

# SPC Transportation Operations & Safety Committee

Thursday, October 29, 2015, 10:00AM  
SPC Conference Center, 4th Floor  
Chatham II, Pittsburgh, PA

## ATTENDEES

Leann Chaney, SPC	Domenic D'Andrea, SPC
Joshua Grimm, SPC	Jonathan Heilman, Gannett Fleming
Chuck Imbrogno, SPC	Jim Katsafanas, Michael Baker International
Jeffrey Leithauser, Washington Co.	Dr. Mark Magalotti, Univ. of Pittsburgh
Duane McKee, Cranberry Twp.	Richard Mertzner, City of Pittsburgh
Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny Co.	Jim Paral, FHWA
Allie Slizoski, Drive Engineering	Doug Smith, SPC
Joshua Spano, SPC	Kathy Stefani, SPC
Scott Thompson-Graves, WRA	Mario Toscano, Drive Engineering

## MEETING SUMMARY

- Domenic D'Andrea welcomed meeting attendees and initiated a round of introductions.
- Dr. Mark Magalotti from the University of Pittsburgh gave a presentation on Establishing Walking Routes in PA and Conducting Pedestrian Safety Assessments. Walkworks is an initiative of the PA Department of Health to promote increased physical activity and develop walking routes in the built environment. The selection of the walking routes should include the presence of sidewalks, safe street crossing locations, destinations along the route, and low traffic speeds along the route. Once the location of the walking route is considered, partners of Walkworks conduct a Safety Assessment on the sidewalk locations and conditions, speeds limits, traffic control devices, roadway widths, signage, and pavement markings. Partners of Walkworks, to date, have conducted five Safety Assessments in PA including two in the SPC region (Indiana County and Fayette County). Currently, the program is expanding in the eastern side of PA. Following the establishment of the walking routes, field data is collected manually for pedestrian and bicyclists. In the future, Eco-Counters will be used to measure levels of activity. Dr. Magalotti also discussed what policies support walking and walking infrastructure including ordinances, official maps, and comprehensive plans. Doug Smith asked who is paying for the signage and how do they look. Dr. Magalotti answered by saying the Department of Health pays for the signage, however some communities would prefer pavement markings. A mobile app idea for the walking routes is also being discussed. For more info on this program, go to:

<http://www.health.pa.gov/WalkWorks/Pages/default.aspx#.Vkomdh4o6Uk>

- Joshua Spano and Joshua Grimm from SPC presented the Bellefield Avenue Road Safety Audit. The purpose of the RSA was to identify potential transportation safety improvements on Bellefield Avenue from Forbes Avenue to Center Avenue in the City of Pittsburgh. The major themes the audit team focused on included pedestrian safety, traffic signals, speeding, and transportation operations at Western PA School for Blind Children. During the three day safety audit, the audit team conducted key person interviews with OTMA, City of Pittsburgh DPW, Western PA School for Blind Children, Bellefield Area Citizens Association, OPDC, Port Authority, City of Pittsburgh Police, Pitt Police, Pitt Transportation and Parking and CMU. The RSA presentation featured many observations, suggestions, and considerations that focused on the major themes of the corridor. The suggestions cover a time frame of short, mid, and

long range projects. Suggestions varied from signage and pavement markings to traffic signal equipment upgrades, providing ADA compliant accessibility, bulbouts, and further study of one way street patterns.

- Domenic D'Andrea from SPC presented the Route 68/Route 528 Operations and Safety Assessment. An OSA is a hybrid between a traditional corridor study and a RSA. The purpose of the OSA was to identify operational improvements and safety improvements along the 14.5 mile corridor of Route 68 and Route 528. The major themes the assessment team focused on included mitigation of recurring congestion, maintain mobility during planned and unplanned events, providing an efficient multimodal transportation system, and reducing the number of crashes, fatalities, and serious injuries. During the five day assessment, the team conducted key person interviews with Seneca Valley School District, Butler Area School District, Butler County Planning, Butler Transit Authority, New Castle Area Transit, PennDOT D-10, Evans City Police, Jackson Twp. Police, and Butler Twp. Police. The OSA presentation featured many observations, suggestions, and considerations that focused on the major themes of the corridor. The OSA also included suggestions regarding future development access and future roadway cross sections. The suggestions cover a time frame of short, mid, and long range projects. Mr. D'Andrea provided a copy of the Route 68/Route 528 OSA. Please see the Route 68/Route 528 Operations and Safety Assessment for more details. PennDOT District 10, SPC, and Butler County have been discussing funding mechanisms for some of the improvements.
- Domenic D'Andrea from SPC presented the Regional Cashless Tolling Planning Study. Cashless Tolling is a growing trend in the United States with more than 35 toll facilities across the country having adopted cashless tolling systems. Proponents tout that cashless tolling has benefits such as increased safety, improved mobility, improved customer convenience, reduced emissions, and improved operational efficiencies. The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission is giving serious consideration to installing cashless tolling system-wide and plans to introduce cashless tolling in January 2016 at the Delaware River Bridge as part of a new interchange project for I-76/I-95. The purpose of this study is to assist the PA Turnpike, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and other regional stakeholders in determining what the potential impacts are within the SPC region and to make recommendations for mitigating potential impacts. Additionally, the study will identify locations that currently do not have direct access to the mainline I-76, where it may be desirable in the future to provide full or partial access with cashless toll interchange. SPC issued a RFP on October 7, 2015 and the study is expected to be complete by June 30, 2016. Mr. Leithauser asked if the flow of the turnpike will be studied. Mr. D'Andrea replied yes, change in arrival time will be considered for analysis at the ramps touchdown points.
- Domenic D'Andrea from SPC gave an update on the other RSA's for this fiscal year. SPC will be conducting a RSA on Morganza-McClelland Road in Washington County in November 2015. Additionally, SPC will conduct two RSA's in the Spring 2016 on Route 30 in Allegheny County and SR 66/SR 56 in Leechburg and Apollo.
- Joshua Spano from SPC gave an update on upcoming TIM Meetings. The Airport TIM team will meet on November 10th at the Moon Twp. Public Safety Building. The I-79/I-76 TIM team will meet on November 11th at the Cranberry Twp. Public Safety Building. The SPC Regional TIM Steering Committee will meet on December 7th at the SPC 4th Floor Conference Center. Topics for these upcoming meetings will include PennDOT projects, TIM guidelines, Incident reviews, and FHWA TIM Self-assessment.
- Domenic D'Andrea from SPC gave an update on the ITS Architecture. SPC staff has conducted over 20 stakeholder interviews to find out information on existing and planned ITS projects. The 2004 version of ITS Architecture has been updated and put into the latest Turbo Architecture software. SPC is in the process of executing a work order to perform a QA/QC on

the updated ITS Architecture. Additionally, SPC staff will develop a website for the ITS Architecture with consultant support.

- Domenic D'Andrea provided an update on the Regional Traffic Signal Program. Cycle 2 projects are complete. SPC is meeting with municipalities to finalize scope and costs on Cycle 3 projects. Domenic also mentioned an Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) funded project that SPC is coordinating to replace incandescent signal bulbs with LED. These funds will be focused on financially distressed communities in the region including Clairton, Connellsville, Dormont, New Castle, and Rochester. Final design for the LED Conversion Project is completed and project will be bid through PennDOT's ECMS system.