

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission  
Minutes of the Meeting of  
September 28, 2015 – 4:30 p.m.

Two Chatham Center • Suite 400 • 112 Washington Place • Pittsburgh, PA 15219

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

Members present were: Charles Anderson, Robert Brooks, Tom Ceraso, H. Daniel Cessna, Tyler Courtney, Steve Craig, Rich Fitzgerald, Joe Grata, Kelly Gray, Dick Hadley, Lynn Heckman, David Johnston, Fred Junko, Clifford Levine, Larry Maggi, Jeff Marshall, Robbie Matesic, William McCarrier, Kevin McCullough, Amy McKinney, David Miller, Erin Molchany, A. Dale Pinkerton, Johnna Pro, Aurora Sharrard, Daniel Shimshock, Michael Silvestri, A. Keith Staso, Archie Trader, Blair Zimmerman, and Christopher Wheat (via phone).

Members absent were: Tony Amadio, Alfred Ambrosini, Vonne Andring, Michael Baker, David Battaglia, Robert Bower, Scott Bricker, Ricky Burgess, Jack Cohen, Robert Del Signore, Joseph Dubovi, Patricia Evanko, Rich Fink, Jim Gagliano, Jr., Terry Garcia-Crews, Robert Macey, Ellen McLean, Laura Mohollen, Charles Morris, Dennis Nichols, Rich Palilla, John Paul, William Peduto, Mavis Rainey, James Ritzman, Rod Ruddock, Harlan Shober, Renee Sigel, Joe Spanik, Byron Stauffer, Jr., James Struzzi, Joe Szczur, Edward Typanski, Diana Irey Vaughan, Daniel Vogler, Dwan Walker, and Angela Zimmerlink.

Others: Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County Department of Economic Development; Grant Ervin, City of Pittsburgh; Tom Ryser and Doug Straley, Sports & Exhibition Authority.

Staff: Jim Hassinger, Kirk Brethauer, Chuck Imbrogno, Rena Liu-Belshe, Vince Massaro, Shannon O'Connell, Dee Pamplin, Matt Pavlosky, Doug Smith, Kay Tomko and Lew Villotti.

1. Chairman Craig called to order the September 28, 2015 meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

- a. Quorum – There being a quorum present the meeting proceeded.
- b. Any Conflict of Interest Declarations on Action Items – None.

2. Action on Minutes of the July 27, 2015 Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2015 meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission by Commissioner Pinkerton which was seconded by Fred Junko. The affirmative vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

3. Public Comment – None.

#### 4. Financial Report – Vincent Massaro

Mr. Massaro first informed the Commission that the external auditors have finished their field work and will be drafting the audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. Mr. Massaro continued with the financial report, which includes the approved budget and reflects the operations of the Commission, the Corporation and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Regional Corporation.

On June 29, 2015 the SPRC Members met and approved a plan of complete liquidation and voluntary dissolution of that Corporation. On August 20, 2015, the petition for distribution of assets of that Corporation was granted by the courts. Distribution of those funds will pay for all the legal expenses and the accounting expenses related to the filing of the 990 tax return by action of the courts. The remaining assets will be distributed to The Pittsburgh Foundation.

#### 5. Staff Profile – Rena Liu-Belshe

Mr. Villotti introduced staff member Rena Liu-Belshe, SPC's Export Development Assistance Manager. Mrs. Liu-Belshe gave background on herself beginning in Shanghai, China. She finished her education with an MBA from American Graduate School of International Management. Her work experience brought her to SPC, where she is starting her 15th year providing export service to the business community in the SPC region. Also, being part of one of the best export assistance programs in the nation, her department has received the President's E-award in early 2015. Finally, enjoying hiking so much, she has hiked every county in the region.

#### 6. Action on Resolution 6-15 to Amend Mapping the Future: The Southwestern Pennsylvania Plan, adding the I-579 CAP Project – Doug Smith

Mr. Smith explained Resolution 6-15 of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission to amend *Mapping the Future: The Southwestern Pennsylvania Plan*. SPC adopted *Mapping the Future: The Southwestern Pennsylvania Plan* on June 29, 2015, in accordance with applicable planning requirements. The I-579 Cap project is a high-quality connection between the Lower Hill District, a disadvantaged urban community, and downtown Pittsburgh, a center for employment, education and services. The project creates non-motorized transportation connections and a new public open space tying these neighborhoods together. The I-579 Cap project is air quality neutral and does not impact the Air Quality Conformity Determination of the long range plan. Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh have submitted a project financial plan identifying proposed local, private and discretionary funding sources to cover the \$39,250,000 estimated construction cost for the I-579 Cap project, with municipal access to the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank as a contingency documented in the project financial plan. SPC distributed the proposed amendment for public review following the adopted SPC Public Participation Plan from July 29, 2015, to August 28, 2015, including a public meeting on August 12, 2015, with no adverse comments having been received. SPC's Transportation Technical Committee has reviewed the I-579 Cap project and recommends to the Commission its addition to the fiscally-constrained element of the long range plan.

Mr. Fitzgerald moved to approve Resolution 6-15 and Ms. Heckman seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Action on Resolution 7-15 to Adopt an Updated Public Participation Plan – Matt Pavlosky

Mr. Pavlosky explained Resolution 7-15 to adopt an updated Public Participation Plan. The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission has a shared obligation with the public to identify, define, evaluate and address the objectives, needs and alternatives for all modes of the region's transportation system.

Communication with the public contributes to more effective and innovative transportation planning that is representative of and responsive to the needs of the entire region.

A defined Public Participation Plan is necessary and desirable as it provides a framework for the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission to conduct an open process that elicits the input and active involvement of all affected individuals, groups and communities from the earliest planning stages.

The FTA funded transit agencies in the region rely on the MPO's public involvement process for the Transportation Improvement Program to meet their public involvement process requirements of the Program of Projects (POP).

The updated Public Participation Plan includes expanded language to further clarify that the public process for the Transportation Improvement Program satisfies the Program of Projects requirements of the Federal Transit Administration by listing the individual names of the participating transit agencies for which the MPO public participation process satisfies the Program of Projects requirements of the Urbanized Area Formula Program of the Federal Transit Administration: Beaver County Transit Authority, Butler Transit Authority, Fayette Area Coordinated Transit, Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority, Port Authority of Allegheny County, Washington County Transportation Authority, Westmoreland County Transit Authority, Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, and CommuteInfo, a program of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission.

A draft updated Public Participation Plan was made available for public review and comment for a period of 45 days, a public meeting was held, and comments were received and considered as required by federal transportation planning legislation and SPC's existing Public Participation Plan.

Dave Johnston moved to approve Resolution 7-15 and Ms. Gray seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

8. TIP Status Report – Doug Smith

Mr. Smith briefed the Commission on the draft 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). At this point, the final statewide financial guidance that establishes the split of funds to MPOs and RPOs has not been distributed. SPC staff serves on the statewide financial guidance work group putting that together, and anticipates having the final guidance ready within a week or two. Because of Act 89, there is more money going to local municipalities through their liquid fuels for maintenance, and more money is going to PennDOT county maintenance units for the upkeep of roads and bridges. There are also additional funding programs like the Multimodal and

Green Light Go traffic signal program. Our region has also benefitted greatly from the public-private partnership rapid bridge replacement program, with about 30% of the bridges being repaired in Southwestern Pennsylvania. However, a number of factors are likely to result in the region's capital highway and bridge program not being substantially changed (in terms of overall dollar value) for the 2017-2020 TIP.

As part of the TIP update, project candidate applications for Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funding were accepted from July 31<sup>st</sup> through September 1<sup>st</sup>. The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) project application period is open now through October 19. Local project delivery workshops are being held around the region to let municipalities know that these funding sources are available and to help them apply for funding. The regional TAP application cycle, is being run prior to the statewide cycle in order to give project sponsors an opportunity to improve their applications and resubmit for consideration at the statewide level.

SPC staff will be continuing to develop the Draft TIP through a series of work sessions with county, city, and PennDOT planning partner staffs and will provide the Commission an opportunity to review the Draft TIP before it is submitted to PennDOT in December.

9. Committee Reports

- a. Regional Policy Advisory Committee – Larry Maggi

Commissioner Maggi reported that the RPAC discussed update of the Comprehensive Development Strategy. Discussions included transportation, coal issues, gas and oil, the urban core in Pittsburgh, and what's good for the region.

10. Other Business/Announcements

- a. Next Meeting Date – December 14th

11. New Business – None

12. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Larry Maggi  
Secretary-Treasurer