

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of
October 26, 2009 – 4:30 p.m.
31st Floor • Regional Enterprise Tower • 425 Sixth Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15219

The seventy-ninth meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission was called to order by Vice Chairman Charles Camp.

Commission members present were: Tom Balya, Steve Bland, Charles Camp, Tom Ceraso, Daniel Cessna, Dave Coder, Steve Craig, Terry Daughenbaugh, Jim Gagliano, Jr., Kevin Gray, Lynn Heckman, Dave Johnston, John Paul Jones, Jim Kennedy, Robert Macey, Jack Macheck, Robbie Matesic, Kevin McCullough, David Miller, Dale Pinkerton, Bill Piper, Jim Scahill, Mark Schneider, Kelly Shroads, Michael Silvestri, Mark Snyder, Pam Snyder, Joe Spanik, Rob Stephany, Wendy Stern, Gealy Wallwork, and Norma Wintermyer.

Commission members absent were: Tony Amadio, Shirl Barnhart, Andrew Boni, Bracken Burns, Rick DeBlasio, Joseph Dubovi, Karl Eisaman, Patricia Evanko, Richard Fink, David Frick, Jessica Greathouse, Dana Henry, Donald Kinosz, Patricia Kirkpatrick, James Lokhaiser, Larry Maggi, Mary Jo Morandini, Dan Onorato, William Peduto, Luke Ravenstahl, James Ritzman, Carmen Rozzi, Rod Ruddock, Robert Schiffbauer, Richard Shaw, Renee Sigel, Anthony Spossey, Byron Stauffer, Joe Szczur, Letitia Thompson, Vincent Vicites, Daniel Vogler, Jake Wheatley, Angela Zimmerlink, and Yarone Zober.

Staff: Kirk Brethauer, Chuck DiPietro, Linda Duffy, Chuck Imbrogno, Vince Massaro, Marge Nalesnick, Shannon O'Connell, Kay Tomko, Debbie Tritsch, Lew Villotti, and Sara Walfoort.

Others: Karen Rollins Fitch, Representative Jake Wheatley's Office

1. Action on Minutes of the September 28th Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2009 meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission by Commissioner Macey which was seconded by Commissioner Ceraso. The affirmative vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

2. Public Comment

None.

Commissioner Camp introduced a new SPC alternate voting member from the Port Authority of Allegheny County. Wendy Stern is the Assistant General Manager, Planning and Development. She is serving as the alternate for Steve Bland.

3. Freight Database Presentation

Chuck Imbrogno provided a presentation on Freight Planning / Data Overview:

Why Focus on Freight Data?:

- SAFETEA-LU Programs:
 - Projects of National and Regional Significance
 - National Corridor Infrastructure Improvement
 - Truck Parking
 - Freight Professional Development

- National Cooperative Freight Research Program
- Reauthorization:
 - Expect Greater Emphasis on Intermodal/Multimodal Issues
- Transportation Planning Regulations:
 - TIP – Support the Movement of People and Goods
 - Long Range Plan – Facilitate Safe and Efficient Movement of People and Goods
 - Planning Process – Serve the Mobility Needs of People and Freight
 - Participation Plan – Include Reasonable Opportunity for Interested Parties to be Involved in the Planning Process (including Providers of Freight Transportation Services)
- Regional Transportation and Development Plan for Southwestern Pennsylvania:
 - Policies Impacting Goods Movement:
 - Investment in Infrastructure Improvements will be Coordinated and Targeted at the Corridor level to Optimize the Impact of the Investment
 - Transportation and Development Choices will Reflect a Priority on Safe and Secure Multimodal and Intermodal Networks for both People and Goods
 - The Region will Place a Priority on Business Development with a Focus on Existing Business Retention and Expansion
 - Freight Infrastructure Summarized in Plan:
 - Waterways and Ports
 - Aviation
 - Rail Lines
 - Highways
- Still a Need to:
 - Integrate Freight / Goods Movement into Transportation and Land-Use Decisions
 - Better Understand Relationships Between –
 - Goods Movement
 - Regional Business and Workforce
 - Economic Development
 - Agriculture
 - Environment
 - Public Health
 - Coordinate Freight Interests Within Regional Planning Context –
 - Transportation
 - Economic Development
 - Environmental Planning
- Need For Freight-Specific Data:
 - Commodity Flows
 - Commodity Types
 - Commodity Origins, Destinations, Modes
- Data Purchased – Received June 2009
 - Global Insight –Transearch Data

- Over 500 Commodity Types
- Modes – Truck, Air, Water, Other
- Freight Volume (tons) and Value by Commodity
- Flows To / From / Through 35 Counties
- Nearly 2,000 Origin / Destination Points
- Base Year – 2007
- Forecast Years Through 2035

The following charts and maps were shown and discussed:

- Freight Data Area
- Freight (Tons) To / From / Through Region
- Freight (Value) To / From / Through Region
- Freight (Value/Ton) To / From / Through Region
- Growth – Freight From SPC Region
- Growth – Freight To SPC Region
- Freight From SPC Region – By County
- Freight To SPC Region – By County
- Top 10 Commodities (tons) Originating in the 10-County SPC Region, 2007
- Top 10 Commodities (tons) Destined to the 10-County SPC Region, 2007
- Top 10 Commodities (value) Originating in the 10-County SPC Region, 2007
- Top 10 Commodities (value) Destined to the 10-County SPC Region, 2007
- Top 10 Commodities (value per ton) Originating in the 10-County SPC Region, 2007
- Top 10 Commodities (value per ton) Destined to the 10-County SPC Region, 2007
- Top 10 Commodities (tons) Originating in Butler County SPC Region, 2007
- Top 10 Commodities (tons) Destined to Butler County SPC Region, 2007
- Top 10 Commodities (value) Originating in Butler County SPC Region, 2007
- Top 10 Commodities (value) Destined to Butler County SPC Region, 2007
- Top 10 Commodities (value per ton) Originating in Butler County SPC Region, 2007
- Top 10 Commodities (value per ton) Destined to Butler County SPC Region, 2007
- Freight From Butler County
- Freight To Butler County

- **Benefits of Freight / Goods Movement Data:**

- Better sense of benefits of transportation infrastructure improvements –
 - Provide estimates of value / tonnage of freight on key highways
 - Provide projections of how that may change in the future.
- Better sense of how goods flow in and out of the region –
 - Where does freight entering the region come from?
 - Where does freight leaving the region go to?
 - How much stays within the region?
 - How much is just passing through?
- Better sense of commodity types –
 - In / out / through the region
 - How commodity mix may change in the future.
- Better sense of the value to the local economy

- **Benefits of Freight / Goods Movement Data:**
 - Provides Information to Better Integrate Transportation and Land-use Decisions
 - Facilitates Better Understanding of Relationship Between –
 - Goods Movement
 - Regional Business and Workforce
 - Economic Development
 - Agriculture
 - Environment
 - Public Health
 - Provides Ability to Better Coordinate Freight Interests Within Regional Planning Context –
 - Transportation
 - Economic Development
 - Environmental Planning

4. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update

Chuck DiPietro provided a status report on the Update of the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

TIP Update Key Dates

- December 31 – SPC Preliminary Draft TIP due to Central Office
- January 30 – Central Office Response to Preliminary Draft (including spike “decisions”)
- March 1 – Closure with Central Office on Draft TIP
- March/April/May – Technical Documentation/Air Quality Testing
 - Project Evaluation / Selection
 - Benefits / Burdens Environmental Justice Assessment
 - Consistency with LRP and its 16 Policy Statements
 - TIP Draft from LRP Investment Guidance and Consistent with 16 Policy Statements
- May/June/July – Public Review/Comment
- July 26 – Request for Commission Adoption

Work Sessions with Individual TOC Transit Operators

- Advance TIP Transit Program of Projects from LRP – Consistent with 16 Plan Policy Statements
 - Same Guidance / Schedule As for Highway Draft TIP Program of Projects
 - Also same funding challenge as for Highway Priority to try to keep up with basic infrastructure transit maintenance and service needs

Public Involvement/PPP Outreach

- November 5 – STC Public Hearing RET – 8:30 a.m. start on the 31st Floor
 - Up front, Jim Hassinger will present a “State of the SPC Region” overview

- November 9 – Introductory Webinar on TIP Update Progress / Status
- PPP Educational Forums – Underway
 - County individual PPPs are convening, as needed – 10/22 Greene County PPP; 11/13 Lawrence County PPP; 11/16 Washington County PPP; 11/17 Westmoreland County PPP
 - Will continue thru TIP adoption

CMAQ Program of Projects

- Funds Available Over 4 years - \$102.7 M
- 32 Carryover Projects @ \$95.6 M
 - There is a difference of \$7.1M between funds available and carryover projects
 - Now assessing which of these 32 will be fully delivered by end of FFY & need not be on new TIP
- 53 Applications Received @ \$142.2 M
- Testing by Staff /Evaluation by Evaluation Committee Members Underway
 - Criteria includes consistency with Long Range Plan and Check versus Plan’s 16 Policy Statements
- December 7 – Evaluation Committee Recommendations
 - Evaluation Committee met October 9
 - Will meet again October 29, November 10 (select project sponsor presentations), and November 23
- December 14 – Present recommendations to SPC Executive Committee

District Work Sessions
Advance Projects from LRP

With SPC 11 member planning departments

- Round 1 – Completed – Update Project Costs & Schedules
 - No room for new projects
 - Some phases of currently programmed projects will not make preliminary draft TIP recommendation
- Round 2 – November 16-17 – Advance Preliminary Draft TIP
- Round 3 – December 8-15 – Refine/Revisit Preliminary Draft TIP
- Present status report at December 14th Commission Meeting, as move to meeting December 31st deadline of preliminary draft TIP due to Central Office
- Interstate Management Program Preliminary Draft – Just received from Central Office
 - All projects programmed to be based on statewide need
 - Emphasis continues to be on maintenance of mainline Interstate roadways and deficient Interstate bridges
 - Central Office’s Program Center solicited candidate IM projects from each District
 - For roadway projects, Bureau of Maintenance & Operations project evaluation criteria checklist was used
 - For bridges, PennDOT’s Risk Assessment tool was used
- State of SPC Region Report at November 5 STC Public Hearing

- o Jim Hassinger will be delivering “up front” at opening of the public hearing

5. Committee Reports

Intergovernmental Affairs Committee

Commissioner Ceraso gave a summary of the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee meeting which convened that morning. The main topic was federal appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2010-2011. Mr. Villotti led the discussion on the trip to Washington D.C. to visit with our congressional delegation to discuss regional projects for appropriations. The feedback from Congressional offices has been that there are simply too many projects to advocate for. Ideally, each congressional office would like to meet / discuss one project per district, presented by the region. We need to refine our list. Questions arose about what can we do on the county level; and what can we do on the Washington district level for our projects? The counties would have their own list of projects, but would group them by priority. Then we would group the top listings into a regional priority list for the delegation. These key projects should be ready to go, have job creation, with appropriations being the last money into the project.

Regional Policy Advisory Committee

Commissioner Craig gave a recap of the Regional Policy Advisory Committee Meeting which was held earlier that day. There was a lively discussion on a number of projects. First of all funding. We were informed by Mr. Villotti on the Regional Smart Transportation/Livable Communities Initiative. It was determined that we should move forward. There will be a motion coming forward to relative to funding the Smart Transportation Initiative and on how to proceed with managing the program. We also talked about issues relating to the State budget and the impact that it has on the counties and regional organizations. We talked about how we might proceed. One of the members came up with the idea that we ought to be having a report card for our legislators in terms of their performance relative to the aid or needs of counties and regional organizations; it was determined that the initiative ought to be led by our State Association of County Commissioners. We will have more discussion on that at our next meeting.

6. Staff Report/Other Business/Announcements

State Transportation Commission Public Hearing – November 5, 2009

Next Meeting Date – December 14, 2009

7. New Business

None.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rodney Ruddock
Secretary-Treasurer