

**Meeting Minutes for January 19, 2017**  
**Transportation Technical Committee**  
**SPC Offices**  
**Two Chatham Center, Pittsburgh PA 15219**

Attendees:

- Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County Department of Economic Development
- Stephen Shanley, Allegheny County Department of Public Works
- 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 Office of Planning and Development
- Amy McKinney, Lawrence County Planning and Development \*
- Jeff Skalican, City of Pittsburgh Office of Public Works
- Dave Hutchinson, City of Pittsburgh Office of Management and Budget
- Daniel Carpenter, 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 \*
- Dan Laird, Allegheny County Department of Public Works Consultant
- Dave Cook, PennDOT District 10-0
- Robert Miskanic, PennDOT District 11-0
- Stephanie Spang, PennDOT District 11-0
- Bill Beaumariage, PennDOT District 12-0
- Angela Saunders, PennDOT District 12-0
- Lucinda Beattie, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
- Lynn Manion, Airport Corridor Transportation Association
- Jina O'Neil, Oakland Transportation Management Association
- Matt Pavlosky, Port of Pittsburgh Commission
- Chris Bova, Gibson Thomas Engineering
- Beth Johnson, Gannet Fleming
- Sara Hansel, Fisher Associates
- Vico Innocenti, Fisher Associates
- Brent Lahaie, Urban Redevelopment Authority
- Frank Kempf, Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission
- Joe Sutor, Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission
- Keith Johnson, AECOM
- Dr. James Hassinger, SPC Executive Director and CEO
- Doug Smith, SPC Transportation Director
- Andy Waple, SPC Staff
- Chuck Imbrogno, SPC Staff
- Ryan Gordon, SPC Staff
- Leann Chaney, SPC Staff
- Dan Alwine, SPC Staff
- Kathy Stefani, SPC Staff
- Cody Smith, 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 December 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes (Handout 1)

A motion was made by Jeff Leithauser and seconded by Jeff Raykes to accept the December 8<sup>th</sup> 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 reports on the following:

### A. US DOT Secretary's "Every Place Counts: Leadership Academy"

<https://www.transportation.gov/LeadershipAcademy>

The Every Place Counts: Leadership Academy was created to provide key background information and tools for emerging transportation leaders and other stakeholders who have limited experience with the transportation decision-making process.

### B. FHWA Final Rules on Bridge & Pavement Conditions and System

Performance/Freight/CMAQ <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tpm/rule.cfm>

Yesterday, the FHWA published in the Federal Register the final rules for the last two national performance management measure regulations. One rule establishes regulations to assess the condition and performance of bridges on the NHS and of pavements on the Interstate and non-Interstate NHS. The other establishes regulations to assess the performance of the NHS, Freight Movement on the Interstate System, and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program.

Both rules have been issued to implement performance provisions established by MAP-21 and FAST Acts.

### C. US DOT Certification Review

FHWA and FTA will be conducting an on-site review for the certification of SPC's Planning Process. The on-site review has been scheduled for June 13-15, 2017. The public official and general public meeting portion of the Federal Certification will take place on the evening of either June 13th or 14th. The Federal certification process is conducted by U.S. DOT every four years.

### D. State TAP Awards (Handout 2)

Governor Tom Wolf and PennDOT Secretary Leslie S. Richards announced fifty-one projects to improve transportation alternatives totaling \$33 million in federal funds. Eight projects in the SPC region received funding totaling \$5.18M.

### E. FY 2017 Continuing Resolution; Funds Federal Government through April

On December 9, Congress passed a continuing resolution to fund government operations through April 28, 2017. The legislation continues policy and funding provisions included in currently enacted fiscal year 2016 Appropriations legislation.

*F. PennDOT 5 Year Maintenance Plan and TIP Programming of A-409 “Expanded Maintenance” Projects*

A-409 “Enhanced Maintenance” funded projects are to be added to the current Twelve Year Program (TYP). This will give the ability to run reports in MPMS for these projects.

**5. Action on Modifications to 2017-2020 TIP (Handout 3)**

*A. PennDOT District 10-0*

Dave Cook of PennDOT District 10-0 reviewed the requested TIP modifications. There were two amendments and three administrative modifications requiring TTC approval (as highlighted in handout 3). The first amendment involved the addition of the Zelenople Central Business District Access Road to the TIP in FFY 2017 in the amount of \$250K (100% Fed). The second amendment involved the removal of the Rowan Road Pedestrian Improvements TAP project from the TIP. Cranberry Township will use Local funds for the completion of the project in FFY 2017. Jeff Raykes made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Art Cappella, and the TTC approved the five modifications as presented.

*B. PennDOT District 11-0*

Rob Miskanic of PennDOT District 11-0 reviewed the requested TIP modifications. There were four administrative modifications requiring TTC action (as highlighted in handout 3). Jeff Leithauser made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Ann Ogoreuc, 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 three administrative modifications requiring TTC action (as highlighted in handout 2). Art Cappella made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Jeremy Kelly, and the TTC approved the modifications as presented.

**6. Mon-Fayette Expressway Presentation – PA Turnpike Commission**

Doug Smith informed members that the PA Turnpike Commission (PTC) has requested to add the “Mon-Fayette Expressway: PA Route 51 to I-376” project to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Action on this item along with PennDOT’s request to add the “I-79 Northbound Widening (Southern Beltway Connector) to the TIP and LRP will be taken by the Commission at their March meeting. SPC will conduct a joint 30-Day public review and comment period and will conduct two public meetings; one in each respective project area.

Joe Sutor and Frank Kempf provided an update on the PTC’s Mon/Fayette Expressway project. The PA Route 51 to I-376 project will extend the current Mon/Fayette Expressway system 14-miles north from PA Route 51 in Jefferson Hills through West Mifflin, Dravosburg, Duquesne, North Versailles, Turtle Creek and Wilkins before connecting to the Parkway East, I-376, near Thompson Run Road in Monroeville.

Originally, the proposed PA Route 51 to I-376 Project included a leg that would extend the expressway from East Pittsburgh to Bates Street in Oakland. The Oakland option has since been dropped because of financial constraints as well as the required number of residential and business displacements, and the numerous environmental impacts. A

reevaluation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required because of this proposed change. The reevaluation started in January 2016 and final design also resumed in January 2016 after a seven-year suspension due to lack of funding. The addition of this project to the LRTP and the TIP is required in order for the EIS to receive a Record of Decision (ROD), so that the project can move forward into the right-of-way and construction phases.

The environmental reevaluation is scheduled for completion by mid-2017. Right-of-way acquisition is scheduled to begin in 2017, but because of the large number of properties involved, will take three years to complete. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2021 at the earliest.

Act 89 of 2013 has provided the necessary funding from the Oil Company Franchise Tax (OCFT) to advance the project through design, right-of-way acquisition and construction. The OCFT is the dedicated funding stream used for all PTC expansion projects, whereas the revenue from PTC tolls is used for the Mainline Turnpike Capital Improvement Program.

During the engineering design process and through construction, the PTC will make every effort to furnish project information, which will be available through an extensive public outreach effort.

#### **7. Natural Heritage Inventory Update**

Ryan Gordon provided an update on the grant application to DCNR in April to fund a project to update our regional Natural Heritage Inventory data. Ryan noted that each county provided a letter of support for that effort. In December SPC was notified that the grant application was successful. Ryan will be working with the folks from the Natural Heritage Program over the next two years to update the Natural Heritage Inventory in our region. Ryan asked for a contact from each county in addition to planning staff, who else needs to be included on the e-mail list for this project. In some counties it may be conservation district staff or parks department staff or greenway/environmental staff. March 16th following the TTC meeting Ryan is scheduling a kick-off meeting at 12:30 to brief everyone on the schedule and the procedures and project information. I might also demo the new PNDI environmental planning tool.

#### **8. PennDOT Extreme Weather Vulnerability Study Status Update**

Ryan Gordon provided an update to the presentation he gave back in November on extreme weather vulnerability studies done at SPC and PennDOT. PennDOT has released a draft of the statewide extreme weather vulnerability study to the steering committee, which SPC planners were members. SPC staff is reviewing the draft document and providing comments. Content of the study includes:

- Study Framework
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Historical Flooding Assessment
- Climate Change Impacts on Flooding
- Risk Assessment Framework
- Strategies for Improving Resiliency

- Integration to Decision Making
- Implementation

Once the document is finalized it with all PennDOT Districts and we will send a link out to the TTC. Ryan stated he is hopeful that an informal work group with SPC staff and PennDOT District personnel can be established to focus on:

- Sharing of data, data analysis, and mapping
- Refining methods for assessing bridges and roadway vulnerability on the Federal Aid System based on initial framework state study and SPC regional pilot.
- Conducting analysis on assets District-wide to determine vulnerability/risk scoring for all bridge assets and roadways on the FAS and by extension TIP candidate projects.
- Providing asset vulnerability/resiliency info to pre-TIP planning, LPN and NEPA project analysis
- Working to establish Regional/District resiliency plan (goals, objectives, and performance measures)

#### 9. **NHS/Functional Classification Review (Handout 4) [Regional NHS Network Web Map](#)**

Andy Waple gave a presentation on the National Highway System (NHS) update being undertaken presently by SPC. He provided a brief history on the NHS including reasons for creation and the different subsystems that makeup the NHS. Andy highlighted a map of Pennsylvania which showed the NHS network. Detailed maps of the NHS System for the state and the region were available in the meeting room.

Implications of expanding the NHS are as follows:

##### Project Funding and Eligibility

- National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) is primary funding vehicle for NHS roadways
- NHS mileage does not affect total amount of NHPP funding apportioned to states
- NHS lane mileage accounts for small portion of NHPP distribution formula to MPOs/RPOs
- Funding for Interstate Highway System is managed at statewide level from mix of NHPP and state funds

##### Design Standards

- AASHTO Green Book governs – PennDOT Design Manual takes precedence for NHS roadways when it is more conservative than AASHTO Green Book
- State may assume FHWA oversight responsibilities for design; plans, specifications, and estimates; contract awards; and inspections on NHS roadways if PennDOT and FWHA determine it is appropriate
- NHS roadways are subject to 10 Controlling Criteria
- Only design speed and design loading structural capacity apply to all NHS facilities
- Remaining eight criteria apply to NHS facilities with design speeds greater than 50mph
- Newly designated NHS routes will have to meet standards when they are rehabilitated/reconstructed – could potentially increase project costs

### Performance Measures

- PM's created under MAP-21 placed heavy emphasis on preserving and improving the condition and performance of the NHS
- NHPP Measures include:
  - All Safety Related Measures
  - Pavement and Bridge Condition
  - Level of Travel Time Reliability (Person miles traveled – all NHS facilities )
  - Truck Travel Time Reliability (Interstate only)
  - Percent Change in CO2 Emissions (generated by on-road mobile sources on the NHS)
  - Annual Hours of Excessive Delay Per-Capita
  - Percent of Non-SOV Travel
- All NHS roadways are subject to meeting performance targets set by states and MPOs

Andy also explained the process for making changes to the NHS. The process is as follows:

- A route description;
- Statement of justification;
- Documented coordination with local officials (through MPO);
- Statement on how proposal will enhance the national transportation characteristics of the NHS;
- Must follow criteria listed in 23 CFR §470.107 and consider criteria in Appendix D to Subpart A of Part 470

Andy asked that TTC members submit any modification requests (in addition to the changes highlighted in Handout 4) to SPC by February 20<sup>th</sup>. SPC will process and compile proposed changes for consideration by the TTC in March. Ryan Gordon has previously emailed everyone a link to the online ArcGIS map for planners to review. Handout 4 also provided details on the criteria for a road to be added to the NHS.

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

Doug Smith provided a quick review/preview for previous and upcoming meetings.

- A. January 30<sup>th</sup> – Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission Executive Committee
- B. January 30<sup>th</sup> – Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
- C. February 1<sup>st</sup> – Alliance for Transportation Working in Communities Meeting
- D. February 2<sup>nd</sup> – CommuteInfo Partners
- E. February 7<sup>th</sup> – Freight Forum
- F. February 15<sup>th</sup> – Transit Operators Committee
- G. February 16<sup>th</sup> – TTC /Transportation Systems Management Operations Workshop  
*9am Start Time* (Handout 5)
- H. February 23<sup>rd</sup> – Transportation Operations & Safety Committee
- I. May 11<sup>th</sup> – Regional Transportation Freight Conference

