

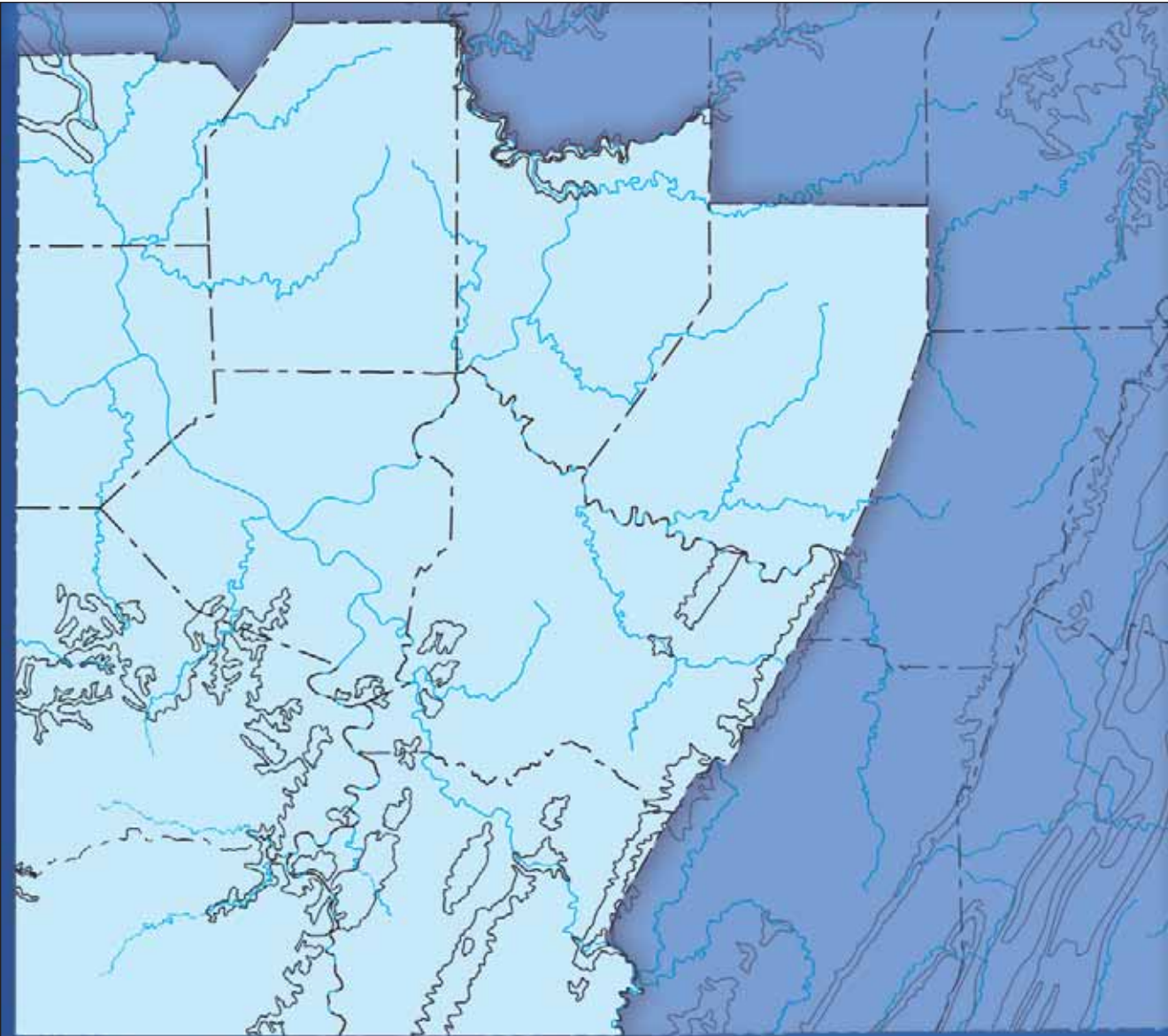
Engaging the Region



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Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

2005 ANNUAL REPORT



SPC Mission Statement

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission is the cooperative forum for regional collaboration, planning, and public decision-making. The Commission develops plans and programs for public investments; fulfills federal and state requirements for transportation, economic development, and local government assistance programs; and operates with public involvement and trust.

Working Together: Engaging the Region

Over 2.66 Million Citizens >>> 7,112 Square Miles >>> One Region >>> One Voice

At SPC, 2005 was a year of engaging the region.

SPC members took public involvement to unprecedented levels this year as we worked to greatly expand our public engagement process. Through Project Region Transportation Improvement Program workshops and other outreach, our approach has been to invite more and more direct local participation in the development of our plans.

As regional plans are implemented through a partnership of many organizations, convening partners and engaging the public in a context that represents the planning process from the initial concept to project implementation has been an effective method for planning staff and the public to communicate meaningfully and interact productively with each other.

We have worked to listen more and help more as we reach out to the region's communities. Grassroots participation and feedback at meetings in every member locality have given more citizens direct access not only to SPC but to our partners who are so important in creating plans and programs. This feedback helps to set direction on regional priorities, and helps to determine the best use of our limited transportation dollars.

At SPC's public participation meetings about transportation priorities, we met with citizens whose questions could be answered on the spot by partners

like PennDOT District office staff as well as SPC. Citizens answered interactive surveys about their own transportation needs, and were able to see right then and there how others in the region answered the same questions.

People viewed films at our meetings about how the transportation planning process works and they learned about how the system can help people with special needs. SPC had special publications for non-English speakers, and information to help the disabled learn about special services available through partner agencies in their counties.

People provided testimony at our meetings on the needs of their communities, and SPC staffers wrote down their concerns as we listened, then brought it to our attention again in subsequent meetings with technical staff and Commissioners. People took advantage of the opportunity to talk directly to many of our partner agency staff in booths around our meeting room. They knew we listened because we were having one-on-one conversations, not simply making presentations alone. We talked about our vision for a better region, and we also talked about the real constraints on our means of getting there. We discussed fundamental priorities like maintenance and access for all our citizens.

Most importantly, our plans are getting better and better as we convene and listen to people with ideas from the ground up all across the region. We are proud of SPC's role and its performance this past year as the region's forum. We have good reason to be very optimistic as the region moves forward together.

Dave Coder, Chairman

James R. Hassinger, President, CEO



Dave Coder, Chairman



James R. Hassinger, President, CEO

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Southwestern Pennsylvania
Commission are members of
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Information Systems
Kirk Brethauer

Planning & Development
Lew Villotti

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REGIONAL ENTERPRISE TOWER: WHERE THE REGION WORKS TOGETHER

SPC is the owner of the Regional Enterprise Tower, the nation's first conversion of a major corporate headquarters building to a 31-story public purpose center for regional collaboration and development initiatives, dedicated solely to the economic, cultural, and educational development of its region.

The Regional Enterprise Tower's mission is to promote regional vitality in Southwestern Pennsylvania through a single address, which offers seamless support for the creation, retention, expansion and attraction of business, and to showcase the region's vibrant quality of life.

In 2005, SPC expanded the building's interactive website www.RegionalEnterpriseTower.org, a technical resource to help people take advantage of this unique asset. Visitors can take a virtual tour of unique meeting spaces, from the extraordinary 31st Floor to rooms available in the 23rd floor Conference Center, making it easy to explore room configurations and book the perfect meeting space.

All public spaces in the building are now wireless hotspots where people can access internet services and work on their laptops between meetings. Free wireless internet access has also been added to the Conference Center rooms and the 31st Floor, making it easier to use the internet for group presentations.



Around the Tower:

AMENITIES FOR DIVERSE NEEDS

The Tower remains true to its vision of consolidating resources for a unified regional development effort, providing 360,000 square feet of premier office space with impressive facilities and services, like its Conference Center's state-of-the-art technology. The Tower's 31st Floor offers dramatic meeting and entertainment space with a panoramic view of the Pittsburgh skyline.

Today, approximately 90 businesses and nonprofit organizations inhabit the Tower. Given the Tower's unique mission, the comparison of nonprofit to for-profit tenants is 85% vs. 15%, respectively.

The Regional Enterprise Tower is more than just an office building. It is dedicated to serving the needs of its occupants in relation to our region's vision: for Southwestern Pennsylvania to be recognized among the best places to live, work, play and invest.

The Regional Enterprise Tower, and the many resources it houses, are made possible through the generous support of our corporate and philanthropic community working in partnership with the public sector.



THE REGION'S FORUM

SPC is the cooperative forum for regional collaboration, planning, and public decision-making.

Members evaluate available resources and alternatives, and develop the most effective and realistic approach to building the foundation for our region's future.

Project Region is a set of organized activities to help Southwestern Pennsylvania develop regional consensus on a growth plan by using analytical tools, community involvement and scenario development to create effective strategies. The plan is intended to maximize regional assets and infrastructure to achieve balanced, cost-effective growth; capitalize on investments in existing communities; and strengthen quality job creation and regional economic competitiveness.

THE COOPERATIVE FORUM

As the cooperative forum for regional collaboration, planning, and public decision-making,

Project Region: The Southwestern Pennsylvania Plan is the mechanism for connecting the region's vision to an official, coordinated implementation program of projects and actions. This process is led by the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, and will be conducted in partnership with a wide

Sharpening and achieving our region's vision for Southwestern Pennsylvania to be recognized among the best places to live, work, play and invest depends on continuous attention to the development of strategies that deliver progress.

Regional economies are driven by access to

range of other public, private and nonprofit organizations. SPC is mandated by the federal and state governments to conduct regional planning for the 10 counties of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

employment, goods and services, and regional amenities. Planning regionally for the most efficient and effective system to move people and goods is essential to maintain and enhance a region's economic competitiveness and overall quality of life.

SPC is charged with developing both the regional long-range transportation plan and the regional comprehensive economic development strategy for Southwestern Pennsylvania. SPC has endeavored over the past two planning cycles



THE REGION'S FORUM

to integrate these two plans into a coordinated regional program of projects and actions that are guided by the principle that the relationship between economic development and the region's transportation system is fundamental.

PARTNERING FOR PROGRESS

As regional plans are implemented through a partnership of many organizations, including governing bodies, road and transit agencies, community groups, and the business and philanthropic communities, it is essential for this regional partnership to be actively involved in the plan development process.



EMPOWERING THE REGION

Project Region utilizes state-of-the-art community engagement techniques to advance our commitment to the principle that the regional plan must be created by and inclusive of the diversity of all

citizens and all communities in Southwestern Pennsylvania in order to effectively serve as the tool for prioritizing major public investments throughout the region. The growing recognition of the value of regionalism and the importance of regional consensus-building are cornerstones in developing a plan that *transcends boundaries, empowers the region and builds on successful foundations.*

TRANSCENDING BOUNDARIES

Project Region looks to raise the level of transparency in regional planning and further improve its utility to residents by focusing more on the functional community. The concept of looking



at the region functionally is based upon the true diversity of the region. Project Region will work to understand the issues and concerns of disparate communities of the region while seeking to capitalize on their common needs and goals.

BUILDING ON SUCCESSFUL FOUNDATIONS

The current *2030 Regional Plan for Southwestern Pennsylvania* has as its vision that the region will be recognized "...as one of the best regions in the United States in which to live, work, play, and invest." This vision offers an opportunity to organize the plan's strategies through public discourse about details and methods.

UNDERSTANDING TRADE-OFFS

The basis of regional planning is to help people make smarter choices through a better understanding of our options and their impacts.



In order to assess these choices, SPC will develop scenarios organized around the functional areas and focusing on the concepts of live, work, play and invest.

TRANSPORTATION

SPC members coordinate both long-range and short-range regional transportation planning in their role as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).



In 2005, SPC Commissioners worked to advance the region's *2005-2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)*, which evaluates the region's long-term goals in the context of available resources and applies them to a prioritized list of \$2.5 billion in highway and transit projects programmed for advancement over a four-year period. Individual project phases selected for the TIP are responsive to a range of empirical data, specialized studies and technical analysis.

A sample of TIP projects that progressed in 2005 include:

- *East Busway Extension (Swissvale and Whitney Avenue Pedestrian Tunnels)*



- *Fort Duquesne Bridge Painting/ Preventative Maintenance*
- *Authority to Redesignate airport highways as I-376*
- *Tarrtown Road Bridge Replacement*
- *Route 8 Main Street Bridge Replacement*
- *Route 119 South Widening (Indiana)*
- *Route 22 Penn View Summit*
- *I-79 Northbound (Bridgeville – Exit 60 Crafton)*
- *31st Street Bridge Rehabilitation*
- *Ewing Bridge*
- *Youghiogheny Dam Bridge Replacement*
- *Walnut Hill Ramps*
- *SR 22 – B02 Export*
- *Parnassus Triangle*
- *Findlay Connector (Southern Beltway)*

PRIORITIZING PROJECTS

Projects are prioritized with help from a technical advisory committee that utilizes the most current data available. The region's transportation partners screen proposed projects to assure consistency

with the regional plan, determine whether they satisfy relevant statutes and, where they do, prioritize them into a fiscally constrained program.

SPC provides members with data and analyses such as population, vehicle miles traveled, bridge condition ratings, and air quality impacts to aid in the decision-making process. TEA-21 management and monitoring systems, corridor and sub-area studies, needs and feasibility studies are also used to support decisions in developing the candidate list and evaluating project needs. Early and continuous public input is essential throughout the TIP development process.

Priority is placed on projects which maintain, preserve and enhance the existing system along established corridors, and which enhance economic competitiveness by relieving congestion, minimizing mobility disconnections, and focusing investment in locations responsive to market and industry.

TRANSPORTATION



CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

SPC is committed to continually improving the project evaluation and assessment process to maximize return from limited resources and assist capital programming decisions. In 2005, SPC created a Project Evaluation Subcommittee, comprised of representatives from our member planning departments, PennDOT Districts, and transit agencies. Its work included assessing the planning process to identify opportunities to integrate technical evaluation criteria, defining 17 project categories to facilitate prioritization, and reviewing current investment patterns.

AIR QUALITY/ TRANSPORTATION MODELING

In 2005, SPC addressed new federal air quality standards for eight-hour ozone and PM2.5 in its transportation air quality conformity procedures, balancing the need for transportation investment with the need for cleaner air.

In April, SPC Commissioners approved a resolution making an air quality conformity finding for the 2005-2008 TIP and 2030 Regional Plan under the eight-hour ozone standard. Technical work for the conformity finding under the PM2.5 standard was completed in 2005.

SPC's modeling resources provide data to help the region make better decisions and prepare effective transportation plans, manage congestion and meet air quality standards.

TRANSPORTATION DATA

In 2005, SPC completed its fifth year of a multi-year effort to collect new information about travel in Southwestern Pennsylvania. SPC *Travel View* is a data collection program that studies regional travel patterns. SPC also continued to analyze data from three major surveys, which is used to develop regional travel models. The models enhance the ability to forecast the effects of transportation system changes, allowing better-informed transportation investment choices.

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

SPC uses the Regional Plan's Early Options Analysis (EOA) to develop strategies to improve transportation system efficiency and assess the need for public infrastructure investments. An EOA enables SPC to address the unique needs of transportation corridors by examining strategies involving both land use and transportation.

Studies that progressed in 2005 included:

- **Congested Corridors Early Options Analysis.** *Analyzing congestion data on seven corridors in the region's Congestion Management Process (CMP), this study identified congestion causes in each corridor and proposed potential improvements by identifying practical solutions to improve traffic operations and manage congestion.*
- **Route 51 Land Use Initiative.** *Exploring the relationship between land use and transportation along Route 51, this study's objective was to preserve Route 51's operational effectiveness while supporting growth and maintaining community character. Recommendations include access management techniques, development impact fees, signal improvements, and coordination of development policies.*

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public input is vital to effective transportation planning. SPC conducts an open process that actively involves all affected individuals, groups and communities from the earliest stages,



TRANSPORTATION

including identifying needs and resources, developing alternatives, and deciding to implement solutions. SPC gives the public an active role by bringing planning directly to residents in each county through Public Participation Panels (PPPs), which reflect diverse needs and perspectives.

In 2005, timelines for updating both the region's long-range plan and Transportation Improvement Plan were synchronized at key points. SPC took this opportunity to develop innovative workshops designed to leverage regional partnerships as we set out to engage the public on both the long- and short-range transportation plans.

The Project Region TIP Workshops featured interactive stations staffed by representatives from SPC and our partners in planning. The workshop format gave participants the opportunity to converse directly with planning agency staff, who were there to gather feedback on priority transportation investments for Southwestern Pennsylvania.



BEAVER COUNTY
www.co.beaver.pa.us

This feedback is used to help determine the best use of our limited transportation dollars.

SPC's Public Participation Panels, nationally recognized as a best practice, hosted workshops throughout the region. As regional plans are implemented through a partnership of many organizations, bringing the partners together and engaging the public in a context that represents the entire planning process has been an effective means for planning staff and the public to communicate and interact productively.

FREIGHT FORUM

SPC's Freight Forum works with the freight community to coordinate strategies for the safe and efficient movement of goods to enhance the region's economic competitiveness. In 2005, major focus areas included examining high-speed capabilities for rail freight and improving the system of locks and dams on the region's rivers.

In June, the Freight Forum hosted the Ohio Rail Development Commission, who presented their proposal for high-speed freight and passenger trains operating along rail lines in Ohio, including potential passenger service to Pittsburgh. In October, it focused on improving the region's river navigation system, with the Army Corps of Engineers and Port of Pittsburgh Commission discussing the condition of existing locks and dams, and the value of inland waterways to the local economy.



INTERMODAL INITIATIVES

SPC's intermodal initiatives include modal planning in the areas of pedestrian and bicycle, airport, and rail infrastructure, and other activities that enhance the movement of people and goods between modes throughout the transportation system.

In 2005, SPC's Pedestrian-Bicycle Committee worked with our planning partners to develop the new Pedestrian-Bicycle Checklist for projects. SPC also worked with trail groups to enhance linkages within the region's network of pedestrian and bicycle trails.

Airport planning activities completed in 2005 include technical assistance on the update of Airport Master Plans at Allegheny County, New Castle Municipal, Beaver County and Rostraver Airports. SPC also worked with the Zelienople Municipal Airport on land use and access issues.

TRANSPORTATION



TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENTS, HOMETOWN STREETS & SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

The Transportation Enhancements (TE) program integrates elements of the transportation system with communities by focusing on pedestrian and bicycle facilities, scenic and historic byways, landscaping and beautification, and transportation museums.

Last year, Pennsylvania established its Hometown Streets/Safe Routes to School Program (HS/SRTS), which targets some TE funds toward projects that help revitalize communities and improve children's walking routes to school.

TE and HS/SRTS were combined into a single application process in 2005. SPC's TE/HS/SRTS Subcommittee recommended 35 projects for funding out of the region's TE and HS/SRTS allocations. Additionally, SPC endorsed eight projects for statewide discretionary funds.

COMMUTEINFO

In 2005, CommuteInfo increased the commuters registering with the program and the calls received from regional commuters, job seekers and employers by 57 percent.

CommuteInfo continually seeks ways to enhance commuter options. In 2005, staff worked with commuters and partner agencies to develop ideas that could help more commuters choose ridesharing. In response to commuter suggestions, two new services are planned for 2006: a regional Emergency Ride Home service and a parking discount for carpools and vanpools.

CommuteInfo continues to enhance its services, including a toll-free number (1-888-819-6110), and a website (www.commuteinfo.org) for information and referrals, vanpool/carpool rider matching, transit/biking/walking resources and park-n-ride information. To reach more area residents, the program's printed materials were translated into Spanish and added to the website, where all content can be translated into eight languages other than English.

CommuteInfo is operated in partnership with transportation management associations (TMAs), transportation providers, businesses and nonprofit service organizations throughout the region.

JOB ACCESS REVERSE COMMUTE (JARC)

SPC is an active member of the Access to Work Task Force, a group of stakeholders overseeing the Regional Job Access Program. The Task Force coordinates selection of regional projects for the FTA JARC grant program, which funds transit projects that promote access to jobs. Since 1999, this program has brought over \$24 million to the region.

SPC was charged by the Task Force to assess the Regional Job Access Program in an effort to improve performance. This assessment was performed in 2005, and the report is planned for release in 2006. In addition, SPC formed an MOU with The Pittsburgh Foundation, Port Authority of Allegheny County and Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board to collaboratively fund a position with oversight from the partnering agencies to work on current issues and opportunities.



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

SPC members promote regionally integrated, cooperative planning and development activities for communities throughout Southwestern Pennsylvania in their Local Development District role.



SPC combines management of community assistance, financial assistance, export and government procurement assistance, and special enterprise development activities with delivery of other state and federal programs to help our region become increasingly competitive in national and global markets.

STATE AND FEDERAL PARTNERSHIPS

SPC is designated by the U.S. Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) as the Local Development District and by the U.S.

Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) as the Economic Development District for Southwestern Pennsylvania. SPC members play a lead role in identifying priority needs of local communities by working with their citizens to foster economic development, to target and meet the most pressing needs, and to build community unity and leadership.

Through the Area Development Program, SPC members seek to fund such projects as education and workforce training programs, the Appalachian Highway System Program and industrial access improvements, water and sewer system construction, leadership development programs, small business start-ups and expansions, and development of healthcare resources to meet the area development goals.

Grants from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) were awarded to two projects in the region in 2005. The Beaver Falls

Revitalization project received a \$250,000 grant to help renovate four blocks in the core business district, including improving downtown sidewalks, as well as the installation of lights, utility poles, benches, trash receptacles, trees and tree grates, handicapped ramps, and curbs. These downtown improvements are expected to have a positive economic effect by providing a more aesthetically-welcoming downtown area to help attract both residents and visitors to the Beaver Falls retail core.

The Private Industry Council of Westmoreland/Fayette, Inc. (PIC) was the recipient of a \$10,000 grant to create, purchase equipment, and implement their own Telecommunications Center. The Telecommunications Center enabled the PIC to provide on-site training offered by federal and state governments, as well as technology training to benefit both current and potential employees in the region. Businesses formerly without access now have a venue where their employees can take part

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PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT



in teleconferences, receive office software training, and gather information on federal and state programs, including the government bidding process. PIC also utilizes the Telecommunications Center to train its own 225 employees who specialize in assisting low-income families and small businesses in becoming self-sufficient.

A UNIFIED REGIONAL VOICE

The commitment of SPC members to advance regionalism in Southwestern Pennsylvania culminated in the establishment of the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee (IGA). The Committee's function is to continuously improve the regional process and position in obtaining needed resources from state and federal funding sources; to develop funding goals and reach consensus on funding priority projects that implement the regional plan; to coordinate strategies to maximize impact; and, through its

membership, to present Southwestern Pennsylvania's official funding priority requests to the state legislators and congressional delegation via a single, unified voice.

In 2005, SPC members worked together through the IGA to develop a process for creating a unified legislative agenda for the region in response to congressional member requests for an official list of priority projects in Southwestern Pennsylvania. SPC members reached consensus on the region's priority projects through a prioritization process facilitated by the IGA.

After developing the region's prioritized list of projects for state and federal funding requests, SPC members worked in cooperation with the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce to coordinate strategies that encourage consideration of the regional project list and maximize impact.

Two delegations of SPC Commissioners attended Chamber trips explaining the region's priority projects to state and federal officials. The Harrisburg trip provided the opportunity to explain the region's list of Redevelopment Assistance Capital Project requests to state decision-makers. In personal meetings with many of the region's legislative delegation, the Governor's Chief of Staff and Secretaries of Community and Economic Development, Transportation and Revenue, SPC members

answered questions from legislators about the projects and the cooperative process utilized to compile the list.

In the trip to Washington, D.C., SPC Commissioners met with each member of the region's congressional delegation as well as representatives from the White House and discussed the importance of their federal funding requests for transportation, economic development and water/sewer projects. Both state and federal officials have repeatedly commented that our regional efforts to comprehensively identify and prioritize regional projects responds to their requests for clear priorities, and thus aids in their job of securing much needed funds for the region.



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

PENNSYLVANIA BUSINESS RETENTION AND EXPANSION PROGRAM (PBREP)

As the regional coordinator for the Commonwealth's Pennsylvania Business Retention and Expansion Program, SPC coordinates and facilitates the program objectives for the state to directly address the needs of businesses in the region. This government-to-business outreach program helps to enhance the state's business climate at the local level by connecting business owners with local economic development professionals.

Through on-site meetings with business owners, we determine which government-related programs can best address a company's needs. Customer Action Plans (CAPs) are then developed, providing possible solutions utilizing regional economic development resources. The perspectives of business owners in the region are also formally collected and communicated for the development of future policies and programs.



INDIANA COUNTY
www.countyofindiana.org

During the 2004-05 fiscal year, SPC's Business Retention and Expansion Program completed 1,338 calls—38 more than its goal of 1,300 calls. For the 2005-06 fiscal year, SPC will complete 1,265 calls to businesses in targeted industries set forth by DCED.

GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT ASSISTANCE

SPC's Government Procurement Assistance program helps hundreds of companies in the region market to and contract with federal, state and local government agencies. We provide one-on-one counseling and training with an emphasis on small businesses with minority, female, or service-disabled veteran owners to facilitate their participation in this market.

SPC shares a DOD Cooperative Agreement Grant with Indiana University of Pennsylvania and the Private Industry Council of Westmoreland/Fayette that enables maximum effectiveness with limited resources. This year, the following organizations assisted in our Government Procurement Assistance program:

- U.S. Department of Defense (DOD)
- U.S. Small Business Administration
- Minority Purchasing Council
- Minority Business Opportunity Committee
- PA Department of General Services
- PA Department of Community and Economic Development



- Local Small Business Development Centers
- Department of Energy
- PSU Electro-Optics Center

In 2005, staff participated in 24 programs to discuss opportunities for local business to increase sales through participation in the government market. By collaborating with other business development organizations, SPC is able to provide greater service to individual businesses across the region.

Benefits to the region included:

- Client businesses received 367 government contracts with a value of \$70.2 million.
- 290 businesses received individual procurement assistance, increasing their understanding of the government marketplace and the bid process to win government opportunities. SPC also responded to initial inquiries from 109 companies for specific information, or to evaluate the potential of the government marketplace.

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- *Client businesses that received government contracts in 2005 are credited with the creation of 3,579 jobs in Southwestern Pennsylvania.*

EXPORT DEVELOPMENT

In 2005, under new performance guidelines of the state and federal funding agencies, SPC's Export Development program focused on serving export-ready firms. We worked with 116 companies in the region by providing market identification and penetration; international market and industry research; export documentation; trade events participation; and other technical assistance to help with the export development process. In 2005, 12 companies that received our assistance reported 22 successful export transactions and \$10.8 million generated in international sales.

In 2005, SPC's Export Development program lead regional efforts by collaborating

with local export network partners to provide services to Southwestern Pennsylvania's business community. Our regional Export Network has been commended as the best regional team in Pennsylvania.

SPC enhanced its export assistance efforts this year to stimulate the regional economy. With the support of the Network team, we also:

- *Led five local companies to explore the fast-growing markets in Central Europe as a regional initiative in collaboration with our Network partners, with successful results already reported from two participating companies.*
- *Generated 273 overseas requests to assist local companies with export-related activities.*
- *Co-sponsored seven educational seminars for over 100 business professionals.*
- *Co-hosted two inbound trade delegations visiting our region.*
- *Supported the Commonwealth's eight international trade events, with 44 companies participating.*
- *Hosted five Pennsylvania Overseas Trade Representative visits and arranged customized meetings for 23 companies in our region.*
- *Awarded Market Access Grants to 10 small companies in the region to attend international trade events.*

KEYSTONE OPPORTUNITY ZONES

SPC is the regional manager of the Commonwealth's Keystone Opportunity Zone (KOZ) program, which encourages businesses and residents to locate in economically distressed areas by offering them a tax holiday until the expiration of the zone.

SPC has identified almost 6,000 acres throughout the region where businesses can take advantage of local and state tax abatements to advance economic development and increase employment opportunities.

A highlight of SPC's KOZ program in 2005 was the Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center, which is a private, nonprofit corporation that has invested over \$23 million of public and private capital into this facility. Beginning in the spring of 2006, the Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center will house activities for students to use the center's classrooms, practice areas, audio



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

and video studios, and performing spaces to receive world-class instruction and to refine their talent and skills. The center will also serve as the place where individuals and organizations can enjoy the arts.

MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MTAP)

SPC's Municipal Technical Assistance Program (MTAP) provides training, tools and assistance in areas ranging from computer purchases to website development and is available to all of the region's municipalities.

MTAP efforts in 2005 included:

- *Providing over-the-phone and in-person technical assistance to municipalities.*
- *Assisting with computer purchases.*
- *Providing \$300 Technology Grants to eligible municipalities.*
- *Providing free anti-virus software.*
- *Assisting 13 municipalities with the development and hosting of a website.*



PITTSBURGH
www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

The 2005-2006 winner of the Joseph A. James Award is Christine Altenburger, Professor Emerita from the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. Chris has contributed to a number of SPC's local government publications including *Standards for Effective Local Government*, *Merger/Consolidation Manual*, and *Building Inspection and Enforcement Manual*, and was the sole author of *Attaining a Wise Outcome: Problem Solving for Public Officials*, which is marketed by both SPC and ICMA. Chris, as an educator and consultant, has worked for over forty years with countless elected and appointed officials across Pennsylvania under the auspices of SPC, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development, the University of Pittsburgh's Institute of Local Government, and the Local Government Academy. Her integration of practical experience as an elected and appointed official with her extensive knowledge of local government management, ethics, service delivery and law has contributed to her respect among local elected and appointed officials.



The Joseph A. James Memorial Award recognizes a municipal government elected/appointed official in any local government, agency, or council of governments for a lifetime of exemplary governance or management; improving professionalism in municipal government; making a significant contribution to municipal government services; providing an outstanding service or facility; innovation, or outstanding leadership in a local government cause.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

SPC members have worked together to assemble an unparalleled data arsenal capable of highlighting relationships and commonalities across the region, as well as unique assets and opportunities.



In 2005, SPC continued to expand one of the most comprehensive data libraries for Southwestern Pennsylvania. SPC's data resources are a key component for decision-making regarding the region's transportation and economic development plans. Armed with a comprehensive collection of spatial and tabular data, SPC staff, members, and local governments are able to capitalize on opportunities and plan better for the future.

The region's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) based information lends efficiency to plans regarding the region's transportation, development, and utility infrastructure by allowing for in-depth analysis throughout the planning process.

SPC shares data and provides technical assistance to local governments, state agencies, planning partners and companies throughout the region and state. In 2005, SPC provided data and technical analysis to over 50 municipalities in the region, as well as assistance for major plans and projects. Demographics, environmental features,

traffic conditions, and aerial photography are all necessary building blocks for local projects.

OUR REGION'S NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

In 2005, SPC took the data and concepts representing the region's natural environment from the Natural Infrastructure Project and expanded the project to include Lawrence County. This allows the data to be analyzed seamlessly with other regional plans, and plays an important role in shaping the transportation and economic development components of Project Region. SPC has incorporated enhanced GIS data into the Natural Infrastructure matrix to more accurately represent these natural systems for use in plans large and small.

OUR REGION FROM THE GROUND UP

Utilizing our collection of digital aerial photography, SPC is fine-tuning data to more accurately represent the region. By identifying data with its

exact location on the ground, information representing different levels of built and natural infrastructure become more accurate for regional, county, and local applications. SPC also helped shape an aerial mission in spring 2005 that was conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

SPC partnered with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to prepare for aerial flights in spring 2006. Within the PA MAP Program, digital aerial photography and elevation data will be acquired



INFORMATION SYSTEMS

for 21 counties across Western Pennsylvania, including the entire SPC region. This imagery will be provided to local governments and used within federal and state programs for Pennsylvania.

THE STORY OF OUR REGION'S LAND: A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

SPC is utilizing satellite imagery, digital aerial photography and other GIS-based data to develop a comprehensive, region-wide land cover map for Southwestern Pennsylvania. A key foundation to SPC's modeling and forecasting programs, land cover is the *observed physical and biological cover of the land*, such as vegetation, natural, or human features. This differs slightly from land use, which shows the activities that are occurring across the landscape. By classifying the landscape with digital imagery, SPC can then spread demographic data across the landscape and input future development activities to depict how future development may affect communities. This data will be revised with aerial photography from the DCNR's 2006 PA MAP program to show both widespread and local changes in the region for future modeling and planning activities.

SHARING RESOURCES, PROTECTING RESOURCES

SPC has joined forces with other groups to advance important data and planning activities. In 2005, the PA Mapping and Geographic Information Consortium (PaMAGIC) released version 2 of the PA Geospatial Data Sharing Standards for incorporation by local governments developing GIS-based data. These sharing standards allow local data to be integrated into statewide data collections to increase the efficiency in planning processes involving our region. In 2005, SPC hosted technical workshops and brought together experts from across the region to help refine these standards for across-the-board use, including revised flood mapping.

MAKING DATA MORE ACCESSIBLE

As part of Project Region, databases are being specialized for interactive use at public meetings and other venues to acquaint citizens with the complex issues involved with planning at regional and local levels. Utilizing graphic technologies has helped enhance local participation and input to SPC programs, which continues to improve public involvement throughout the planning process.

To better understand the human component of the region, large-scale data analysis was performed on demographic variables across Southwestern Pennsylvania. By examining age,



race, ancestry, and income levels of the region's residents and those who have recently migrated to the region, the benefits and any possible burdens of the planning process are evaluated prior to implementation. This analysis also revealed potential links between places of residence and employment across the region where transportation plans and strategies can be focused for greater impact.



FINANCIALS

SPC's administrative arm is the Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation with a staff of 52. Its operations, based at the Regional Enterprise Tower, are funded through a combination of federal and state grants, SPC member contributions, in-kind service contributions and private foundations.

The Corporation's resources are applied to three core functions: SPC's daily administrative operations, management of the Regional Enterprise Tower, and agency Work Programs, which include numerous transportation planning and economic development studies and projects.

Federal and state government agencies are the largest sources of funding support for SPC. Excluding revenues associated with the Regional Enterprise Tower operations, SPC's primary operating revenues totaled approximately \$7.8 million in FY2005.

SPC's fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30; the accompanying financial figures are for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005. The financial records of the SPC are recorded on an accrual basis, and the summary figures reported by major funding sources and functions/programs have been audited by the accounting firm Maher Duessel, CPAs. The audit report for the reporting period expresses an unqualified opinion with no reportable findings related to the financial statements and federal awards.

Regional Enterprise Tower

SPC owns and operates the Regional Enterprise Tower, a 31-story, one-stop center for regional collaboration and economic development. As of June 30, 2005, tenant occupancy was at 85%. The building finances continue to be positive in relation to the building 1-year and 5-year business plans. The building operations include a drawdown of \$447,000 from the earnings of the ALCOA Building Endowment to support operating expenses and capital improvements to the building. The total market value of the endowment at June 30, 2005 was \$5,045,617. On January 1, 2005, Oxford Development Company and GVA Oxford were contracted to manage building operations and to be the leasing agent for the property.

Special Thank You to Our 2005 Foundations

The following foundations and organizations have generously provided support that helps make many of our programs possible.

The Heinz Endowments

Howard Heinz Endowment

Richard King Mellon Foundation

The Pittsburgh Foundation

The McCune Foundation

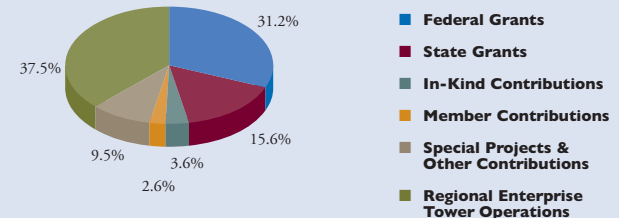
REVENUES

Federal Grants	\$3,893,503.00
State Grants	\$1,945,257.00
In-Kind Contributions	\$449,795.00
Member Contributions	\$317,300.00
Special Projects & Other Contributions	\$1,188,667.00
Regional Enterprise Tower Operations	\$4,675,562.00
TOTAL	\$12,470,084.00

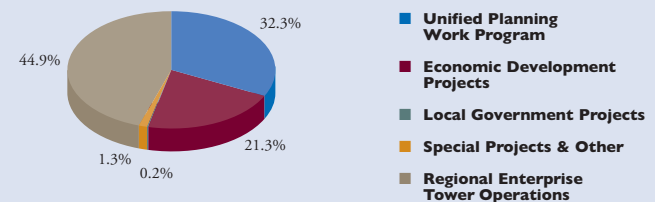
EXPENDITURES

Unified Planning Work Program	\$4,299,786.00
Economic Development Projects	\$2,829,636.00
Local Government Projects	\$31,668.00
Special Projects & Other	\$175,600.00
Regional Enterprise Tower Operations	\$5,982,404.00
TOTAL	\$13,319,094.00

REVENUES



EXPENDITURES





Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation

Regional Enterprise Tower

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