

Meeting Minutes for February 18, 2016
Transportation Technical Committee Meeting
SPC Offices
Two Chatham Center, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Attendees:

- Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County Department of Economic Development
Steve Shanley, Allegheny Department of Public Works
Steve Shadle, Allegheny County Consultant
- Tom Swisher, Armstrong County Department of Planning and Development
- Joel MacKay, 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
- Doniele Russell, Lawrence County Planning and Community Development*
- Patrick Hassett, City of Pittsburgh Department of Public Works
Dave Hutchinson, City of Pittsburgh Office of Management and Budget
- Chris Bova, Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development
- Jeffrey Leithauser, Washington County Planning Commission
- Kevin McCullough, PennDOT Central Office
Matt Smoker, Federal Highway Administration
Dave Cook, PennDOT District 10-0
H. Daniel Cessna, PennDOT District 11-0
Cheryl Moon-Sirianni, PennDOT District 11-0
Victor DeFazio, PennDOT District 11-0
Robert Miskanic, PennDOT District 11-0
John Quatman, PennDOT District 11-0
Angela Saunders, PennDOT District 12-0
Bill Beaumariage, PennDOT District 12-0
Josh Theakston, PennDOT District 12-0
Mavis Rainey, Oakland Transportation Management Association
Jina O'Neil, Oakland Transportation Management Association
Lynn Manion, Airport Corridor Transportation Association
Brent Lahaie, Urban Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County
Chris Sandvig, Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group
Vickie Wildeman, DLZ
Doug Smith, SPC Transportation Director
Andy Waple, SPC Staff
Darin Alviano, SPC Staff
Dom D'Andrea, SPC Staff
Chuck Imbrogno, SPC Staff
Ryan Gordon, SPC Staff
Tom Klevan, SPC Staff
Dave Totten, SPC Staff
Josh Spano, SPC Staff
Josh Grimm, SPC Staff
Leann Chaney, SPC Staff
Dan Alwine, SPC Staff

- Indicates voting member
- * Participated by telephone

1. Call to Order

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

2. Action on the January 14 Minutes (Handout 1)

A motion was made by Patrick Hassett and seconded by Jeremy Kelly to accept the January 14th TTC meeting minutes as presented. The TTC approved.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. FHWA/PennDOT Central Office Reports

A. FAST Act Overview (Handout 2)

Matt Smoker highlighted some minor changes to the transportation process under Planning and Performance, the Congestion Management Process, TMA MPO Structure, Planning and Environmental Linkages. Matt also mentioned two new planning factors.

Planning & Performance

- More consultation and participation
 - Enables participation by public ports, private transportation providers
 - Encourages MPO consultation with other types of planning activities
- Changes to selection criteria for MPO officials
- Other changes to planning and performance
 - TIPs/STIPs/long-range plans must include facilities that support intercity transportation
 - New planning considerations: resiliency/reliability, stormwater mitigation, and enhancement of travel/tourism
 - Long-range State plan must describe performance measures and targets
 - Consequence (reporting) for State making insufficient progress toward freight targets

Congestion Management Process

- Requirement for the CMP for TMA's is retained and largely unchanged
- Requirement for CMP analysis of new SOV capacity in non-attainment areas in TMA's is retained
- An MPO serving a TMA **may develop a congestion management plan**
- Provides examples of travel demand reduction strategies: **intercity bus, employer based programs - carpool, vanpool, transit benefits, parking cash-out, telework**
- Adds **job access projects** as a CMP strategy

TMA MPO Structure

- Designation or selection of officials or representatives shall be determined by the MPO according to the bylaws or enabling statute of the organization
- Subject to the bylaws or enabling statute of the MPO, a representative of a provider of public transportation may also serve as a representative of a local municipality
- An official shall have responsibilities, actions, duties, voting rights, and any other authority commensurate with other officials

Planning & Environmental Linkages

- Adds ***purpose and need*** and ***preliminary screening of alternatives and elimination of unreasonable alternatives*** to the list of planning decisions that can be used in the environmental review process
- Eliminates the requirement for concurrence of other participating agencies with relevant expertise. Replaces it with concurrence of cooperating agencies with responsibility for permitting, review, or approval of the project
Eliminates the requirement for approval by the State, all local and tribal governments where the project is located, and by any relevant MPO and replaces it with the planning product was developed through a planning process conducted pursuant to Federal law

New Planning Factors

- Improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate storm water impacts of surface transportation
- Enhance travel and tourism

B. FHWA Fast Act Fact Sheets

Matt Smoker mentioned that the FHWA website:

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/factsheets/> has recently posted various Fact Sheets pertaining to the FAST Act.

C. Smart City Challenge Submissions Information

Back in December of 2015, the US Department of Transportation (DOT) announced the [Smart City Challenge](#), through which midsize cities can compete for up to \$50 million in funding to develop the connected city of the future. Seventy-seven cities, including the City of Pittsburgh submitted proposals.

D. Freed Up Earmark Funding

Kevin McCullough discussed freed up federal earmark funding that may become available. The 2016 omnibus spending bill included a provision that gives new life to funding originally earmarked for transportation projects more than a decade ago. State DOTs that obligated less than 10 percent of this funding will now be able to use it for entirely new projects. Kevin expects these funds will mostly likely be available next TIP update.

5. 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 modifications requiring TTC action (as highlighted in handout 3) Jeff Raykes made a motion to approve which was seconded by Tom Swisher and the TTC approved the modifications as presented.

B. PennDOT District 11-0

Rob Miskanic of PennDOT District 11-0 reviewed the requested TIP modifications. There were three administrative modifications requiring TTC action (as highlighted in handout 3). Ann Ogoreuc made a motion to approve which was seconded by Patrick Hassett and the TTC approved the modifications as presented.

C. PennDOT District 12-0

Angela Saunders of PennDOT District 12-0 reviewed the requested TIP modifications. There were two administrative modifications requiring TTC action (as highlighted in handout 3). Arthur Cappella made a motion to approve which was seconded by Jeff Leithauser and the TTC approved the modifications as presented.

6. 2017 TIP Update

A. SPC Livability Through Smart Transportation Program (Handout 4)

Andy Waple reviewed the 2016 Livability through Smart Transportation (SMART) Program Guidance and Project Prequalification Application. The prequalification applications are due back to SPC no later than March 7th, 2016.

Andy also highlighted the status of current SMART projects that were selected in the 2015 program:

PennDOT District 10-0

- Kittanning Revitalization – Project let in June 2015
- Adams Township Bike/Pedestrian Trail – Study to begin in May 2016

- Route 22 Bicycle and Ped. Bridge – Design to begin in June 2016

PennDOT District 11-0

- GAP to Point Trail – Anticipated let in October 2016
- Allegheny County Three Rivers Heritage Trail
 - Connector Study to begin in April 2016
 - Project (Neville Island Bike Lanes) let in May 2016
- Neshannock Trail/North Street Connection – Project let in October 2016

PennDOT District 12-0

- Washington City Hometown Streets – Project let in May 2016
- Greensburg Bike/Ped. Enhancements – Study to begin in May 2016
- Lincoln Avenue Trail Lighting – Project to be let in June 2016

B. TIP Modification Procedures

As part of the TIP document that will go out for public comment before Commission action, is a Memorandum of Understanding between SPC and PennDOT Central Office on Modification Procedures for the TIP. As in past TIP updates, SPC will conduct a review of its current modification procedures and, if necessary, will make revisions. Ryan Gordon presented an overview of the current TOC/TTC TIP modifications and highlighted revisions that were made during last TIP update. Revisions included:

- Certain types of projects (i.e. preservation, rock slides/rock falls) with costs greater than \$10 million no longer follow procedures associated with major TIP amendments. This benefit streamlines non-controversial maintenance activities, and provides cost savings through efficiency
- Process for 100% non-federal funded projects was streamlined. These types of projects do not require Federal approval (as long as there is no impact on air quality), and are now processed solely through SPC
- TIP modification request submission deadlines are further detailed, and the establishment of optional quarterly TIP implementation meetings was added. Both additions allow for greater transparency and will help in advancing SPC's Plan initiatives
- One page visual "TIP Guidance for Processing TIP Modification Procedures", was included as part of the MOU. This one page guidance is an excellent tool for stakeholders to use to assist them in understanding SPC's TIP modification process

Ryan also presented steps that need to be undertaken for the 2017 TIP modification procedures review:

- Review of the updated STIP MOU between PennDOT and FHWA/FTA.
- Consult PennDOT Central Office, PennDOT District Programming Managers, and interested TTC members
- Revise TIP Modification procedures in accordance with STIP MOU, and stakeholder feedback
- Presentation of revised TIP Modification procedures to TTC (March/April).
- The 2017 recommended TIP Modification Procedures will go out for public review and comment as part of the Draft TIP public comment period
- Signature by SPC and PennDOT Central Office

The 2017 TIP Modification Procedures will become active October 1st, 2016.

C. Air Quality Conformity

Due to time constraints, Doug Smith stated this item will be covered at next month's TTC meeting.

D. Linking Planning and NEPA

Due to time constraints, Doug Smith stated this item will be covered at next month's TTC meeting.

E. Environmental Justice

Due to time constraints, Doug Smith stated this item will be covered at next month's TTC meeting.

F. Discretionary/Spike Funding Follow Up

Doug Smith provided a follow-up to last month's TTC Spike/Discretionary funding discussion. The spike/discretionary decisions were shared with the Commission at their January meeting. In response, SPC sent a letter to PennDOT Secretary Richards outlining the SPC's concern in the lack of funding consideration given to the region. Three issues were highlighted in the letter including: the overall statewide imbalance; the long-term commitments to certain projects; and the removal of the region's \$56M Laurel Valley Connector project from last TIP Update spike/discretionary program.

7. Travel Modeling – Introduction/Overview

Chuck Imbrogno presented an informative, high-level overview of the major steps in the modeling process used by SPC for demographic forecasts, travel demand

projections, and air quality conformity assessments. He summarized how the transportation system is represented in the modeling process and how small geographic areas (Traffic Analysis Zones – TAZs) are used in the process to allocate regional estimates of demographic characteristics, trips, and emissions to the county, municipal, and neighborhood level. He highlighted the operation of each of the primary models used in the process: REMI – Generates regional population and employment totals; MERLAM – tool developed by SPC to allocate regional forecast to TAZs; TpPlus – software package used to run the four steps in SPC’s travel demand model; MOVES – EPA’s model for calculating emissions from mobile sources. Several of the data items needed for the models were discussed, as well as data sources and data updating procedures.

8. Regional Traffic Signal Program Update

Dom D'Andrea presented an update on SPC's Regional Traffic Signal Program. SPC has now completed two cycles of this important regional program. Cycle 2, completed in 2015, included \$5,000,000 for projects which upgraded and retimed 250 signalized intersections. Together with Cycle 1 projects, this program has invested over \$8 million to improve 501 signalized intersections across 63 municipalities in our region. Through the first two cycles of this program, results have yield **\$64 of public benefit for every \$1 spent** in terms of reduced delay, reduced vehicular stops, and reduced fuel consumption and emissions. SPC was also able to utilize \$1,000,000 of awarded Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) funds as local match for projects involving fiscally and economically distressed municipalities.

SPC also applied an additional \$172,500 of ARLE funding (awarded by PennDOT) to assist economically and fiscally distressed municipalities with conversion of their traffic signals from incandescent bulbs to more energy and cost efficient Light Emitting Diode (LED). Final design and bid package preparation for this work was completed in 2015. Construction phase for this project will occur in 2016.

The third cycle of the program is underway. SPC has executed reimbursement agreements with PennDOT and is meeting with municipalities to finalize scope, costs, and agreements. A list of municipalities that SPC is working with in the 3rd cycle was presented. Preliminary engineering and final design will commence in 2016.

9. Other Business/Status Reports

Doug Smith quickly highlighted recent and upcoming meetings below.

- A. *February 2nd – Freight Forum*
- B. *February 11th – CommuteInfo*
- C. *February 25th – Transportation Operations and Safety Committee*
- D. *March 16th – Transit Operators Committee*
- E. *March 17th – Transportation Technical Committee*
- F. *March 23rd – Active Transportation Forum*
- G. *March 28th – Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission Executive Committee*
- H. *March 28th – Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission*