

# Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission



# Full Commission Meeting

August 26, 2024

4 p.m.



# Opening Agenda Items

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## Welcome/Introductions and Call to Order

- Quorum
- Conflict of Interest Declarations on Action Items

## Action on Minutes from June 24, 2024 Meeting

## Public Comment



# Executive Director's Report

*Rich Fitzgerald, Executive Director*

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# D.C. Fly-In

- The Allegheny Conference is hosting a D.C. Fly-In for elected officials (ex: County Commissioners)
- Wednesday, September 18
  - 5-7 p.m. Reception at Bullfeathers
- Thursday, September 19
  - 9-10:30 a.m. Legislative Breakfast with Key Stakeholders at the U.S. Capitol Visitors Center
  - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Legislative and Agency Appointments (with specific sector agencies and congressional offices)

Allegheny Conference  
on Community Development

**You're Invited to the D.C. Fly-In**  
September 18-19, 2024



# PA Chamber Dinner

- Dinner is taking place on Monday, Oct. 7 at the Hershey Lodge
- Serena Williams and U.S. Senator Marco Rubio are the speakers
- Tickets are \$350 dollars (governmental rate for County Commissioners)
- 3 tables are reserved under SPC
- Make reservation directly through Carly Dubetsky at the Chamber ([cdubetsky@pachamber.org](mailto:cdubetsky@pachamber.org), or 717.720.5566). You will pay through Carly.



40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

PA Chamber<sup>TM</sup>  
Annual Dinner

*Celebrating Leaders & Legends*

Monday, October 7, 2024  
Hershey Lodge

2024 Keynote Speaker

**Serena Williams**

Greatest Tennis Player of All-Time and International Trailblazing Icon



# Airport Tour

- Christina Cassotis, CEO, and her team took us on a tour of the PIT Terminal Modernization Program (new landside terminal).
- 14,300 indirect and direct jobs resulting from this project.
- Generate approx. \$2.5 billion, with \$1 billion in direct labor income and \$700 million in gross regional product/value for the region.
- Contribute around \$27 million in state and local income tax.



# Stack AV Tour – Westmoreland County

- Westmoreland County Commissioners Kertes, Chew, and Kopas, along with Rich were invited to tour Stack AV's facility.
- Stack AV is developing AI-powered technology to maximize trucks' uptime, optimize existing infrastructure, improve roadway safety, and minimize emissions (driverless tractor trailers).
- The trucks are programmed to go the speed limit.
- Research/testing is being happening at the Westmoreland Advanced Technology Center.





# IRISE - Landslides

- Rich, along with members of our transportation and comms teams met with IRISE staff members at the University of Pittsburgh.
- IRISE is a program within Pitt's Engineering School and the team is studying innovative solutions that can help the issue of landslides on our region's infrastructure.
- This was a follow-up meeting to one that we had back in the spring.
- We're supportive of the work they do and want to help in ways that we can (specifically, connecting with local township/boro officials).



# IUP – DO School

- Recently had a meeting on July 9 at IUP
- Met with President Mike Driscoll, Dr. Miko Rose, Dean of the DO School, and Hillary Creely, Assistant Provost of Innovation
- Discussed the ways that this DO school will invest in rural health care and support the region's needs
- Received support from Sen. Pittman (\$2M in state funding), \$IUP Foundation (\$20M), and Tim & Debra Cejka (\$2M from alumni, retired President of ExxonMobil Co. and VP of ExxonMobile Corp.)



# Transportation Report

*Ryan Gordon, Manager, Transportation Program  
Development*

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# Transportation Department Activities

- **Program Development**
  - 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Plan finalized and submitted
  - STIP Adoption
  - Current TIP administration
- **Operations and Safety**
  - Safe Streets for All Grant, Allegheny County Comprehensive Safety Plan
  - Road Safety Audits
  - Regional Traffic Signal Program, Cycle 4 completed.
- **Transit**
  - Human Services Coordinated Plan Update, anticipate draft in September
  - Freedom Transit in Washington County grant award
- **Transportation Demand Management**
  - Active Transportation Plan update
  - Rideshare Program and TDM promotion

# Background Report on Transportation Performance Management, System Performance & Reliability Measures

*Chuck Imbrogno, Manager of Models & Data Analysis*

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# Transportation Performance Measures

## PM3 – System Performance Measures 2021-2025 Mid-Term Update

- System Reliability Measures
- CMAQ Performance Measures



# PM3 Transportation System Performance Measures

## Process Established in Federal Rules:

### State DOTs / MPOs to Cooperatively

- Calculate baseline performance
- Set performance targets
- Monitor / measure progress toward targets
- Report to USDOT
- Revise / update targets on regular schedule





# PM3 Transportation System Performance Measures

## CMAQ Performance Measures:

- Excess Peak Hour Delay Per Capita – (MPO Target)
- Percent Non-SOV Travel – (MPO Target)
- Total Emissions Reduction – (MPO/State Target)

MPO target setting/tracking - even numbered years - Oct 1  
Report to PennDOT / USDOT

SPC developing status report on 2023 and 2025 targets  
Draft report to PennDOT – Late September  
SPC action at October 2024 meeting





# PM3 CMAQ Performance Measures

2023 and 2025 Targets:

<u>PM3 Congestion Measure</u>	<u>2021 Target</u>	<u>2021 Actual (Baseline)</u>	<u>2023 2-Yr Target</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2025 4-Yr Target</u>	<u>2025 Actual</u>
Pk Hr Excess Delay / Capita	11.1	9.3	10.5		10.5	
Percent Non-SOV Travel	24.8%	27.6%	27.0%		27.0%	



# PM3 CMAQ Performance Measures

2023 and 2025 Targets:

<u>PM3 Emissions Measure (kg/day)</u>	<u>2021 Target</u>	<u>2021 Actual (Baseline)</u>	<u>2023 2-Yr Target</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2025 4-Yr Target</u>	<u>2025 Actual</u>
VOC Emissions	107.00	95.63	35.58		71.16	
NOx Emissions	250.00	276.13	92.64		185.27	
PM2.5 Emissions	10.00	13.23	4.88		9.76	
PM10 Emissions	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	
CO Emissions	250.00	378.68	0.00		0.00	



**Questions??**

**Thank You!**



# Strategic Initiatives & Policy Report

*Dj Ryan, Director of Strategic Initiatives & Policy*

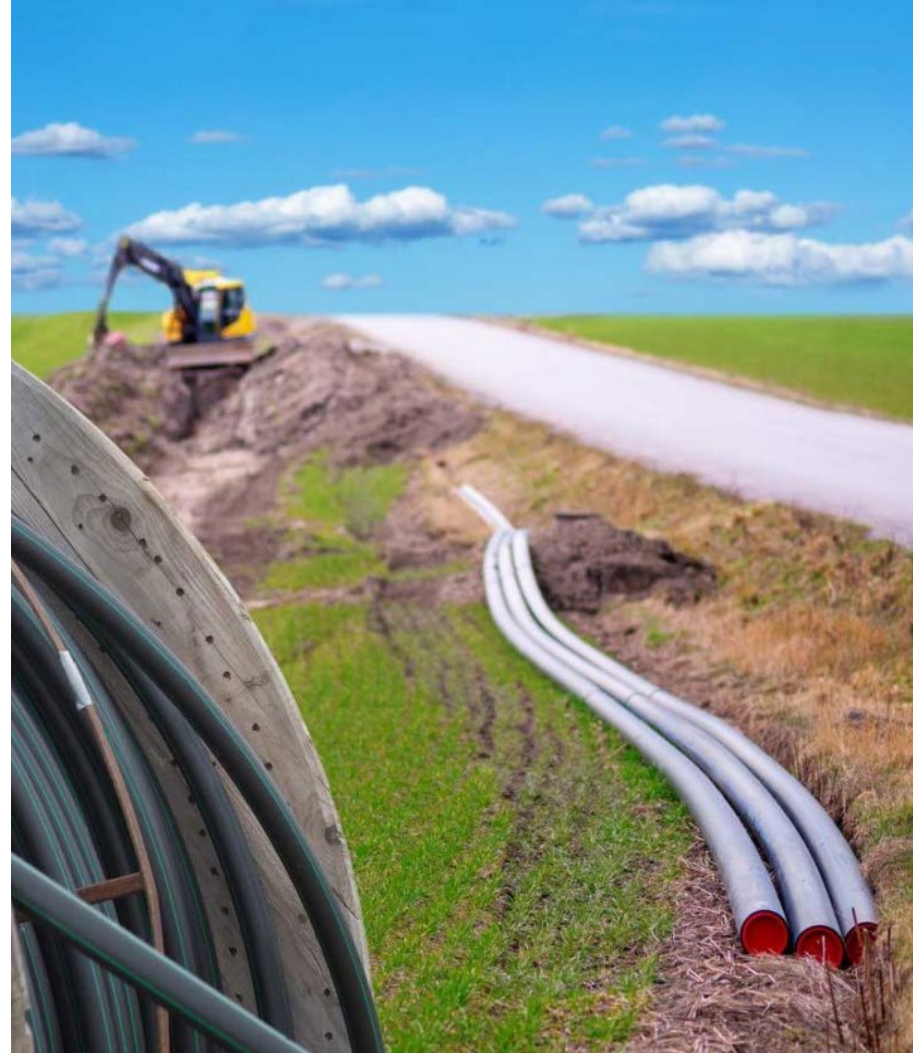
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# Broadband

- Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority Appointment
  - Direct follow-up from our Harrisburg Visit
  - First meeting is September 12<sup>th</sup>
- Digital Equity Grant – presentation at Policy Committee





# CPRG

- CPRG Implementation grants announced
- Commonwealth of Pennsylvania application awarded \$396M for Industrial Decarbonization
  - RISE PA Program
    - Projected to remove 5.2M tons of CO2 by 2050
  - SWPA to receive a significant portion of funds
  - Specifics on program forthcoming
- Planning process for SPC's CPRG Planning Grant will continue! Public meetings begin late winter.





# WRDA

- Successful paddle-through last Friday
- WRDA bill has passed the senate with the following language:
  - to the maximum extent practicable, the lockage levels of service at locks and dams along the Allegheny River should be preserved until after the completion of the **study authorized by section 201(a)(55).**
- Bill is now in the House with further amendments expected





# PA Sites

- Governor's Budget awarded \$500M to PA SITES
  - Thanks to commissioners for their advocacy during our Harrisburg Visit
  - Initial discussions taking place in the next couple weeks
  - More information coming soon on this
  - SPC will work with partners to ensure SWPA gets its fair share of this funding







# DC Fly-in

- September 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> in DC
- Meetings confirmed with several Members of Congress and agency officials
- We need a strong showing from county commissioners! Please consider joining us
- HIGHLY encourage you to book travel and hotels ASAP



# IWG Rapid Response Update

*Terri Dean, EPA*

*Jenn Lasser, Director of Workforce & Economic  
Development*

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# Briefing for County Commissioners

IWG Pennsylvania Rapid Response Team

Terri Dean, Chief of Staff & PA RRT Lead

U.S. EPA Region 3

August 26, 2024

***“Engage – Align – Deliver”***

# PA RRT Membership

**Federal Agencies:** EPA (Region 3 Lead); DOE; ED (Education); DOI (OSMRE); USDA; DOL; DOT; HUD; SBA; HHS; ARC; Federal Reserve; EDA; NTIA

**Federal Elected Officials:** Staffs of Senator Casey and Fetterman; Staffs of Congresspersons

**State Agencies:** Department of Community and Economic Development; Governor Shapiro's Office of Critical Investments; Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection; Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry

**Local Organizations and Elected Officials:** Southwestern PA Commission (Local Development District); SWPA Municipal Project Hub (funded by the Heinz Foundation); County Commissioners; Mayors; Economic Development/Planning Leaders; Non-Profits; Higher Education; United Mine Workers; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; AFL-CIO; Concerned Citizens

# PA Rapid Response Team Activities

## ■ Strategic Partnerships

- Southwestern PA Commission
- Southwestern PA Municipal Project Hub

## ■ Engagements

- In-person/virtual June listening sessions
- Federal, state, and local representatives
- Elected officials/Economic Development Directors
- Press coverage due to Media Engagement Plan



# Post-Meetings Press Coverage

Washington Examiner: What is left behind: When a coal-fired power plant shuts

- <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/3052958/what-is-left-behind-when-a-coal-fired-power-plant-shutters/>

Indiana Gazette: Interagency Working Group forum explores post-power plant future of Indiana County

- [https://www.indianagazette.com/news/interagency-working-group-forum-explores-post-power-plant-future-of-indiana-county/article\\_f928dc52-2903-11ef-81c4-4b43df101b7c.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/news/interagency-working-group-forum-explores-post-power-plant-future-of-indiana-county/article_f928dc52-2903-11ef-81c4-4b43df101b7c.html)

Environmental Health News: Coal Workers feel abandoned as coal plants close in Pennsylvania

- <https://www.ehn.org/coal-workers-feel-abandoned-as-coal-plants-close-in-pennsylvania-2668594663.html>

The Washington Post: Trump is still courting coal workers. This county shows why it matters.

- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2024/06/24/coal-pennsylvania-transition-trump-biden/>

Pittsburgh Business Times: Federal government adds new initiative to build commercial traffic on Pittsburgh waterways

- <https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/news/2024/06/13/pittsburgh-waterways-ohio-allegheny-traffic.html>

Pittsburgh Business Times: How state and federal funding are becoming critical to building up Pittsburgh region

- <https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/news/2024/06/13/state-federal-funding-clean-energy.html>

Indiana Gazette: IWG grants Indiana County Thrives \$100,000 for coal plant study


- [https://www.indianagazette.com/news/iwg-grants-indiana-county-thrives-100-000-for-coal-plant-study/article\\_c49e46c0-397f-11ef-9f71-97112fa113dd.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/news/iwg-grants-indiana-county-thrives-100-000-for-coal-plant-study/article_c49e46c0-397f-11ef-9f71-97112fa113dd.html)

# Listening Sessions

In-person meetings were held in:

- Fayette County on June 11 with over 35 attendees
- Indiana County on June 12 with over 100 attendees
- Washington County on June 13 with over 30 attendees

Virtual meetings were held in:

- Armstrong County on June 25 with over 40 attendees
  - Beaver County on June 26 with over 35 attendees
  - Greene County on June 27 with over 30 attendees
- 

# In The Room(s) Where It Happened







# What We Heard

County	Concern
Fayette	<b>Broadband</b> availability; tourism and recreation; housing deficiency; water quality and infrastructure, workforce training; brownfields/environmental remediation; technical assistance; long term planning assistance for redevelopment
Indiana	Broadband availability; <b>technical assistance</b> ; affordable housing; health and human services; brownfields/environmental remediation; water quality and infrastructure; workforce training; <b>displaced Union workers</b> ; environmental justice; technical assistance; access to matching funds
Washington	Tourism/recreation; technical assistance; rail improvements; workforce training; <b>brownfields/environmental remediation</b> ; broadband availability; access to matching funds; site redevelopment
Armstrong	<b>Water and sewer infrastructure</b> ; roads; brownfields/environmental remediation; <b>housing</b> ; old buildings removal; technical assistance; sufficient power for data center growth; industrial development projects; coal waste ponds removal; broadband availability; power plant remediation
Beaver	Advanced manufacturing; blight; <b>workforce training</b> ; technical assistance; transit to industrial sites from Justice40 communities; bridge updates and infrastructure; power grid at Bruce Mansfield site
Greene	Optimizing economic development; recreational development; digitizing mapping of sewer and waste; removal of retired rail ties; <b>housing</b> blight; clearing land for site development; workforce training; tourism and recreation; <b>transportation infrastructure expansion</b> ; technical assistance; lead service line replacement; water infrastructure; small business capital

# What We've Done

- **Adopted:** Media Engagement Plan
- **Established:** Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) from Each County
  - Economic Development Directors
  - Planning Directors
  - Key Stakeholders
  - Local Elected Officials
- **Launched:** Agency-specific “Office Hours” with Brownfields 101 as the inaugural workshop series
- **Relationship Building:** UMWA, IBEW, AFL-CIO
- **Created:** Trust and good will
- **Visited:** Being on the ground works; showed up and will return

# What We Will Do

- **Coordinate:** Three Rivers Task Force with DOE
  - **Establish:** Schedule of quarterly visits to six counties
  - **Host:** Virtual Office Hours and “Opportunities Conference”
  - **Create:** Dashboard with metrics from the SPOCs and SWPA Hub
  - **Convene:** State Officials Leadership Team (PADEP, PA DCED, Office of the Governor, PA L&I) to coordinate with federal agencies
  - **Execute:** Ongoing media engagement plan
  - **Evaluate:** Timing for expansion beyond Western counties
- 



# Economic & Workforce Development Report

*Jenn Lasser, Director of Economic & Workforce  
Development*

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# PREP – Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance



SPC regional program manager for PREP includes funding for SPC Staff and funded partners like SBDCs, EDOs



Program is funded by DCED



Network of Economic Development professionals who support business in SWPA both funded and non-funded



Program application guidelines released late last week – annual grant process



Working with funded partners, collecting budgets and preparing applications



Closing out a successful FY23/24

# PREP – Key Success Spotlight

- Business Finance
  - 3 Loan Applications Received and Approved
    - Mancinis Bread (2)
    - Jadco
- Procurement
  - 3M in contracts awarded
  - 2 Events held
- Export
  - Fancy Food Show - NYC
  - Bridging Border Networking Event



# Bridging Borders – Networking Event

- Rena & Jackie – Export Team (PREP/REN)
- SPC hosted a networking happy hour
- Held August 8<sup>th</sup> @ SPC Offices
- Partnered with the Western Pennsylvania District Export Council and the U.S. Commercial Service
- Over 30 in attendance
- Businesses had the opportunity to network with executives from experienced exporting companies, federal, state, and local trade experts, and service providers.





# Fancy Food Show - NYC



- Rena & Jackie – Export (PREP/REN)
- SPCs 3<sup>rd</sup> year at event
- Held in June 2024 – New York City
- More than 29,000 in attendance
- 2400+ companies
- SPC sponsored 6 businesses to attend
  - My Favorite Sweet Shoppe
  - The Toffee House
  - Two Ugly Mugs
  - Uncle Jammy's Sauces & Seasonings
  - Gosia's Pierogies
  - Bumbleberry Farms

# ARC Area Development

- Last week closed out round one of FY 25 ARC Area Development
- Faith Collins talked with over 20+ regional projects
- 13 projects overviews/summaries in SPC region submitted to DCED
  - Projects including Local Access Roads, Community Development, Healthcare, Workforce and Economic Development
- Next Steps – DCED Review and Invite to apply for Full Application
- Projects notified of status late September – Early October
- Grant technical assistance is available to all applicants via SPC
- SPC continues to lead the state in applications submitted - 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row



# Guten Tag Pittsburgh!



- SPC hosted in July Dr. Friedrich Dornbusch and Dr. Benjamin Klement from the Fraunhofer Center for International Management & Knowledge Economy IMW a research and economic institution in Saxony Germany.
- Wanted to learn how we as the MPO, EDD and LDD approach data collection, long range planning, stakeholder engagement, coal-impacted areas, regional planning and similar topics.

# USDA Visit

- SPC hosted USDA in July 2024
- Discussion of regional and rural needs
- New Program Ideas
- Attendees Included
  - Cindy Axne, USDA Senior Advisor
  - Bob Morgan, State Director for USDA
  - Gary Reed, USDA Area Director
  - Daniel Blottenberger, Public Affairs
  - SPC Commission Members
  - SPC Staff



# Build Back Better – Director Lael Brainard in Pittsburgh



- The Southwestern New Economy Collaborative hosted Dr. Lael Brainard, Director of the White House National Economic Council on July 24<sup>th</sup>
- Dr. Brainard visited Mill 19 to attend a roundtable event to hear about the effects of federal funding in Southwestern Pennsylvania
- Rich Fitzgerald spoke on behalf of the region and SPCs role in the Build Back Better grant.
- Great opportunity to showcase the incredible successes and federal investments in southwestern Pennsylvania.

# What's Next...



IEDC Conference Denver (Sept 2024)  
DCED/SPC Presentation



Stakeholder Engagement - IWG Events  
More discussion on regional planning & partnerships



Visits from National & International Organizations  
New York LDD/EDD and BBB Grantee Visit (Sept 2024)

**Thank You**



# “Community Chronicles”

**Caitlin O’Connor, Director of Public Relations &  
Communication Initiatives**

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# Kayak Paddle Event

- Led by Friends of the Riverfront with Port of Pittsburgh Commission and our organization with support from DCNR, PA Fish & Boat Commission, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- About 50 attendees. Sen. Lindsay Williams, Rep. Mandy Steele, Armstrong Co Commissioner Pat Fabian. Staff from Sen. Casey, State Rep. Powell, U.S. Reps. Lee and Deluzio.
- Purpose was to demonstrate the potential for economic and recreational development along our rivers AND how important maintaining the lock and dam system is on the Allegheny River.



# Commissioner Anthony Shea

- Commissioner Shea completed the 335 mile bike ride from Washington, D.C. to Pittsburgh on the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP).
- The economic impact of this beautiful trail continues to grow. Over 1 million people enjoy all or parts of the GAP every year and help to foster economic growth in the towns along the trail by purchasing local food, beverages, and mementos.
- Work done by many trail advocates to build a bike trail through natural and scenic vistas through Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania has left a wonderful amenity for all to enjoy.



# Association of Township Officials – Beaver County

- Ronda Craig, Public Involvement Coordinator, is attending the Counties' Association of Township Officials' conferences and events.
- She is representing SPC and engaging with local township officials, so they better understand our organization and the ways we can be supportive of their communities' needs.
- Will be attending other county association events in the future (grassroots outreach!).



# County Fairs

- Rich and members of our team have been attending the county fairs throughout the region
- Had County Commissioners on the KDKA radio show to promote the fairs and other positive events happening across SWPA
- Spotlighting the great recreational opportunities and economic impact that the fairs have on local residents, county, and small business owners





# Open Streets PGH

- Members of our Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program attended Open Streets Pittsburgh earlier this summer.
- A free community event that opens miles of City streets for people to walk, run, bike, and explore spaces across the City that would otherwise be used by motor vehicles.
- Engaged with participants and educated them about SPC and our TDM programs.
- It's an annual event that is hosted by BikePGH and sponsored by UPMC Health Plan.



# Next Meeting: October 28, 2024

Agenda Item: 10



# Adjourn

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