

Meeting Minutes for July 13, 2017
Transportation Technical Committee
Transit Operators Committee
SPC Conference Center
Two Chatham Center, Pittsburgh PA 15219

Attendees:

Transportation Technical Committee Voting Members

- Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County Department of Economic Development
- Stephen Shanley, Allegheny County Department of Public Works
- Mark Gordon, Butler County Planning Commission
- Arthur Cappella, Fayette County Zoning, Planning and Community Development
- Jeremy Kelly, Greene County Planning Commission
- Amy McKinney, Lawrence County Department of Planning and Community Development
- Jeff Skalican, City of Pittsburgh Department of Mobility & Infrastructure
- Mike Behun, City of Pittsburgh Department of Mobility & Infrastructure
- Daniel Carpenter, Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development
- Seth Koons, Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development
- Jeffrey Leithauser, Washington County Planning Commission
- Kevin McCullough, PennDOT Central Office

Transit Operators Committee Voting Members

- Alan Blahovec, Westmoreland County Transit
- Sheila Gombita, Washington County Transit Authority
- John Paul, Butler County Transit
- Amy Silbermann, Port Authority of Allegheny County
- Mary Jo Morandini, Beaver County Transit Authority
- Lynn Manion, Airport Corridor Transportation Association
- Mavis Rainey, Oakland Transportation Management Association
- Jina O'Neill, Oakland Transportation Management Association
- Lucinda Beattie, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
- Lisa Kay Schweyer, CommuteInfo

Dave Cook, PennDOT District 10-0
Rob Miskanic, PennDOT District 11-0
Stephanie Spang, PennDOT District 11-0
Angela Saunders, PennDOT District 12-0
Sara Hansel, Fischer Associates
Dr. James Hassinger, SPC Executive Director
Doug Smith, SPC Transportation Director
Andy Waple, SPC Staff
Darin Alviano, SPC Staff
Tom Klevan, SPC Staff
Ryan Gordon, SPC Staff
Dom D'Andrea, SPC Staff
Dan Alwine, SPC Staff
Chuck Imbrogno, SPC Staff
Dave Totten, SPC Staff
Lisa Kay Schweyer, SPC Staff
Chuck Imbrogno, SPC Staff

- Indicates voting member

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes for the June 14th, 2017 Transit Operators Committee

The TOC considered the minutes from the June 14th, 2017 TOC meeting.

Action: Minutes of the June 14th, 2017 meeting of SPC's Transit Operators was unanimously approved on a motion by John Paul and a second by Sheila Gombita.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for the June 15th, 2017 Transportation Technical Committee

The TTC considered the minutes from the June 15th, 2017 TOC meeting.

Action: Minutes of the June 15th, 2017 meeting of SPC's Transportation Technical Committee was unanimously approved on a motion by Art Cappella and a second by Jeremy Kelly.

4. Public Comment –

There was no public comment.

5. FHWA/FTA/PennDOT Update

- FHWA: Infrastructure For Rebuilding America (INFRA) Program: This new program replaces the previous “Fast Lane” program, with some changes to criteria. Selections for small projects will be made from the second round of applications, but large projects from the second round will have to reapply and be considered with the new criteria. Criteria changes include increased emphasis on innovation and leveraging of non-federal funding. The third round of applications is open now.
- PennDOT: PennDOT Central Office reported that the 2017 Act13 allocation to counties, including Liquid Fuels funds and the five dollar registration fee, was recently approved and will be transmitted on August 15th. Roughly \$15 billion will be distributed statewide, including more than \$3 billion to the SPC region. The funding is expected to be used on structurally deficient bridges.

6. June 26th SPC Commission Meeting Recap

Staff reported that at the June 26th meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, action was taken to approve amendments to the region's Fiscally Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan that had been tabled at the March Commission meeting. This action included adding projects to widen I-79 in Allegheny and Washington Counties and to construct three segments of the Pennsylvania Turnpike's Mon-Fayette Expressway from State Route 51 to I-376.

7. Amendments and Administrative Actions to the FFY2017-2020 TIP

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).

Action: This action was unanimously approved and the appropriate changes were made to the region's FFY2017-2020 TIP by the TTC on a motion by Art Cappella and a second by Jeff Leithauser. Staff will transmit this project information to the PennDOT Program Center within one week of this action.

B. PennDOT District 11-0

Rob Miskanic of PennDOT District 11-0 reviewed the requested TIP modifications. There were nine administrative modifications requiring TTC action (as highlighted in handout 3).

Action: This action was unanimously approved and the appropriate changes were made to the region's FFY2017-2020 TIP by the TTC on a motion by Ann Ogoreuc

and a second by Dan Carpenter. Staff will transmit this project information to the PennDOT Program Center within one week of this action.

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 3).

***Action:** This action was unanimously approved and the appropriate changes were made to the region's FFY2017-2020 TIP by the TTC on a motion by Jeff Leithauser and a second by Dan Carpenter. Staff will transmit this project information to the PennDOT Program Center within one week of this action.*

D. *Transit Operators*

- *Butler Transit Authority (BTA) requested an administrative adjustment to the FFY2017-2020 TIP project "CNG Gillig Buses" (MPMS# 102345) to add state and local funding to purchase AVAIL systems for the new buses, adding \$97,109 in state 339 funding and \$3,236 in local funding in FY2017. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$100,345***

***Action:** This action was unanimously approved and the appropriate changes were made to the region's FFY2017-2020 TIP by the TOC on a motion by Sheila Gombita and a second by Mary Jo Morandini. Staff will transmit this project information to the PennDOT Program Center within one week of this action.*

- *Fayette Area Coordinated Transportation (FACT) Requested that TOC perform an administrative adjustment to the FFY2017-2020 TIP project "Capital Assistance" (MPMS# 71083) to adjust the funding sources of \$74,831 from "non-federal/other" to state 339 in FY2017. **TOTAL CHANGE: \$0***

***Action:** This action was unanimously approved and the appropriate changes were made to the region's FFY2017-2020 TIP by the TOC on a motion by Sheila Gombita and a second by John Paul. Staff will transmit this project information to the PennDOT Program Center within one week of this action.*

There were no other TIP actions requested.

8. **FFY2019-2022 TIP Update**

SPC Staff updated the committees on progress to develop the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

A. *Highway TIP Work Groups Schedule*

- August 1st & October 5th – District 10-0
- August 3rd & October 12th – District 12-0
- August 7th & October 27th – District 11-0

- B. *Highway TIP Work Group Meeting Recaps & Previews*— Staff recapped the first round of TIP work group meetings. Discussion included: TIP Timeline, Financial Guidance, General & Procedural Guidance, \$5 Vehicle Registration Fee and County Bridge Bundling, District Asset Management Outlook, Candidate Projects from 2017 TIP update, and newly identified TIP candidate projects. Staff provided a status update on the development of the candidate project lists. Staff then noted the August TIP work group meetings will be reviewing all pre-TIP public comment received via SPC online input form, Public Participation Panels, and the State Transportation Commission.

- C. Transit TIP Update—Staff updated the TOC and TTC on the status of the transit TIP update, including the opening of the SharePoint site for regional transit agencies. As with the previous TIP update, each transit agency has a page on the site, including a blank TIP spreadsheet with the final two years of the current TIP pre-filled for use as a starter in planning the agency’s four-year capital program. Other documents on the site include financial guidance from PennDOT and other general information.

- D. HSIP Status Report—The Highway Safety Improvement Program is another element of the TIP that will be updated through this process. Coordination includes a recent call with SPC staff and representatives of the three PennDOT districts. The application period for statewide set-aside funds will be August 1st to September 30th. PennDOT Central Office will be using a new evaluation methodology for assessing projects—lists of high crash locations will no longer be produced. The new analysis methodology utilizes the Highway Safety Manual and focuses on crash reduction potential. The call also included a review of potential projects in each District. In addition to statewide set-aside HSIP funds, the region gets a base allocation of HSIP funds—around \$10 million per year. Although most of the projects to receive funding in the past have come from PennDOT, there is growing interest in using this source to address safety needs on the local system.

- E. Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program—SPC is accepting applications for funding through the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program through September 22nd. SPC’s application is incorporated into the statewide application process. A statewide webinar outlining the application process for potential project sponsors was held following the TTC/TOC meeting. The SPC region is expected to receive about \$1.8 million per year for its regional allocation. The state’s parallel program is \$13 million per year (statewide). Projects should range in cost from \$50,000 to \$1 million. TA funding is to be used for the construction phase only. As with previous cycles, bicycle and pedestrian facilities and education, conversion of rail to trail corridors, historic preservation, archeological activities, stormwater management, safe routes to schools and other activities are eligible—details are in SPC’s guidance documents.

- F. CMAQ Program—Staff also reviewed the Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality program. The program will be administered similarly to the previous (FFY2017) round. The program now includes language relating to final federal performance measures. SPC will work over the next year to develop the performance targets for the CMAQ program as well as safety, reliability and asset management. The CMAQ program will open for applications August 4th. SPC plans to hold a series of project delivery workshops for potential applicants in August. The application period will close September 8th. The CMAQ Evaluation Committee will meet three times to review the project applications and scoring and will develop a set of recommended projects to present to the TTC and the Commission. New with this cycle will be a carryover limitation rule: once a project is selected for CMAQ funding, the sponsor will have two TIP cycles to obligate the funds; after that, the project will have to re-apply for funding (existing carryover projects will be given a two-year grace period).

- G. Local Project Delivery Workshops—SPC is offering a unique opportunity for local project sponsors looking to obtain transportation funding from federal or state resources. If you are considering applying to any programs in the future, these workshops will introduce you to funding programs and the regulatory requirements sponsors must meet to use federal or state transportation funds. Staff will be notifying members of dates in the very near future. These workshops will also address the requirements of the PennDOT Connects Initiatives for sponsors interested in applying to the currently open Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program

9. Pittsburgh Downtown-Uptown-Oakland-East End Bus Rapid Transit

Amy Silbermann from PAAC and Justin Miller from the City of Pittsburgh gave the TOC and TTC an update on the current planning work for the proposed Downtown-Uptown-Oakland-East End Bus Rapid Transit project. This project is sponsored by a consortium including Port Authority, City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County and the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh. Project planners have recently completed a round of public meetings to review proposed station locations. Project sponsors have asked SPC to add the project to the Fiscally Constrained portion of the Long Range Transportation Plan based on a financial plan that has been developed for the project. This proposed amendment will be released for public comment in August and presented to the SPC in September. The sponsors plan to complete environmental work shortly and request that FTA advance the project onto the Capital Improvements Grant program annual report, which would make the BRT eligible for federal capital funding (Small Starts).

10. PennDOT Connects/Planning & Engineering 360 Recap

SPC Staff led discussion amongst the meeting participants about their experiences thus far with the PennDOT Connects initiative and how we continue to work collectively to incorporate it into our planning and programming processes:

- Butler Transit Authority shared that they had recently attended a meeting with PennDOT Deputy Secretary Toby Fauver who asked BTA to prioritize bus stops in high-volume areas that could be included in planning for possible upgrades as part of future District-led projects.
- Westmoreland County Transit Authority shared that they had taken part in meetings for the Laurel Valley and the S.R. 119 Youngwood projects.
- Staff reviewed the PennDOT training module, called Planning & Engineering 360⁰. Several training sessions have been held in the SPC region. SPC and PennDOT will continue to look for opportunities to expand the training to more partners.

11. Meeting Participant Updates

- Westmoreland Transit Authority (WCTA)—Alan Blahovec informed the committees that the new CNG fueling station has been completed. WCTA is still waiting on the arrival of new CNG buses, which are expected in August.
- Butler Transit Authority (BTA)—John Paul reported that BTA’s CNG fueling station is scheduled for construction in December, with CNG buses arriving in September.
- Beaver County Transit Authority (BCTA)—Mary Jo Morandini reported that BCTA’s fueling facility is nearing completion with buses expected to be delivered in August or September. She also reported on a project to replace a garage lift to accommodate the new CNG buses. BCTA’s shelter project is currently underway, upgrading benches and shelters throughout the system. She also reported that local service changes are likely to come in the spring, following the completion of a service configuration study.
- RideACTA Shuttle—Lynn Manion reported that the RideACTA shuttle is currently providing last-mile service at two hubs in the Airport Corridor, with ridership continuing to grow. She said ACTA has been asked to provide service to Greentree Borough, but the agency does not have the funding to provide it. ACTA has recently completed two studies of potential future service expansions: one by Delta Development, looking at last-mile service from Port Authority’s Moon park-and-ride lot, and the other by University of Pittsburgh students, who connected last-mile service with other multi-modal options, including walking and biking. Lynn says she is analyzing the results to determine if ACTA should request demonstration service funding from PennDOT.
- Oakland TMA—Mavis Rainey reported that OTMA has been working with the University of Pittsburgh, HealthyRide and SPC to quantify the benefits of the HealthyRide bike share program. The goal is to measure mode shift and trip type.

12. Staff Updates

Corridor Study Candidates—Staff reported that SPC plans to conduct up to two corridor planning studies in the coming year and will now accept suggestions for candidates for the next studies.

13. Other Business/Upcoming Meetings

- A. *July 31st—Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission Executive Committee*
- B. *July 31st—Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission*
- C. *August 2nd—ATWIC*
- D. *August 10th—CommuteInfo Partners*
- E. *August 17th—Transportation Technical Committee*
- F. *August 24th—Transportation Operations & Safety Forum*
- G. *September 20th—Transi Operators Committee*