



SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION

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Southwestern Pennsylvania Active Transportation Forum

**September 7, 2016
Meeting Summary**

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Westmoreland County
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Governor's Office
Erin Molchany

PA Dept. of Community &
Economic Development
Johnna A. Pro

PA Dept. of Transportation
James D. Ritzman

Executive Director
James R. Hassinger

Attendance

Angela	Saunders	PennDOT D-12
Andrea	Elock	Port Authority
Ann	Ogoreuc	Allegheny County Economic Development
Betsy	Zang	McCormick Taylor
Brian	Letrick	PennDOT D-12
Carol	Reichbaum	University of Pittsburgh/WalkWorks
Courtney	Mahronich	The Progress Fund/Trail Town Program
David	White	Pittsburgh Bike Share
Donna	Green	Regional Trail Corporation
Eric	Boerer	BikePGH
Jeff	Grim	IUP Institute for Rural Health and Safety
Jerrold	Green	Northside Bike-Ped Committee
Jina	O'Neill	Oakland TMA
Josh	Krug	Indiana County Office of Planning & Development
Malie	Yoon	University of Pittsburgh
Mary	Shaw	Trail Volunteer Fund, Free Wheeling Easy
Mavis	Rainey	Oakland TMA
Mike	Zizan	Skelly & Loy
Richard	Feder	University of Pittsburgh, Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition
Roy	Weil	Trail Volunteer Fund, Free Wheeling Easy
Todd	Kravits	PennDOT D-11
William	Lesterick	PennDOT D-11

SPC Staff

Andy	Waple	Transportation Program Development Manager
Cathy	Tulley	Data Analyst
Chris	Jaros	GIS Analyst
Chuck	Imbrogno	Models & Data Analysis Manager
Cort	McCombs	GIS Analyst
Daniel	Alwine	Project Development Specialist
Dom	D'Andrea	Manager, Operations & Safety Programs
Doug	Smith	Transportation Planning Director
Kathy	Stefani	ATWIC Program Manager
Leann	Chaney	Transportation Planner
Matt	Pavlosky	Public Involvement/Outreach
Paige	Bogats	IUP Student Intern
Tom	Klevan	Manager, Multimodal Planning

1. Welcome & Introductions

Leann Chaney opened the meeting and asked for introductions from those in attendance.

2. Planning

Active Transportation Planning

SPC Nonmotorized Data Collection Program / Pilot Project

Leann presented a summary of SPC's summer 2016 pilot bike count project, which included installing and monitoring Eco-Counter bicycle counting equipment at the following locations in Allegheny County: Eliza Furnace Trail; North Shore Trail; Strip District Trail; Pearce Mill Road/North Park; as well as the Ghost Town Trail in Indiana County and the Panhandle Trail in Washington County. Plans are underway for one more installation on Neville Road in Allegheny County.

Paige Bogats discussed her internship role with SPC and her involvement in the bicycle data collection project. She explained the analysis that she conducted on bicycle counts for select locations and presented reports that she prepared for each analysis. The reports included weather information that she obtained from Weather Underground. Paige discussed the fact that adverse weather is likely to result in lower bicycle volumes and pointed out specific examples in her analysis and corresponding reports.

Paige also compared bicycle counts collected on a Sunday along the Chateau section of the North Shore Trail in July 2014, to counts obtained at that location on a similar Sunday in July 2016 (similar in regard to weather). The results show an increase in bicycle use over time: 2014 bicycle counts indicated a daily total of 766 bikes. 2016 data indicates a daily total of 1,052 bikes.

Cathy Tulley presented a draft, interactive SPC Tableau Dashboard that she created for use in analyzing and comparing bike count data from several counting sites. Tableau is a new data visualization tool that SPC has been working with. The dashboard, which is still under development, is not available for public viewing at this time. However, feedback was requested on desired viewing and analysis options that people would like to see incorporated into the display.

Suggestions included using a different color scheme, adding weather icons, a scale and average daily use for each count site.

3. Capacity building

Pedestrian

Walk-Friendly Policies and Design Guidelines

Jeff Grim (IUP Institute for Rural Health and Safety) presented walk-friendly policies and design guidelines for use in improving intersections around the IUP campus. Jeff

addressed crossing and corridor design guidelines and offered suggestions on how the MPO could help advance the bicycle and walk-friendliness of the region. Paige Bogats discussed her involvement this class project, her experiences evaluating the walking environment around campus and her recommendations for safety improvements at various intersections.

4. Engineering/Projects

SR 2040 Road Safety Audit (Lebanon Church Road, Curry Hollow Road) -not presented due to time constraints.

5. Funding Opportunities

Regional Priorities for Competitive Funding Programs

Andy Waple gave a presentation on regional priorities for SPC discretionary funding programs to include CMAQ, TAP and SMART. Andy shared that since many of the funding programs have broad eligibility guidelines that in many cases overlap, having priority guidelines can result in a portfolio of projects that can be better coordinated. He also emphasized that project eligibility remains the same for all programs. Andy provided a general overview of each program and discussed plan policy and plan implementation focuses for each program.

6. Education & Advocacy

Roundtable Updates

Angela Saunders stated that she has a new position with PennDOT and introduced Brian Letrick, who will be the new bike-ped coordinator for D-12. Todd Kravits (PennDOT D-11) offered to answer questions that anyone may have related to PennDOT projects and the remainder of the meeting involved open discussion on bicycle and pedestrian related aspects of PennDOT projects in the Pittsburgh area.