

**Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
Transportation Technical Committee (TTC)
Meeting Minutes via Webex
May 9, 2024, 10:00 a.m.**

Attendees:

- Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County Department of Economic Development
- Dan Distler, Beaver County Planning Commission
- Joel MacKay, Butler County Planning Commission
- Arthur Cappella, Fayette County Zoning, Planning, and Community Development
- Jeremy L. Kelly, Greene County Planning and Community Development
- Josh Krug, Indiana County Office of Planning and Development
- Amy McKinney, Lawrence County Planning
- Jason Theakston, Washington County Planning
- Nathan Clair, Westmoreland County Planning
- Stephen Shanley, Allegheny County Public Works
- Jeff Skalican, City of Pittsburgh
- Amy Mathieson, Airport Corridor Transportation Association
- Mavis Rainey, Oakland Transportation Management Association
- Tosh Chambers, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
- Jaclyn Karolski, Allegheny County Department of Economic Development
- Brendan Coticchia, City of Pittsburgh
- Becky Butler, Washington County Planning
- Savannah Grooms, Washington County Planning
- Brandon Leach, PennDOT Central Office
- Matthew Crea, PennDOT Central Office
- Julia Cornell, PennDOT Central Office
- Ronique Bishop, FHWA
- Adam Mattis, PennDOT DCNR
- Matthew Kelley, CDR Maguire
- Harold Swan, PennDOT District 10-0
- Domenic DeFazio, PennDOT District 10-0
- Dave Hollahan, PennDOT District 11-0
- Stephanie Ma, PennDOT District 11-0
- Dina Salemi, PennDOT District 11-0
- Angela Baker, PennDOT District 12-0
- Rachel Duda, PennDOT District 12-0
- Josh Theakston, PennDOT District 12-0
- Domenic D'Andrea, SPC Transportation Director
- Tom Klevan, SPC Staff
- Josh Spano, SPC Staff
- Dan Bernazzoli, SPC Staff
- Erica Eagan, SPC Staff
- Greg Shermeto, SPC Staff

- **Indicates TTC voting member**

1. **Call to Order**

Domenic D’Andrea called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with a roll call for the TTC members.

2. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

3. **Action on April 13th TTC Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Ann Ogoreuc and seconded by Jeff Skalican to approve the minutes of the April 13th TTC meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. **FHWA/PennDOT Central Office, Program Center Report from Brandon Leach, PennDOT Central Office and Vanessa Shamberg, FHWA**

Brandon Leach began the program center report by giving an update to the PennDOT Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TASA), mentioning that on April 25th there was an announcement of over \$49.5 million awarded to 35 projects, which will help community resources and enhance public accessibility across Pennsylvania. Four of these projects were located in the SPC region, with three in Allegheny County. These were sponsored by Bike Pittsburgh, the City of Pittsburgh, and Ross Township, with the fourth being a project sponsored by Indiana County. Brandon sent out a link to the awarded projects for anyone interested in more details on the awarded projects. Next, Brandon spoke on the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program, which is in its Round 1B funding opportunity. Rounds 1 and 1a of the program focused on building out the electric charging infrastructure on alternative fuel corridors across the state, and this round will hope to close the gaps still left in these corridors, while the next rounds will focus more on localized corridors. The program opens on May 13th, and will be open until July 10th. Brandon posted a link to the NEVI website, as well as a map of the available locations for Round 1B funding, which includes high-priority areas in Washington and Beaver county along interstate routes.

Next, Brandon discussed the release of 2023 Statewide traffic fatality data, which was released on the Pennsylvania Crash Information Tool website. In the past year, there were a total of 1209 fatalities on Pennsylvania roadways, up from 1179 last year. Several categories did see decreases, including drunk driver crashes, and crash fatalities at signalized intersections. Increases were seen in non-motorized fatalities, motorcycle fatalities, and fatalities in head-on opposite direction crashes. There was a total of 222 non-motorized fatalities last year, which in response PennDOT has released a vulnerable road user safety assessment report, which Brandon will be sending around to members of TTC for review. Lastly, Brandon touched on the news of the prohibition of cell phone use while driving a car in Pennsylvania. The bill was passed by the General Assembly last week, and it currently sits on Governor Shapiro’s desk, which he is expected to sign in the following days. This is already prohibited in 25 other states, includes all the states that border Pennsylvania, and will prohibit the use of all handheld cellular phone devices, except for under emergency purposes.

Ronique Bishop gave a FHWA update, beginning with discussing the transportation access pilot program. The first application period for this program was announced in April, and is for technical assistance, not funding, on transportation accessibility analysis studies. Letters of interest are due to FHWA by June 7th to be considered for the pilot program. More information on the program can be found at the FHWA website. Next, Ronnique spoke on the roadside pollinator program, which the deadline for this program is on June

18th. It is for the implementation, improvement, or further development of pollinator friendly practices on Federally eligible routes. Next, Ronnique discussed the Federal register notice of requests for information about the national multimodal freight network. This was discussed at the bi-monthly planning partner meeting last week, and information on this project was sent around then. If you haven't received information on this, and are interested in the freight network, please email FHWA operations manager Dan Walston for more information. Ronnique then mentioned the PROTECT discretionary grant program, which recently announced that it has awarded \$6.7 million to the I-376 flood wall project in downtown Pittsburgh.

5. **Action on Modifications to the 2021-2024 TIP**

A. PennDOT District 10-0

Harold Swan went over the one amendment and two administrative actions for PennDOT District 10-0. The first amendment was for the construction of a park-and-ride facility at the existing intersection of PA 403 and US 22 in East Wheatfield Township, Indiana County. The district requests to add this project and its study phase in FFY 2024 and program \$200,000 (100% Federal utilizing toll credits) into that phase. The source will be the D10/SPC Carbon Reduction Line Item. The first administrative action was for a bicycle and pedestrian education project, which includes the purchase of materials to educate and encourage children in kindergarten through eighth grade to safely walk or bicycle to school in Indiana Borough, Indiana County. The district requests to de-obligate the project to remove surplus construction funds from this project in FFY 2024 and place them into the Federal SRTS Reserve Line Item. The second administrative action was for a safety improvement project, which includes signal replacement/rehabilitation along the Route 8 Corridor from Penn Street to Pittsburgh Street in Butler City, Butler County. The district requests to increase construction and add \$516 (100% Federal) in FFY 2024 for a final invoice related to project closeout. The source will be the D10/SPC Carbon Reduction Line Item.

Josh Krug made a motion to approve the administrative actions from PennDOT District 10-0, which was seconded by Jeff Skalican. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. PennDOT District 11-0

John Quatman went over the one amendment and five administrative actions for PennDOT District 11-0. The first amendment was for the construction of a pedestrian and bicycle trail as part of Erie to Pittsburgh Trail system, located in Brackenridge Memorial Park and riverfront property along E 1st Ave in Brackenridge Borough, Allegheny County. The district requests to add a construction phase to the TIP by \$284,445 (TAU) in FFY 2024 for a scheduled project letting, with the source of funding coming from the SPC Region TAU line item. The first administrative action was for a Vision Zero comprehensive safety action plan (SAP), located in various areas within Allegheny County including the City of Pittsburgh. The district requests to add a study phase by \$65,000 (581) in FFY 2024 to cover state match for recent SS4A grant award, with the source of funding coming from the Betterment Reserve Allegheny line item. The second administrative action was for roadway relocation/realignment, box culvert replacement, new roundabout, paving, signing and pavement markings, guiderail, and highway lighting, located on SR 2004 (Freedom Road) from SR 65 to SR 989 in New Sewickley Township, Beaver County. Also including SR 989, Crows Run Road. The district requests to increase the construction phase by \$2,000,000 (STU) in FFY 2025 for added work needed to complete the

project, with the source of funding coming from the Betterment Reserve Allegheny line item and an available deobligation.

The third administrative action was for the construction of an Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) treatment system, located on SR 2004, Freedom Road in Freedom Road Borough, Beaver County. The district requests to add the project to the TIP for right of way for \$100K for estimated right-of-way impact. The district is also adding construction to the TIP for Acid Mine Drainage discovery. The source of funding will come from bid savings from the SR 18 – Liberty Street to Jefferson Street project. The fourth administrative action was for a bridge replacement, located on SR 0286 in Plum Borough, Allegheny County. The district requests to increase the planning and engineering phase by \$205,000 (CAQ) in FFY 2024 for current estimate and decrease the planning and engineering phase by \$4,000 (CAQ) in FFY 2025 and by \$71,000 (CAQ) in FFY 2026 for better cash flow. The source of funding will come from the SPC CMAQ line item. The fifth administrative action was for a bridge replacement project, located on Frankfort Road over Raccoon Creek in Potter Township, Beaver County. The district requests to increase the construction phase by \$5,600,000 (BRIP) in FFY 2024 for updated construction estimate, with the source of funding coming from the Bridge- Allegheny County line item.

Jeff Skalican made a motion to approve the administrative actions from PennDOT District 11-0, which was seconded by Amy McKinney. The motion was approved unanimously.

C. PennDOT District 12-0

Josh Theakston went over the thirteen administrative actions for PennDOT District 12-0. The first administrative action was for the replacement of the structure carrying PA 331 (Brush Run Road) over a branch of Brush Run, located in Hopewell Township, Washington County. The district requests to add a right-of-way phase to the FFY 2023 TIP in FFY 2024, with the source of state A-581 funds coming from the D12 Highway/Bridge Line Item (MPMS# 76508). The second administrative action was for the rehabilitation/replacement of the structure carrying SR 1055 (Thomas Eighty-Four Road) over a branch of Little Chartiers Creek, located in North Strabane Township, Washington County. The district requests to add a right-of-way phase to the FFY 2023 TIP in FFY 2024, with the source of state A-581 funds coming from the D12 Highway/Bridge Line Item (MPMS# 76508). The third administrative action was for the preservation of the structure carrying US 40 (National Pike) over Buffalo Creek, located in Buffalo Township, Washington County. The district requests to add a right-of-way phase to the FFY 2023 TIP in FFY 2024, with the source of state A-581 funds coming from the D12 Highway/Bridge Line Item (MPMS# 76508). The fourth administrative action was for the rehabilitation of the structure carrying SR 3014 (Vaneal Road) over Chartiers Creek, located in South Franklin Township, Washington County. The district requests to add a right-of-way phase to the FFY 2023 TIP in FFY 2024, with the source of state A-581 funds coming from the D12 Highway/Bridge Line Item (MPMS# 76508).

The fifth administrative action was for the replacement of the bridge carrying State Route 3001 (Aleppo Road) over UNT South Fork Dunkard Creek, located in Aleppo Township, Greene County. The district requests to add a construction phase to the FFY 2023 TIP in FFY 2025, with the source of state A-581 funds coming from the D12 Highway/Bridge Line Item (MPMS# 76508). The sixth administrative action was for the replacement of the bridge carrying State Route 3018 (Behm Road) over branch of Blacks Run, located in Aleppo Township, Greene County. The district requests to add a construction phase to the FFY 2023 TIP in

FFY 2025, with the source of state A-581 funds coming from the D12 Highway/Bridge Line Item (MPMS# 76508). The seventh administrative action was for the rehabilitation/replacement of the structure carrying Park Road over Cross Creek Tributary, located in Cross Creek Township, Washington County. The district requests to add a planning and engineering phase to the FFY 2023 TIP in FFY 2024, with the source of Federal BOF funds will be drawn from the D12 Highway/Bridge Line Item (MPMS# 76508). The eighth administrative action was to update the vehicle detection and signal equipment and institute an adaptive signal system through the US 19 corridor from the I-70/US 19 (DDI) Interchange to Race Track Road, located in South Strabane Township, Washington County. The district requests to add a planning and engineering phase to the FFY 2023 TIP in FFY 2024 for an AC conversion, with the source of Federal NHPP funds will be drawn from the D12 Highway/Bridge Line Item (MPMS# 76508). The ninth administrative action was for the replacement of the structure carrying PA 136 (West Newton Road) over Pollock Run, located in Rostraver Township, Westmoreland County. The district requests to adjust the cash flow and increase the construction phase on the FFY 2023 TIP from 2026 to FFY 2024, with the source of Federal STU and State A-185 funds will be drawn from the D12 Highway/Bridge Line Item (MPMS# 76508).

The tenth administrative action was for the resurfacing of SR 1020 from Lillian Street to Morgan Station Road for a total length of 4.3 miles, located in North Union Township, Fayette County. The district requests to adjust the cash flow of the construction phase on the FFY 2023 TIP from 2024 and 2025 to FFY 2029 to correspond with the project schedule, with the source of Federal STP funds will transfer through the D12 Highway/Bridge Line Item (MPMS# 76508). The eleventh administrative action was for the replacement of the structure carrying State Route 3001 (Day Road) over Wheeling Creek (Enlow Fork Bridge), located in Richhill Township, Greene County. The district requests to adjust the cash flow of the construction phase on the FFY 2023 TIP from 2024 and 2025 to FFY 2027 to correspond with the project schedule. The source of funding will be Federal STP funds returned to, and additional federal BRIP funds will be drawn from, the D12 Highway/Bridge Line Item (MPMS# 76508). The twelfth administrative action was for a reserve line item for future funding for concrete patching on various routes, located in various municipalities throughout Fayette County. The district requests to increase the construction phase on the FFY 2023 TIP in 2024 and 2025, with the source of Federal STP and NHPP funds will be drawn from the D12 Highway/Bridge Line Item (MPMS# 76508). The thirteenth administrative action was for a reserve line item for future funding for concrete patching on various routes, located in various municipalities throughout Fayette County. The district requests to increase the construction phase on the FFY 2023 TIP in 2024 and 2025, with the source of Federal STP and NHPP funds will be drawn from the D12 Highway/Bridge Line Item (MPMS# 76508).

Nathan Clair made a motion to approve the administrative actions from PennDOT District 12-0, which was seconded by Jason Theakston. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. **2025 TIP Update**

Domenic D'Andrea gave an update on the 2025 TIP, starting with a discussion of the SPC Competitive Program's Smart Transportation for Livable Communities (STLC) Program. Domenic gave a quick recap of the program so far, which began in February with the opening of the application period, which then closed in early April. Project evaluation and selection occurred throughout April, with discussion of the evaluation occurring at today's meeting, with an endorsement of the project list afterwards. The projects were evaluated on three scoring metrics; Technical themes of the STLC program, ancillary scoring, and deliverability scoring. The technical themes include transportation and land use, support of community goals, a multimodal approach to the project, safety results, and sustainability aspects,

while the ancillary themes include consistency with the SPC Long Range Plan vision and strategies, consistency with the active transportation plan and a bonus for DCNR Trail gaps, evidence of partnership and community support, environmental justice and Justice 40 initiatives, and funding and non-traditional funding.

Deliverability was assessed, ranked, and documented by a small committee of deliverability experts and was provided afterward to the ranking committee. Candidate projects that clearly demonstrate that the project is free of significant deliverability issues and can be delivered within the proposed budget and schedule are the projects that will receive favorable funding. These included ten identified deliverability factors, which included sponsor deliverability history, political and community support and opposition, environmental clearances, other agency involvement, project readiness, understanding of the deliverability process, anticipated utility involvement, railroad involvement, and right of way involvement. Domenic then showed the list of projects and their deliverability scores based on these criteria. Domenic discussed the weighting scenario for the program, which will see the technical factors weighted at 50% of the scoring, the deliverability at 40% of the scoring, and the ancillary factors at 10% of the scoring. This was the same scoring method as the other SPC competitive programs for the 2025 TIP (Carbon Reduction, Transportation Alternatives, and CMAQ).

Domenic then went over each of the STLCs project scores from the weighted results. In terms of final recommendations, there was a little over \$6 million in funding through the STLC program. Priority rankings for the program were set by the results of the evaluations, and these evaluations rank projects that deliver the greatest benefit and deliverability based on the objectives of the STLC program. Funds were given to the candidate projects in priority rank order, and when inadequate funds exist for the next ranked project, the remaining funds will be kept in a reserve fund. Domenic then showed the priority ranking and final recommendation list, which recommends funding 9 of the 10 STLC projects, for a total of \$5.14 million in funding, leaving the remaining \$855,000 in reserve. Domenic asked for a motion to recommend approval of the STLC projects. Arthur Cappella made a motion to approve the STLC recommended projects, which was seconded by Joel MacKay. The motion was approved unanimously. Domenic mentioned that these approved projects will be presented to the SPC executive committee for approval at the next meeting, and will be incorporated into the Final TIP at the end of June.

Next, Domenic spoke on the Draft TIP comment period, which began on May 8th and will run through June 7th. Written comments may be submitted online on the SPC website, or emailed to comments@spcregion.org. SPC has also begun its public meeting process, in which there will be eleven public meetings in the next 30 days, one in each of the ten SPC counties and one for the City of Pittsburgh. The public meetings in Indiana County and Beaver County have already been held, however the rest of the meetings are located in the packet, with times, locations, and dates. Harold Swan made a comment that the Indiana County meeting that was held had great attendance and everyone involved did very well in communicating the information and delivering a great presentation on the TIP.

7. **Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan Survey**

Tom Klevan gave an update on the Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan, which is an important part of the transit portion of the TIP. This plan helps to identify transportation gaps for people who are

elderly, disabled, or economically challenged. Tom discussed that there is currently a survey out on the SPC website which is the public facing process of the plan. There is also a stakeholder portion of the plan, however the public facing portion of the plan is equally as important. Tom went over where on the SPC website the survey is located, and also mentioned that a mailout will be sent out with a link to the survey, and to please send the link around to any constituents at the county and city level as possible. Ann Ogoreuc asked for a scope of work on the plan, which Tom mentioned that it is a required element of the TIP, in which the plan takes a look at what is going on in terms of public transit services in the region. This includes all of the shared ride and transport in the region, and trying to figure out a way to make the entire shared system more efficient by eliminating gaps in service. Tom mentioned its difficult to get a sense of this scale at a County level, but on a regional level it can be found through a point of view from the users of these systems, hence why its important to get the survey out to as many people as possible who use the public transit in the region.

8. **Other Business/Status Reports**

There was no other business to report.

9. **Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by Amy McKinney and seconded by Ann Ogoreuc. The motion was passed unanimously and Domenic D'Andrea called for the adjournment of the meeting at 11:03 AM.