

Meeting Minutes for March 17, 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
- Tom Swisher, Armstrong County Department of Planning and Development
- Tammy Frank, Beaver County Liquid Fuels
- 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
- Amy McKinney, Lawrence County Planning and Community Development
- Patrick Hassett, City of Pittsburgh Department of Public Works
- Andrew Dash, City of Pittsburgh Department of City Planning
- 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
- Ed Typanski, Port Authority of Allegheny County
- Kevin McCullough, PennDOT Central Office
- Tim Jablunovsky, PennDOT District 10-0
- Dave Cook, PennDOT District 10-0
- H. Daniel Cessna, PennDOT District 11-0
- Robert Miskanic, PennDOT District 11-0
- Stephanie Spang, 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
- Lynn Manion, Airport Corridor Transportation Association
- Brent Lahaie, Urban Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County
- Mary Kaminsky, Urban Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County
- Sara Hansel, Fisher Associates
- Chad Reese, Whitman, Requardt and Associates
- Jim Hassinger, SPC Executive Director
- Doug Smith, SPC Transportation Director
- Andy Waple, SPC Staff
- Dom D'Andrea, SPC Staff
- Chuck Imbrogno, SPC Staff
- Ryan Gordon, SPC Staff
- Tom Klevan, SPC Staff
- Dave Totten, SPC Staff
- Sara Walfoord, SPC Staff
- Matt Pavlosky, SPC Staff
- Leann Chaney, SPC Staff
- Dan Alwine, 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 18th Minutes (Handout 1)

A motion was made by Tom Swisher and seconded by Amy McKinney to accept the February 18th TTC meeting minutes as presented. The TTC approved.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. FHWA/PennDOT Central Office Reports

Doug Smith and Kevin McCullough provided updates on the below items.

A. TIGER Program <https://www.transportation.gov/tiger>

Applications for the FY 2016 TIGER grants are due on April 29, 2016.

The FY 2016 budget included \$500 million in TIGER Discretionary Grants pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016. As with previous rounds of TIGER, funds for the FY 2016 TIGER program will be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area or a region.

B. FASTLANE Program <https://www.transportation.gov/FASTLANEgrants>

Applications for the FY 2016 FASTLANE grants are due on April 14, 2016

The FY 2016 budget included \$800 million in Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) Discretionary Grants pursuant to the FAST Act, 2015. FASTLANE is a new freight discretionary competitive grant program to fund critical freight and highway projects, including projects of regional and national significance. PennDOT Central Office's strategy is to submit one to three candidate projects statewide to compete at the national level.

Only 10% (approximately \$76 M) is set aside for small projects. Small projects are those costing less than \$100M. The region typically does not plan a lot of >\$100M projects because there is not enough funding available to deliver them all at once; projects are typically broken down into smaller deliverable segments. The region would need to look at packaging projects in close proximity in location and schedule in order to pursue the large project category. Prior to today's meeting, SPC staff had discussion with the PennDOT Districts about potential candidate projects to consider including the Banksville and Green Tree interchange projects, as well as a group of

projects on the I-70 corridor in Washington and Westmoreland counties. Requirements for the application are extensive; thus with applications due in mid April, SPC and PennDOT would need to proceed with a candidate quickly.

A FASTLANE Webinar is scheduled after TTC for those who would like to learn more about the program.

C. Freed Up Earmark Funding (Handout 2)

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. SPC staff compiled a list of earmarked projects with funds still remaining and shared it with TTC members. There are 18 projects within the region totaling approximately \$22M. In order to repurpose the funding, a proposed project must be within 50 mile radius of the current earmarked project. PennDOT is currently developing a strategy for repurposing these earmarks. One of the goals will be to try and have the proposed project within the same MPO/RPO, County and Congressional District as the original project.

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

A. PennDOT District 10-0

There were no modifications requiring TTC action.

B. PennDOT District 11-0

Rob Miskanic of PennDOT District 11-0 reviewed the requested TIP modifications. There were eleven administrative modifications requiring TTC action (as highlighted in handout 3). Ann Ogoreuc made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Art Cappella, 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). Jeff Leithauser made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Jeremy Kelly, and the TTC approved the modifications as presented.

6. 2017 TIP Update

A. *Project List*

A draft program list of highway and bridge projects for the 2017-2020 TIP was provided to members in advance of this meeting. Ryan Gordon stated that the project list is being submitted to the Pennsylvania Interagency Coordination Group for review.

B. *Air Quality Conformity*

Chuck Imbrogno highlighted the efforts and coordination that have occurred to ensure proper descriptions, schedules, and geographic limits are being given to projects. These items assist in properly identifying the air quality codes that need to be attached to projects. Once completed the draft list of projects will be submitted to the Pennsylvania Interagency Coordination Group. The group consists of EPA, DEP, FHWA and FTA. The Air Quality Conformity Determination Report is a federally required document that will be submitted as part of the draft TIP.

C. *Environmental Justice*

Andy Waple gave an overview of Environmental Justice. Like the Air Quality Conformity Determination Report, an Environmental Justice analysis is federally required to be submitted along with the draft TIP.

Executive Order 12898 mandates that agencies incorporate environmental justice (EJ) analyses into their policies, programs, and activities. Building from the framework of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which ensures nondiscrimination in federal programs, EJ directives address how low-income and minority populations are affected by the actions of the federal government. In their publication, *An Overview of Transportation and Environmental Justice*, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) outlines three main objectives stemming from this mandate:

- To avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority populations and low-income populations;
- To ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process; and,
- To prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority and low-income populations

D. *Linking Planning and NEPA (LPN)*

Ryan Gordon stated that the LPN Level 2 forms for projects on the draft TIP are being further processed. Projects that have significant environmental constraints

identified in the LPN Level 2 screening will have an environmental scoping conducted. Results of the scoping will be shared with the appropriate parties.

E. TIP Modification Procedures

Ryan Gordon updated the TTC on the review of the TIP Modification Procedures. SPC conducted an internal review resulting in very minor proposed revisions. The draft modification procedures are being distributed to the Districts, Central Office, and FHWA for their review. SPC staff will share the proposed modifications at the April TTC meeting.

F. Interstate TIP (Handout 4)

A draft list of interstate projects within the SPC region was provided to members for informational purposes. The Interstate Program is managed on a statewide level by Central Office.

G. SMART Transportation Program (Handout 5)

Andy Waple provided an update on SPC's Livability Through Smart Transportation Program. SPC received 13 pre-qualification applications. All but one project was eligible. Project sponsors who are eligible were notified and provided the final application. Final applications are due to SPC by April 11th. SPC staff will evaluate the applications through mid-May. The project delivery scoring piece will be provided to the TTC for their scoring in early May. A recommendation for endorsement will be provided to the TTC at either the May or June meeting.

H. Public Participation

Matt Pavlosky notified members that he will be reaching out to member planning departments in the very near future to set up Public Meetings within the counties during the mandatory 30-day public comment period for the draft TIP. It is anticipated that the public comment period will begin in early May and end in early June.

I. Spike/Discretionary Funding Follow Up

Doug Smith provided a follow-up on activities related to SPIKE/Discretionary Funding. On March 14th, Doug along with Jim Hassinger, SPC Chair Charles Anderson, and SPC officer Rich Fitzgerald, met with Pennsylvania Secretary of Transportation Leslie Richards and Deputy Secretary Jim Ritzman to share the region's concerns regarding the Spike/Discretionary lists.

7. SPC Freight Plan Update Presentation

Sara Walfoort provided an update on the Regional Freight Plan for Southwestern Pennsylvania. The Study is currently about 60% complete. Study elements already completed include an inventory of the regional multimodal transportation network, commodity flow assessment, and a review of highway and bridge height and weight restrictions, steep grades and sharp curves identifying truck-specific limitations on area roadways. National truck probe data from the NPMRDS (National Performance Management Research Data Set) was used to identify truck bottleneck locations on interstates and along arterial roadways in the region. Surveys were distributed and industry representatives, planning partners and others were asked to provide information on commercial and industrial development patterns in their area. This information was overlaid on the multimodal transportation network to identify key freight growth and development areas in the region. Future tasks will identify opportunities and obstacles to the movement of freight to and from these freight growth areas, as well as to established commercial and industrial centers. Final Plan elements call for the identification of potential freight transportation improvements in the region, and an assessment of potential funding sources for such improvements, including the TIGER and FASTLANE programs, among others. The Study is schedule for completion in June of 2016.

8. Other Business/Status Reports

A. SPC Natural Heritage Program Partnership (Handout 6)

Ryan Gordon stated that SPC is requesting a letter of support from the counties for a 2016 DCNR C2P2 grant application. The grant will allow SPC and its member planning department's direct involvement with updating the county natural heritage inventories. SPC applied for this last year and although unsuccessful, received positive feedback from DCNR and was encouraged to reapply in 2016. Ryan will be providing planning departments with a template letter of support.

Doug Smith quickly highlighted recent and upcoming meetings below:

B. February 25th – Transportation Operations and Safety Committee

C. March 16th – Transit Operators Committee

D. March 23rd – SPC Active Transportation Forum

E. March 28th – Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission Executive Committee

F. March 28th – Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

G. April 13th – Transit Operators Committee

H. April 14th – Transportation Technical Committee