

Southwestern Pennsylvania Full Commission
Meeting Minutes
SPC Offices – Terminal Building & Cisco WebEx Meeting
April 22, 2024
4 p.m.

The one hundred and sixty-seventh meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission was called to order by Chairman Pat Fabian.

Members: Brian Allen, Darin Alviano, Tony Amadio, Mike Baker, Jennifer Beer, Brad Berlin, Kevin Boozel, Scott Bricker, Brian Burick, Douglas Chew, Tom Ceraso, Rich Cleveland, Mark Critz, Amber Davis, Rachel Duda, Scott Dunn, Jared Edgreen, Pat Fabian, Ed Gainey, Sheila Gombita, Robin Gorman, Kelly Gray, Bob Griffin, Sherene Hess, Mark Hillard, Sara Innamorato, Electra Janis, Charles Jones, Patrick Joyal, Fred Junko, Katharine Kelleman, Dan Kennedy, Brandon Leach, Bob Lesnick, Dave Lohr, Bob Macey, Larry Maggi, Jack Manning, Jeff Marshall, Betsy McClure, Kristin Mulkerin, Don Myers, Joylette Portlock, Johnna Pro, Chris Sainato, Anthony Shea, Nick Sherman, John Strate, Byron Stauffer, Vince Vicites, Barb Warwick, Jason Zang, and Blair Zimmerman

Others: Kyle Chintalapalli, Mayor Gainey's Office; Laura Byko, Mayor Gainey's Office; Lisa Frank, Mayor Gainey's Office; Mark Rafail, Fayette County; Stefan Binion; Mavis Rainey, Oakland TMA; Ernest Rajakone, County Executive Innamorato's Office; Aaron Poole, Armstrong County, Chuck Kolling, Erin Molchany, and Pam Snyder, Buchanan Ingersoll and Rooney; and Dusty Kirk, Reed Smith LLP.

Staff: Bel Ayele, Mary Brangan, Kirk Brethauer, Faith Collins, Ronda Craig, Dom D'Andrea, Linda Duffy, Rich Fitzgerald, Lillie Gabreski, Ryan Gordon, Chuck Imbrogno, Tom Klevan, Jenn Lasser, Nick Mannone, Caitlin O'Connor, Jeremy Papay, DJ Ryan, Aaron Sims, Josh Spano, Ailisa Sobien, and Sara Walfoort.

1. Chairman Fabian called to order the April 22, 2024 meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission.
 - a. Quorum – There being a quorum present the meeting proceeded.
 - b. Any Conflict of Interest Declaration on Action Items – None
2. Action on Minutes of the February 26, 2024 Meeting.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the February 26th meeting by Commissioner Gorman which was seconded by Commissioner Vicites. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

3. Public Comment – None.
4. Transportation Improvement Program Update (TIP) – Dom D'Andrea

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

Smart Transportation through Livable Communities Program

Eligible Sponsors: SPC member county governments and the City of Pittsburgh may submit one project each, PennDOT Districts 10, 11, and 12 may submit one project per county in their district

Eligible Activities: Planning studies, preliminary engineering, final design, and construction (plus inspection)

Eligible Project Categories:

- Bicycle/Pedestrian Improvements
- Corridor Management/Congestion Reduction
- Intermodal/Transit Oriented Development
- Planning and Redevelopment
- Road/Intersection/Network Improvements
- Streetscapes/Traffic Calming
- Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

2024 Application Evaluation:

- SPC staff will evaluate projects using five STLC Transportation Themes:
 - Linking transportation investment and land use planning
 - Supporting Community Goals
 - Multimodal approach
 - Safety
 - Sustainability

- Other factors
 - Consistency with goals in our Long-Range Plan
 - Partnering/collaboration on application
 - Environmental Justice
 - Funding/Project readiness

Program Process Timeline for the 2025-2028 TIP	
February 15, 2024	February TTC Mtg; Application period opens
March 4, 2024	Pre-qualification applications due to SPC
March 8, 2024	Sponsors notified if candidate projects meet requirements and are invited to submit final application
April 8, 2024	Final application period closes
April 8, 2024 – May 3, 2024	Project evaluation and selection process
May 9, 2024	TTC endorses project list
June 24, 2024	SPC TIP Adoption

5. Strategic Initiatives and Policy Report – DJ Ryan

Mr. Ryan remarked about the recent CPR grant that the Environmental Resources Office seeks to engage with public on water quality concerns. The partnership with Partner for Work requires good jobs principle for funding applicants.

Mr. Ryan states Senator Casey’s office requests direct communication with members of Congress to support northern Appalachia set aside funding

Ms. Lasser highlights the important of the \$15 million grant for local development in Pennsylvania. She states the quadrupling of approved applications for regional development projects, emphasizing the importance of keeping funds in Pennsylvania.

Broadband infrastructure funding in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Commissioner Fabian expressed disappointment that Armstrong County was not awarded funding for broadband infrastructure. He also remarked the frustration with lack of SPC representation on grant sub-committee.

Broadband funding for rural counties in Pennsylvania.

Commissioner Fabian also expressed his disappointment and frustration that only 42 municipalities received funding, despite the county's efforts to secure and feels the Commission should reach out to Brandon Carson, Executive Director of the committee, and legislative members of the broadband authority to advocate for the county's needs.

Rural broadband funding and application process.

Commissioner Vicites discussed the importance of accurately marking unserved areas on the FCC map to ensure funding for broadband expansion. He mentions the need for more applications in cyberspace to make the Open Access idea feasible. Emphasizes the importance of organizing and coordinating efforts to ensure that those without internet in rural areas are marked as such on the map and expresses frustration with limited funding for fiber optic infrastructure projects in Fayette County.

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

- In Lawrence County, groundbreaking ceremony for Stone Crest 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.
- Mr. Fitzgerald 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.

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)**

7. Reminder of the next meeting date
Next Meeting Date – June 24, 2024

8. Adjourn – 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy McClure
Secretary-Treasurer