

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of
June 24, 2013

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The one hundred second meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission was called to order by Vice Chairman Steve Craig.

Members present were: Tony Amadio, Alfred Ambrosini, Chuck Anderson, David Battaglia, Robert Brooks, Tom Ceraso, Jack Cohen, Tyler Courtney, Steve Craig, Terry Daughenbaugh, Mary Ann Eisenreich, Rich Fink, Rich Fitzgerald, Lynn Heckman, David Johnston, Clifford Levine, Larry Maggi, Jeff Marshall, William McCarrier, David Miller, Charles Morris, Rich Palilla, A. Dale Pinkerton, Marc Roncone, Michael Silvestri, Joe Spanik, Archie Trader, Blair Zimmerman and Dan Shimshock via conference call.

Members absent were: Robert Bower, Ricky Burgess, Daniel Cessna, Brigid Hynes-Cherin, Albert D'Alessandro, Robert Del Signore, Joseph Dubovi, Patricia Evanko, David Frick, Jim Gagliano, Jr., Joe Grata, Kelly Gray, Fred Junko, Robert Macey, Robbie Matesic, Bruce Mazzoni, Kevin McCullough, Ellen McLean, Laura Mohollen, Dennis Nichols, Luke Ravenstahl, James Ritzman, Carmen Rozzi, Robert Rubinstein, Rod Ruddock, Richard Shaw, Daniel Shimshock, Harlan Shober, Renee Sigel, Mark Snyder, Byron Stauffer, Jr., Wendy Stern, James Struzzi, Joe Szczur, Diana Ireya Vaughan, Daniel Vogler, Christopher Wheat, Angela Zimmerlink and Yarone Zober.

Others: Tom Halloran, URA Pittsburgh; Mary Jo Morandini, Beaver County Transit Authority; Keith Johnson, URS Corporation; Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County Department of Economic Development; Edmond Reddy, Whitehall Borough; Ned Williams, Montour Trail; and Kim Bickar, Mary Beth Douglass, Bill Douglass, Chris Gleason, and Janella Gleason.

Staff: Jim Hassinger, Kirk Brethauer, Jamie Colecchi, Chuck DiPietro, Linda Duffy, Chuck Imbrogno, Vince Massaro, Shannon O'Connell, Kay Tomko, Lew Villotti and Sara Walfoort.

1. Presentation of the Joseph A. James Excellence in Local Government Achievement Award to Edmond J. Reddy

Vice Chairman Craig provided background information. The Joseph A. James Memorial Award recognizes a municipal government elected or appointed official in any local government, agency, or Council of Government 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.

Joe James, a noted scholar with the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, was a lifelong advocate for intergovernmental cooperation and professionalism in local government.

Edmond J. Reddy has over 30 years of local government experience including his 25 years of service with the Borough of Whitehall and 19 years as Borough Manager. While at Whitehall, Ed put together a multi-municipal refuse collection and recycling program for several municipalities including Whitehall Borough which still exists today.

During a crisis with the emergency medical services provider in Whitehall and was no longer a viable entity and the borough had no EMS coverage; Ed immediately identified an alternative emergency medical service provider to step in to provide seamless service to Whitehall Borough residents through Medical Rescue Team South Authority.

Ed started his career in local government working for the Model Cities Program and the Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments. Ed has been active with the Pennsylvania Local Government Services Association and the Association for Pennsylvania Municipal Management. He served as president of the Association for Pennsylvania Municipal Management from 1989-1990. He has also been involved with Municipal Employers Insurance Trust as well as Municipal Risk Management, serving as chair of the Loss Control Committee in 1997.

Since his retirement from Whitehall in 1999, Ed worked part-time at the Zoning Office for the Borough of Pleasant Hills until July 2011. From January through August of 2012, Ed served as Interim Township Manager for Elizabeth Township.

Ed served in the United States Marines from 1953-1956.

Ed is married with four children and eleven grandchildren. He lives in the Borough of Whitehall and enjoys playing golf, traveling, spending time with family and mastering his iPad.

2. Action on Minutes of April 29th Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the April 29, 2013 meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission by Commissioner Trader which was seconded by Commissioner Fink. The affirmative vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

3. Public Comment – None

4. Financial Report – Vince Massaro

Mr. Massaro reported on the financials for the Corporation and Commission for the period July 1, 2012 to May 31, 2013. This financial report is compared to the revised budget that was adopted at the February 2013 meeting. Total project related revenues on a revised budget of \$17.3M, actual and encumbered to date is \$16.9M or 97.56% of the budget. He explained that there were no unexpected revenue items to report at this time. On the total carryover project related revenues, actual and encumbered to date are \$139,000 budgeted for those projects and they are 100% complete. The carryover projects include the Regional Traffic Signal Cycle I, the Linking Planning and NEPA, Sustainable Communities, and Local Asset Management projects. Of the total project related expenditures of \$17.3M budgeted, \$16.9M are the actual revenues recognized and encumbered or

97.56%. Again, the carry-over projects are 100% complete at \$99,000 budgeted and \$99,000 recognized to date.

Mr. Massaro informed the Committee that the auditors are scheduled to come in July to perform their annual interim audit. It will take about a week. And then they return in September to do the full audit of the agency and corporation's financial records.

5. Action on Resolution 9-13 to Approve and Endorse the Region's Area Development Project Priority Listing and Authorize Submission of an Application for Funds – Lew Villotti

Mr. Villotti explained that this is our annual submission for ARC funds. He explained that this takes place on both the state and federal levels. The Economic Development Strategy Committee recommends their final project listing to the Department of Community and Economic Development for their review who then submits them to the Appalachian Regional Commission for final consideration.

ARC Project Evaluation

- ARC grant programs are competitive
- Projects are evaluated and ranked by the Economic Development Strategy Committee
- Recommendation to the Commission
- ARC is not obligated to adhere to ranking, but it is “strongly considered”

ARC & EDA Project Evaluation

- Committee ranks ARC projects in two categories:
 - *Sec. 201 Local Access Road projects*
 - *Sec. 214 Construction and Sec. 302 Non-Construction projects*

Commissioner Battaglia moved:

WHEREAS, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) provides funding for projects through the 201 Local Access Road program; and,

WHEREAS, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) provides funding for projects through the 214 Construction and 302 Non-Construction programs; and,

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Local Development District (LDD) to establish a process for submitting construction and non-construction projects to ARC for funding; and,

WHEREAS, this is a competitive process for limited funding wherein county projects are prioritized and submitted to the State; projects from across Pennsylvania compete for prioritization and are submitted to ARC for funding; and projects from all thirteen states in the Appalachian region compete for ARC funds; and,

WHEREAS, the eligibility and the ratio of funding is dependent upon the level of economic distress, as determined by ARC, of the county in which the project is located; and,

WHEREAS, SPC facilitated a meeting of its Economic Development Strategy Committee, on June 21, 2013, to establish a ranked regional project list; and

WHEREAS, SPC's Partnership for Regional Economic Performance is the top regional project for ARC's 302 Non-Construction funds and will provide direct hands-on assistance to businesses through international trade assistance, low interest loans, government procurement, and electronic commerce, and will provide direct assistance to communities through economic planning and research, and technology assistance; and,

WHEREAS, the 201 Local Access Road projects, priority ranked by the region's Economic Development Strategy Committee, include:

1. Kittanning Street Improvement Project: Funds, in part, final design costs for street improvements along Market Street.
2. Midland Road Improvement: Project includes the bituminous milling, profiling and base repair on road service on 13th Street in Midland.
3. University Park Road: Major road renovation/construction to make the University Business Park more marketable and attractive to potential tenant, as well as improving the safety and reliability of the roads.
4. California Technology Park Road Improvements: The project involves the reconstruction of Technology Drive, which is the only means of ingress and egress for the Technology Park.
5. Sharpsburg Freight Access: The project will create an access road into an industrial park with separated space for bike and pedestrian trail connection.

WHEREAS, the 214 Construction and 302 Non-Construction projects, priority ranked by the region's Economic Development Strategy Committee, include:

1. Zelienople Main Street Project: Project will construct 915 LF of infrastructure along Main Street in Zelienople and storm sewer infrastructure in the new municipal parking lot.
2. FayPenn Food Hub: Project activities include the establishment of a food hub and incubator to promote local food businesses and provide a grocery store for an inner-city neighborhood.
3. Greene County Traffic District: The funding will support a planning study and Capital Improvements Plan to create a Transportation Partnership District.
4. Construction in Aspinwall: Provide engineering and decommissioning services to improvement water treatment facility and reduce costs to the municipality.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Members of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission adopt and approve the aforementioned lists and projects, and authorize the Commission

Executive Director and the Corporation President to submit all necessary applications and enter into all agreements and contracts pursuant thereto.

Mr. Villotti commented that these projects are in existing communities and the projects are on our Long Range Plan. They are ranked in order of submission.

Commissioner Maggi seconded. The affirmative vote carried.

6. Action of Resolution 10-13 to Amend the Region's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to Include a Special Study to be Carried Out by the Beaver County Transit Authority called: "Shelter Planning Study" – Tom Klevan

Mr. Klevan explained that the Federal Transit Administration urges their recipients to use the Federal Urban Area Formula Program funds for technical studies of special interest to the transit agency. They may use these program funds to supplement regular formula planning funds. And when they do use these funds for planning purposes, that project must be listed on the Unified Planning Work Program.

Commissioner Spanik moved:

WHEREAS, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) authorizes funding and support of transportation planning, research and demonstration activities; and

WHEREAS, the following new transportation planning project is proposed for funding in the 2013-2014 Program:

Beaver County Transit Authority "Shelter Planning Study" at a total cost not to exceed \$10,000 (\$8,000 Federal Urban Area Formula [Section 5307] Program funds; \$2,000 State Act 44 Funds) to perform a study to determine the best location for passenger shelters in the Beaver County Transit Authority transit network as well as providing a plan to work with local government agencies for their approval of shelter locations and mutual maintenance agreements.

WHEREAS, the Transit Operators Committee acted at its June 12, 2013 meeting to include the project on the FFY2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program for funding in FFY 2013; and

WHEREAS, planning projects must also be included on an approved Unified Planning Work Program before federal funding can be approved.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission approves revisions to the 2013-2014 UPWP to include the planning project "Shelter Planning Study" as requested by the Beaver County Transit Authority.

Mr. Ceraso seconded. The affirmative vote carried.

7. Action on Resolution 11-13 to Adopt a Meeting Schedule for 2013-2014 – Jim Hassinger

Commissioner Ambrosini moved:

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Sunshine Law 84 requires that a Schedule of all Commission, Executive Committee and Advisory Committee Meetings for the fiscal year be adopted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission adopts the attached Meeting Schedule.

Mr. Cohen seconded. The affirmative vote carried.

8. Action on Resolution 12-13 to Honor the Service to the Commission on Behalf of the Transit Operators' Committee by Beaver County Transit Authority Executive Director, Mary Jo Morandini – Steve Craig

Vice Chairman Craig moved:

WHEREAS, Mary Jo Morandini has represented the region's transit operators on the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission from 1999 through 2002 and from 2009 through June of 2013; and

WHEREAS, she has given generously of her time in all the activities of the agency; and

WHEREAS, her broad knowledge and professionalism has contributed to the Commission's public transit initiatives; and

WHEREAS, she has supported intermodal solutions to the region's transportation challenges.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the officers, members and staff of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission express their appreciation for her years of service and look forward to her continued participation in its activities.

Marc Roncone of the Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority will replace Mary Jo as a Commission member.

Ms. Heckman seconded. The affirmative vote carried.

9. Status Report on 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Chuck DiPietro

Mr. DiPietro directed the Commission members to the one-page summary titled *Commissioners 2015 TIP Update Briefing* in the meeting agenda packet. He noted that a similar TIP Update Handout will be part of each Commission agenda packet through the request for TIP adoption in 2014. Highlights on Mr. DiPietro's power point presentation included:

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2015 TIP Development

Focus Areas for TIP Process Enhancement

1. Increasing planning activities and engagement within Work Groups
2. Improving Key Stakeholder/Partner Communication
3. Integrating Public Involvement

2015 HIGHWAY TIP Update Round 2 Work Sessions Dates

June 20th, District 10-0
July 1st, District 12-0
July 9th, District 11-0

1. Revisit last TIP public comments
2. Review public input forms and new candidate lists
3. Advance candidate projects to further screening and evaluation

2015 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION TIP Update Round 1 Work Sessions

July 17th, at SPC

1. Revisit last TIP public comments
2. Review public input forms
3. Review current TIP programs of projects and expected obligations
4. Advance candidate projects to further screening and evaluation

CMAQ Program Development

- June 4th Evaluation Committee meeting
- August 1st: Program Guidance/Call for Candidate Projects
- Mid-August: Informational Forum for Project Sponsors
- September 3rd: Deadline for Submitting CMAQ Candidate Project Applications

2015 TIP Update PA Statewide Financial Guidance & PA Statewide Procedural Guidance

- Monthly Meetings: January - June
- Statewide Approval by end of July 2014

Approach to Public Involvement

- April/May 2013: PPP Orientation
- Sept/Oct. 2013: 10 County Meetings Update on Candidate Project Screenings
- Spring 2014: 10 County Meetings Public Comment of Draft 2015 TIP

10. Other Business/Announcements – Jim Hassinger

Report on U.S. DOT Certification Visit

Mr. Hassinger reported that on June 11-13th the U.S. DOT Certification Review Team visited SPC. No less than once every four years, the U.S. DOT is required to review and certify our region's metropolitan transportation planning and programming process as consistent with all applicable federal laws and regulations. The three day visit by the FHWA/FTA team included regular meetings of both SPC's Transit Operators Committee and Transportation Technical Committee, and a public meeting. U.S. DOT's final report to be issued in approximately 120 to 180 days after their visit, will summarize discussions during the review and U.S. DOT's findings.

Vice Chairman Craig referred the members to the letter in the agenda packet from the Chief Executive Officer of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission explaining that they would not be able to be here tonight regarding their Long Range Plan amendment request (tabled at the April 30th Commission meeting).

Next Meeting Date – September 23, 2013

11. New Business None

12. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Charles Anderson
Secretary-Treasurer