

**Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation Board of Directors &
Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes
SPC Offices – Terminal Building & Cisco WebEx Meeting
April 22, 2024
3 p.m.**

The three hundred and eighty-first meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation Board of Directors and the two hundred and first meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission Executive Committee was called to order by Chairman Fabian.

SPC Board Members present: Pat Fabian, Rich Fitzgerald, Ed Gainey, Robin Gorman, Sara Innamorato, Dan Kennedy, Sean Kertes, Betsy McClure, Nick Sherman, and Vince Vicites.

SPC Executive Committee Members present were: Pat Fabian, Rich Fitzgerald, Ed Gainey, Robin Gorman, Sara Innamorato, Patrick Joyal, Dan Kennedy, Sean Kertes, Betsy McClure, Krstin Mulkerin, Johnna Pro, Nick Sherman, and Vince Vicites.

Others: Kevin Boozel, Butler County Board of Commissioners; Brandon Leach, PennDOT Central Office; Darin Alviano, Armstrong County Planning; Dusty Kirk, Reed Smith LLP; Chuck Kolling, Buchanan Ingersoll and Rooney; Erin Molchany, Buchanan Ingersoll and Rooney; and Aadil Ginwala, University of Pittsburgh.

Staff: Belachew Ayele, Mary Brangan, Kirk Brethauer, Leann Chaney, Faith Collins, Ronda Craig, Dom D'Andrea, Linda Duffy, Lillie Gabreski, Ryan Gordon, Chuck Imbrogno, Jennifer Lasser, Caitlin O'Connor, Jeremy Papay, DJ Ryan, Ailisa Sobien, and Sara Walfoort

1. Call to Order

Chairman Fabian welcomed members and called the meeting to order.

2. Action on Minutes of the February 26th Corporation Board of Directors and Commission Executive Committee Meeting

Action on the minutes of the February 26, 2024 meeting of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee were approved on a motion by Commission McClure which was seconded by Commissioner Vicites. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

3. Public Comment – None.

4. Action Item, Executive Committee Resolution 01-24 to proclaim May 2024 as “National Bike Month” in Southwestern Pennsylvania – Leann Chaney

A RESOLUTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION to proclaim May 2024 as “National Bike Month” in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, throughout the month of May, Southwestern Pennsylvania, will celebrate biking and the freedom, the joy, and the well-being it imbues within us, as well as the power that more people riding bikes has in making life better for everyone; and

WHEREAS, May 13-27, 2024 is “Bike to Work Week” and May 17, 2024 is “Bike to Work Day”; and

WHEREAS, throughout the month of May, the residents of Southwestern Pennsylvania and its visitors will experience the joys of bicycling through rides, commuting events, educational programs, and/or by simply getting out and going somewhere by bike; and

WHEREAS, bicycling has been shown to improve citizens' health, well-being, and quality of life, growing the economy of the region, attracting local business spending and reducing pollution, congestion and parking costs on our streets and roads; and

WHEREAS, the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, schools, parks and recreation departments, police departments, public health districts, hospitals, businesses and civic groups will be joining the League of American Bicyclists in promoting bicycling during the month of May 2024; and

WHEREAS, these groups are also promoting the use of the bicycle as both a means of transportation and recreation year-round to attract more visitors to enjoy our region's parks and trail systems, as well as restaurants, hotels, retail establishments, and cultural and scenic attractions; and cultural and scenic attractions; and

WHEREAS, these groups are also promoting greater public awareness of bicycle operation and safety education during Bike Month and year-round in an effort to reduce collisions, injuries and fatalities and improve health and safety for everyone on the road; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee on behalf of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission does hereby proclaim May 2024 as Bike Month and urges all residents to join in this special observance in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

5. Financial Report—Ailisa Sobien

Ms. Sobien gave a brief overview of the budget.

FY 23-24 Budget:	\$24,003,761
Revenue and Expenses:	\$10,718,057
Percent of Budget:	45.0 %

Members Dues Allocation	
Balance @ June 30, 2023	\$ 65,937.82
Member Dues Collected- September 2023 Invoices	\$243,560.50
Member Dues Used:	
Economic Development	\$ 58,837.55
PennDOT	\$256,231.18
Commission General	\$ 3,890.42
Balance @ February 20, 2024	\$ (9,460.83)

6. Transportation Report—Dom D'Andrea

Mr. D'Andrea gave an updated Transportation Report.

Fall 2023 (through end of this year)

- TIP Workgroup meetings (20) and project selection for Draft 2025-2028 TIP-Completed
- TA, CMAQ, and CRP Projects selected via competitive application processes-Completed
- First round PPP and Public Meetings for feedback-Completed

Winter 2023/2024

- Pre-Draft TIP completed and forwarded to PennDOT Central Office for review-Completed

Spring 2024

- PennDOT review-Completed; TTC and TOC endorsement-Completed
- AQ Conformity & EJ Analysis; document preparations-Started
- Smart Transportation Program solicitation –Solicitation completed. Evaluation ongoing.

- 30 Day Public Comment Period-including 11 public meetings (May 8-June 7) and Comment/Response documentation -Meetings are all scheduled
- 2025-2028 TIP adoption at June, 2024 Commission meeting

STLC Program: 2024 Application

Name of Project/County	Project Description	Sponsor
Sheepskin Trail Southern Extension (FACO)	New trail segment	Fayette County
PA 356 Corridor Improvements (BUCO)	ADA, Sidewalk	PennDOT District 10-0
Leechburg Road Pedestrian and School Zone Safety Improvements (WECO)	ADA/Sidewalk	Westmoreland County
SR 68 Adams St/Virginia Ave Reconstruction (BECO)	Roadway reconstruction	PennDOT District 11-0
West Liberty Avenue (ALCO)	ADA/Sidewalk/Signals	PennDOT District 11-0
SR 158, S. New Castle St/N. Market St (LACO)	Roadway safety, shoulder	PennDOT District 11-0
Grand Avenue Road Diet Study (ALCO)	Study for road diet	Allegheny County
Westmoreland Heritage Trail Murrysville Crossing (WECO)	Study trail crossings	PennDOT District 12-0
Sheepskin Trail Crossings (FACO)	Flashers at trail crossings	PennDOT District 12-0
Equitable Access Butler Twp.-Pullman Ctr. (BUCO)	Pedestrian,transit,EV charging	Butler County

Recent Transportation Staff Activity:

- Data and Letters of Support for Congressional BudgDet Requests;
- Presented to Leadership Pgh., Leadership Butler, Leadership Washington;
- Meetings with PennDOT to assist with Karns Crossing federal BIP application;
- Meeting with Pgh. Technology Council to discuss collaboration opportunities;
- Meeting with Allegheny Conference and others to discuss downtown Pgh. Vision Plan
- Kickoff mtg. with FHWA, PennDOT, PRT for \$142.2M Mega grant-review agreement;
- Meeting with CMU, PennDOT, City of Pgh. to discuss proposed CMU revisions to Forbes Avenue Bridge
- Meeting with University of Pittsburgh Impactful Resilient Infrastructure Science and Engineering (IRISE) consortium to discuss membership and collaboration opportunities.
- Meetings with Enterprise to negotiate and finalize new contract for SPC vanpool program
- Meeting with developer of Cool Valley/Southpointe to provide update to development plan and discuss roadway improvements/funding.
- Meeting with PennDOT, Fayette County, and Wharton Township to discuss safety on State Route 40
- Meeting with PennDOT, Butler County, and 4 Townships to review preliminary results of Road Safety Audit

7. Strategic Initiatives Report—DJ Ryan

Mr. Ryan presented the Strategic Initiatives Report.

Mr. Ryan gave an update on the recent grant application (Climate Pollution Reduction Program)

- Environmental resources office seeks to engage with public on water quality concerns.
- Partnership with Partner for Work, requiring good jobs principles for funding applicants.
- Collaboration with many partners, including Joy Lead on Air, for a strong application. Senator Casey's office requests direct communication with members of Congress to support northern Appalachia set aside funding.

8. Economic and Workforce Development Report—Jenn Lasser

Mr. Lasser gave an update on the Economic and Workforce Development Department.

Export International Trade Assistance

39 Companies Assisted; 56 Counseling Sessions

Work Orders

- 10 Companies
- 19 Overseas Work Orders to 11 Countries

Event: Bringing the World to PA – 60 attendees

Government Contract TA

8 Companies Assisted; 11 Counseling Sessions

Contract Awards

13 companies – 58 awards – \$2.3M

Commercial Lending Assistance

16 Companies Assisted; 19 Counseling Sessions

Loans Closed – 2 (EDA CARES)

Superior Fine Grind / Youghioghenny Realty LP \$300,000

Ace Wire Spring & Form Co., Inc. \$335,851

Keystone Opportunity Zones (KOZ)

Inquiries 7

Applications Received 6

Businesses Served - Improved 3/3

Investment - \$969,110

Jobs Created – Retained 17 / 61

- ARC POWER
 - 19 regional applications (PA had 38 total)
 - Due date April 17 at 5 p.m.
- ARC AREA Development – on hold til July
 - Record 12 SWPA selected to move forward (6.7M)
- ARC ARISE – still open (rolling deadline) – multiple state required
- EDA – Looking for projects
 - 2 projects assisted with TA

Bringing the World to PA

Event was held March 15 at CMU

- The Office of International Business Development (OIBD) through DCED and the Regional Export Network (REN) partnered to host 13 countries
- 30 Companies in attendance resulting in 110 one-on-one meetings
- Rich kicked off the event spoke on international importance of export and its economic impact

- We are the designated REN for Southwestern Pennsylvania and is managed by Rena Liu-Belshe and Jackie Pacheco
- Our Export program is funded by PREP & REN Dollars

Event provided opportunity for PA companies to meet on-on-one with PA Authorized Trade Representatives in the areas of:

- Business Intelligence
- Agent and Distributor candidates
- Industry & Government contacts
- On-the-ground Assistance abroad

9. Brief on Commisisoner Video Series – Caitlin O'Connor

Ms. O'Connor presented Commissioner Fabian's video which was recorded at SPC's Communication's video studio. She stated that the Communication's Department will be recording the SPC Officers and other Commissioners.

10. Brief on SPC's Community Chronicles – Rich Fitzgerald

- In Lawrence County, groundbreaking ceremony for StoneCrest Business Park with local officials and Lieutenant Governor Davis.
- In Butler County, Secretary Granholm meets with commissioners regarding steel mill and potential 1000-1500 jobs.
- Rich discussed initiative to bring companies together to overcome barriers to international trade.
- Armstrong County event opened 10 miles of Pittsburgh to Erie trail, with SPC representation.

11.. Message from the Executive Director—Rich Fitzgerald

Mr. Fitzgerald discussed the upcoming Harrisburg visit:

- On Monday, May 6, the Allegheny Conference will host its annual reception in the Keystone Building, Atrium (5-7 p.m.)
- On Tuesday, May 7 (8 a.m.) we are hosting a breakfast in the Irvis Building for the state representatives and senators that represent the 10 county region.
- Please see DJ or Caitlin if you plan to attend.
- **Need your 2-3 "priorities/issues" by Friday, April 26 (bullet points appreciated)**

12. Reminder: Next Meeting Date – **June 24, 2024**

13. Adjourn

Respectfully submitted:

Ailisa Sobien
Corporation, Secretary-Treasurer

Betsy McClure
Commission, Secretary-Treasurer