

Meeting Minutes for September 17, 2015
Transportation Technical Committee Meeting
SPC Offices

Two Chatham Center, Pittsburgh

Attendees:

- Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County Department of Economic Development
Steve Shanley, Allegheny Department of Public Works
- Tom Swisher, Armstrong County Department of Planning and Development
- Tammy Frank, Beaver County Liquid Fuels
- 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 Department of Planning and Development
- Patrick Hassett, City of Pittsburgh Department of Public Works
- Chris Bova, Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development
Daniel Carpenter, Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development
- Jeffrey Leithauser, Washington County Planning Commission
- Kevin McCullough, PennDOT Central Office
Rob Mulkerin, PennDOT Central Office
Dave Cook, PennDOT District 10-0
Kathy Reeger, PennDOT District 10-0
Doug Dupnock, PennDOT District 10-0
Robert Miskanic, PennDOT District 11-0
Stephanie Spang, PennDOT District 11-0
John Quatman, PennDOT District 11-0
Rachel Duda, PennDOT District 12-0
Angela Saunders, PennDOT District 12-0
Josh Theakston, PennDOT District 12-0
Mavis Rainey, Oakland Transportation Management Association
Jina O'Neil, Oakland Transportation Management Association
Amy Mathieson, Airport Corridor Transportation Association
Lucinda Beattie, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
Chris Smith, Fisher Associates
Sara Hansel, Fisher Associates
David Hutchinson, Pittsburgh Office of Management and Budget
Brent Lahaie, Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh
Martin Kaminsky, Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh
Chris Sandvig, Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group
Doug Smith, SPC Transportation Director
Andy Waple, SPC Staff
Darin Alviano, SPC Staff
Matt Pavlosky, SPC Staff
Dominic D'Andrea, SPC Staff
Chuck Imbrogno, SPC Staff
Ryan Gordon, SPC Staff
Dan Alwine, SPC Staff
David Totten, SPC Staff
Josh Grimm, SPC Staff
Leann Chaney, 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 August 20th Minutes (Handout 1)

A motion was made by Art Cappella and seconded by Pat Hassett to accept the August 20th meeting minutes as presented. The TTC approved.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. FHWA/PennDOT Central Office Reports

Kevin McCullough and Doug Smith informed TTC members of FHWA and Central Office activities.

A. PA State Rail Plan Update Public Meetings

PennDOT scheduled three open houses for the public and stakeholders to review the draft for the update of the Pennsylvania State Rail plan. The open house scheduled for our region was Sept. 15th, at the Pittsburgh Amtrak Station. The plan allows the Commonwealth to identify a clear vision for the future of rail transportation, to set objectives for achieving that vision and to document and evaluate passenger and freight rail needs over the course of the next 25 years to guide investments.

B. Preview of October Planning Partner's Meeting

The Fall Statewide Planning Partners Meeting will be held October 14th through October 16th in State College. Expected items for discussion include the 2017 TIP Financial and Procedural Guidances and PennDOT's Investment Plan.

C. FRA announces \$10 million for States to Improve Highway/Rail Crossings and Tracks along Energy Routes

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) announced that it is soliciting applications for \$10 million in competitive grant funding available to states to improve highway-rail grade crossings and track along routes that transport energy products like crude oil and ethanol. The guidelines for the grant applications set by the FRA encourage states to include innovative solutions to improve safety, especially at highway-rail grade crossings. The funding is part of the Railroad Safety grants for the Safe Transportation of Energy Products (STEP) by Rail Program.

D. www.Projects.PennDOT.gov

Pennsylvanians looking for information on construction projects, improvements underway because of Act 89, as well as projects scheduled through 2026, have a new resource. The new PennDOT website includes maps and explanations of construction projects that are underway or will be bid or begin this year; projects

that are completed, underway, planned or in development because of Act 89 investment; and projects included in the STIP and TYP.

E. Highway Reauthorization Update

Although the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee staff continues to work to finalize a draft of a six-year surface transportation reauthorization bill, their companion to the Senate's DRIVE Act, no date has been set for its introduction or for committee action. A number of House leaders, including House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA), have indicated that another short-term extension of MAP-21 is likely when the current extension expires on October 29th. The current extension includes sufficient new revenue to fund highway and transit programs through the end of the calendar year, making December 31st the probable expiration date of the next extension. Any date beyond that would require additional revenue.

5. Action to Request Commission Approval of Amendment to the Southwestern PA Plan (Handout 2)

Doug Smith provided an overview of the I-579 Cap Urban Connector Project and the City of Pittsburgh's and Allegheny County's request to move the project to the fiscally-constrained portion of the region's Long Range Transportation Plan – *Mapping the Future: The Southwestern PA Plan*. The request underwent a 30-day public comment period, including a public meeting. There were three public comments submitted. All were in support of the project.

Ann Ogoreuc's motion was seconded by Pat Hassett to recommend Commission approval of the City of Pittsburgh's and Allegheny County's request to move the I-579 Cap Urban Connector Project to the fiscally-constrained portion of the region's Long Range Transportation Plan. The TTC approved. The LRP amendment will be presented to the Commission for approval at their meeting on September 29th.

6. Action on Modifications to 2015-2018 TIP (Handout 3)

A. PennDOT District 10-0

Dave Cook of PennDOT District 10-0 reviewed the requested TIP modifications. There were two administrative actions requiring TTC action (as highlighted within Handout 3). Art Cappella's motion to approve was seconded by Jeff Raykes and the TTC approved the administrative actions as presented.

B. PennDOT District 11-0

Rob Miskanic of PennDOT District 11-0 reviewed the requested TIP modifications. There was one amendment and two administrative actions requiring TTC action (as highlighted within Handout 3). Art Cappella's motion to approve was seconded by Chris Bova and the TTC approved the amendment and administrative actions as presented.

C. PennDOT District 12-0

Angela Saunders of PennDOT District 12-0 reviewed the requested TIP modifications. There was one amendment and one administrative action requiring TTC action (as highlighted within Handout 3). Jeremy Kelly's motion to approve was seconded by Art Cappella and the TTC approved the amendment and administrative action as presented.

7. 2017 TIP Update (Handout 4)

A. Round 1 Work Groups Follow-Ups

Ryan Gordon provided an update on pre-TIP planning activities, candidate project list development status, and follow-ups to the first round of TIP Work Group meetings. Ryan provided a summary of next steps in the TIP update and the work that is ongoing to prepare for the second round of TIP Work Group meetings at the end of October. Ryan pointed to Attachment F, which was a letter from PennDOT Secretary Richards detailing the importance of the LPN and collaboration with planning partners in the process of updating the 2017 TIP/STIP. The letter identified specific areas for collaboration on candidate projects.

B. Candidate Project Mapping Tool

Ryan provided a demonstration of a new web map application that shows TIP candidate projects in the region along with layers related to contextual planning considerations such as location of transit routes, intermodal and freight facilities, extent of sewer and water service, park and ride lots, network distances to major employers, location of park/trail and more. This application is provided to the work group members in order to assist with identifying (as part of early collaboration) important aspects of candidate TIP projects. Ryan noted that he will follow-up with an email to each of the TIP work group members with a link to the web map application and a instructions for how planners can provide input on the TIP candidate projects.

C. Schedule

Round 2 Work Groups are scheduled as follows:

- Fayette, Green, Washington, & Westmoreland – October 22nd at Distinct 12-0
- Armstrong, Butler, & Indiana – October 27th at District 10-0
- Allegheny, City of Pittsburgh, Beaver, & Lawrence – October 29th at SPC

D. PPP Fall Meeting Coordination

Matt Pavlosky stated that in November, Public Participation Panel (PPP) meetings will be held in each of SPC's ten counties. The purpose will be to provide a TIP update combined with a role/function/training of the PPP. Matt will begin contacting the county partners for meeting locations and coordinating with PennDOT partners for schedule availability in early October.

8. Local Project Delivery Workshops (Handout 5)

Andy Waple highlighted the Local Project Delivery Workshop announcement that was distributed to stakeholders throughout the region. Four regional workshops are being offered. Dates are as follows: September 18th in Rostraver Township; September 22nd in Kittanning; September 24th in Vanport Township; and September 29th in Pittsburgh. The Pittsburgh workshop will also be webcast. People interested in registering for the webcast should contact SPC to sign up.

9. Transportation Alternatives 2015 Program (Handout 6)

Andy Waple reviewed the Transportation Alternatives Program, which included: Program Guidance and Procedures; Project Application; and an Additional Information Form. This information was sent to TTC members for their review and comment in advance of today's meeting. Andy incorporated member feedback into the TAP material. The TAP Application period will open on September 18th and will close on October 19th.

10. I-70 Interstate Plan Presentation

Rachel Duda gave a presentation on current and planned improvements to I-70 from the West Virginia border to the New Stanton Interchange. Over the next six years, PennDOT will invest nearly \$500 million in construction to this corridor. Currently, there are twelve active projects, seven of which are under construction. Those projects will provide improvements to eight interchanges, six bridges, and miles of improved roadway and upgrades to the interstate's intelligent transportation systems.

11. Other Business/Status Reports

Doug Smith briefly highlighted recent and upcoming meetings below.

- A. *September 9 – Ped/Bike Committee*
- B. *September 17 – CMAQ Evaluation Committee*
- C. *September 17 – Federal Authorization (D-4232) Workshop*
- D. *September 28 – Regional Policy Advisory Committee*
- E. *September 28 – Commission Executive Committee*
- F. *September 28 – Commission Meeting*
- G. *October 8 – Transportation Technical Committee*
- H. *October 14 – Transit Operators Committee*
- I. *October 29 – Transportation Operations and Safety Committee*