett, City of Pittsburgh Department of Public Works
Patrick Roberts, City of Pittsburgh Department of Planning
- Chris Bova, Westmoreland County Department 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
Doug Dupnock, PennDOT District 10-0
Cheryl Moon-Sirianni, PennDot District 11-0
Robert Miskanic, PennDOT District 11-0
Stephanie Spang, PennDOT District 11-0
Gary Castelucci, PennDOT District 11-0
Angela, Saunders, PennDOT District 12-0
Lynn Manion, Airport Corridor Transportation Association
Lucinda Beattie, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
Steve Shadle, Allegheny County Consultant
Mary Ann Bucci, Port of Pittsburgh Commission
Joseph Logan, Fisher Associates
Jim Hassinger, SPC Executive Director & CEO
Doug Smith, SPC Transportation Director
Darin Alviano, SPC Staff
Sara Walfoort, SPC Staff
Dominic D'Andrea, SPC Staff
Chuck Imbrogno, SPC Staff
Tom Klevan, SPC Staff
Ryan Gordon, SPC Staff
Erin Kepple, SPC Staff
Kathy Stefani, SPC Staff
- Indicates voting member

1. Call to Order

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

2. Action on the February 19th Minutes (Handout 1)

A motion was made by Jeff Leithauser and second by Jeremy Kelly to accept the February 19th meeting minutes as presented. The TTC approved.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. FHWA/PennDOT Central Office Reports

a. State Transportation Commission “2015 Transportation Performance Report”

Kevin McCullough of PennDOT Central Office stated that the State Transportation Commission (STC) released the 2015 Transportation Performance Report (TPR) in February. This second version snapshot of the transportation system’s status, performance and progress is featured on the STC website at www.talkpatransportation.com. The 2015 TPR highlights the many benefits of the passage of Act 89 and also includes many interactive links.

In addition, Kevin added the STC is preparing the 2017 Twelve Year Program. On April 16, 2015, the STC will host an online public meeting and launch the public comment period with an online survey.

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 was one amendment and eight administrative actions requiring TTC action (as highlighted within Handout 2). Jim Camp’s motion was second by Ann Ogoreuc 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 five administrative actions requiring TTC action (as highlighted within Handout 2). Concerns were raised over two amendments involving the addition of the I-376 Banksville Interchange Project and the SR 50 Thoms Run Rd. to Mayer Street Project. Both projects were being requested to be added to the TIP in 2015 for Preliminary Engineering utilizing \$2.5M and \$1.4M respectively of CMAQ funds from the SPC CMAQ Line Item. These funds were made available due to the District being able to capture additional

obligation authority and advancing projects sooner than originally scheduled. A number of members that serve on both the TTC and the CMAQ committee questioned the process in which the available CMAQ funds were being allocated, because the two projects being presented did not score as high as other CMAQ candidate projects evaluated by the CMAQ committee. Chuck Imbrogno stated that District 11-0 made a request for available CMAQ funds for the two projects, and that a staff review of the candidate project list indicated that these projects stood the best chance of being able to obligate the funds quickly. SPC staff then notified the CMAQ committee of the request and sought comment on the proposed amendments from March 13th through March 20th. SPC received no comment from CMAQ committee members during that period and proceeded with bringing the request forth to the TTC. A few concerns from members were shared with SPC staff after March 20th, and those concerns have been brought forth today. Members felt that project sponsors who had higher scoring projects that did not receive funding at TIP adoption due to fiscal constraint should have been contacted and notified of the available funds prior to proposing that the funds be moved into these two projects. Doug Smith indicated that an additional \$1.2M of CMAQ funds has just recently become available for 2015 because a project sponsor decided to cancel their project for business reasons. At the request of the TTC, staff will contact all candidate project sponsors and notify them of this funding availability. Art Cappella's motion to approve the amendments and administrative actions as presented was second by Jim Camp. The majority of TTC approved, with Butler County and Armstrong County opposing.

c. PennDOT District 12-0

Angela Saunders of PennDOT District 12-0 reviewed the requested TIP modifications. There was one amendment and three administrative actions requiring TTC action (as highlighted within Handout 2). Chris Bova's motion was second by Jeff Leithauser and the TTC approved the administrative actions requiring TTC approval, as presented.

6. Keystone West (Amtrak) Study Overview

Tom Klevan of SPC staff provided an overview of the Keystone West (Amtrak) Study. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and Amtrak, conducted the Keystone West High Speed Rail Study to evaluate the feasibility of options to reduce rail travel times on Amtrak's Keystone West portion (Harrisburg – Pittsburgh) of the Pennsylvania service between New York City and Pittsburgh. A summary of the report can be found at <http://www.planthekeystone.com/keystonewest.html>

7. Mapping the Future: The Southwestern PA Plan

a. FHWA Invest Tool – Presentation

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 life-cycle 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.

Doug Smith informed members that SPC used this tool to assess its current Long Range Plan (Plan) and presented the findings to the group. Overall the Plan received a Silver score. As the new Plan is being developed, SPC is continuing to enhance its planning efforts by making targeted improvements in opportunity areas identified using this tool. SPC hopes to achieve a Gold or Platinum rating with the new Plan.

b. Draft Project List (Handout 3)

A draft project list was provided to the TTC. The draft list is the result of the recent SPC work sessions. If members have any questions concerning projects listed or perhaps omitted they can contact Darin Alviano or Ryan Gordon of SPC Staff.

8. Act 89 County \$5 Vehicle Registration Fee Option

Presentation by Kirk Stoner, Director of Planning, Cumberland County

Kirk Stoner provided a presentation on how Cumberland County is utilizing the \$5 vehicle registration fee permissible under Act 89 of 2013. Kirk discussed Cumberland County's plan to address deficient bridges utilizing the funds and the process he went through to establish the transportation needs to demonstrate to his Commissioners the necessity of enacting an ordinance. As of January 1st of this year, Act 89 permits a county to pass an ordinance to implement a fee of \$5 for each vehicle registered to an address located in that county. Cumberland County expects to generate approximately \$1M per year through this local funding mechanism.

9. Winter Maintenance Practices and Water Quality

Erin Kepple of SPC staff delivered a presentation on Winter Maintenance Practices and Water Quality. The use of de-icing and anti-icing chemicals such as chlorides can have water quality, environmental and infrastructure impacts. The goal for implementing winter maintenance best management practices is to effectively and efficiently reduce environmental and

infrastructure impacts without compromising public safety. There is a regional need for municipalities to be educated on winter maintenance best management practices. The adoption of some of the winter maintenance BMPs will help municipalities comply with MS4 minimum control measures, improve water quality and reduce winter maintenance budgets over time.

10. Other Business/Status Reports

a. SPC and Natural Heritage Program Partnership (Handout 4)

Ryan Gordon of SPC staff discussed a proposed partnership with the National Heritage Program (PNHP). The PNHP through the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy has completed ecological inventories for all the counties in the state and has been, for the past 10 years, updating all the original inventories which were done over a period of 20+ years. The program works statewide in many capacities, updating and furnishing information to agencies, local and regional governments, organizations and the public as a whole. SPC has integrated PNHP datasets into its Transportation Planning and Environmental Linkage program including SPC's Regional Ecosystem Framework and for use in individual transportation project screenings during pre-TIP planning. The partnership on this initiative will allow SPC to involve its member planning departments directly in the development of the natural heritage inventory, while furthering the overall regional policies that preserve and promote the region's ecological resources and encourage infrastructure development designed to protect natural resources. SPC and the PNHP are seeking funding from the DCNR C2P2 Grants to partially fund this initiative. Ryan will provide each county TTC member with a template letter of support specific to this grant application.

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

b. February 27 – Commissioners Long Range Plan Workshop

c. March 11– Ped/Bike Committee

d. March 30 – Policy Committee, Executive Committee, Commission Meetings

e. April 15 – Transit Operators Committee

f. April 16 – 2017 Twelve Year Program Online Public Meeting

g. April 16 – Transportation Technical Committee

h. April 27 – Executive Committee Meeting