

**The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission**  
**Full Commission | Meeting Minutes**  
**June 24, 2024**  
**4 p.m.**  
**The Terminal**  
**42 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222**

The one hundred and sixty-eighth 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, Rich Cleveland, Mark Critz, Amber Davis, Rachel Duda, Scott Dunn, Jared Edgreen, Pat Fabian, Ed Gainey, Kim Geyer, Adil Ginwala, Sheila Gombita, Mark Gordon, Robin Gorman, Kelly Gray, Bob Griffin, Sherene Hess, Mark Hillard, Sara Innamorato, Electra Janis, Charles Jones, Fred Junko, Katharine Kelleman, Dan Kennedy, Sean Kertes, Brandon Leach, Bob Lesnick, Dave Lohr, Bob Macey, Larry Maggi, Jack Manning, Jeff Marshall, Betsy McClure, Kristin Mulkerin, Don Myers, Leslie Osche, Joylette Portlock, Johnna Pro, Chris Sainato, Anthony Shea, Nick Sherman, John Strate, Byron Stauffer, John Timney, 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; Becky Butler, Washington County; Dan Grzybek; Allegheny County; Chris Sandvig, Mobilify; Michelle Adolini, CPDM; Jason Rigone, Westmoreland County Planning; Mavis Rainey, Oakland TMA; Ernest Rajakone, County Executive Innamorato's Office; Chuck Kolling, Pam Snyder, Buchanan Ingersoll and Rooney; and Dusty Kirk, Reed Smith LLP.

**Staff:** Bel Ayele, Ozzie Benhart, Dan Bernazzoli, Mary Brangan, Kirk Brethauer, Faith Collins, Ronda Craig, Dom D'Andrea, Linda Duffy, Rich Fitzgerald, Lillie Gabreski, Ryan Gordon, Chuck Imbrogno, Jenn Lasser, Jen Liptak, Nick Mannone, Caitlin O'Connor, Jeremy Papay, DJ Ryan, Aaron Sims, Russel Singer, Mason Secreti, Ailisa Sobien, Cathy Tulley, Sara Walfoort and Devon White.

1. Chairman Fabian called to order the June 24, 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 April 22, 2024 Meeting.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the April 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting by Commissioner Boozel which was seconded by Commissioner Chew. The motion was unanimous.

3. Public Comment – None.
4. Report on the Draft 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Environmental Justice Benefits and Burdens Assessment of the Draft 2025-2028 TIP, Air Quality Conformity Determination for the Draft 2025-2028 TIP – Dom D'Andrea, Director of Transportation

2025 TIP Remaining Schedule:

- TTC Recommendation to the Commission to adopt the 2025 draft TIP
  - Commission Adoption
  - Preparation and submittal of final 2025 TIP Documents (Mid July)
  - October: First month of the 2025 TIP.

Smart Transportation – Livable Communities Program Schedule:

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

The Program Development schedule that we've been on since January. Final applications were due April 8<sup>th</sup>. Since April 8<sup>th</sup>, we have been evaluating the 10 applications that we received.

2025-2028 Program Application Summary

- 10 applications submitted
- Total Request of \$6,144,104
- Total of \$6 million available (two years of Smart program funding)
- Overall applications were good quality and program is getting more competitive.

Selection Process:"

Smart Themes (50%): SPC staff evaluated the candidate projects on the five SMART Transportation themes:

- Linkage with Land Use Planning
- Supportive of Community Goals
- Project takes a Multi-Modal approach
- Project includes collaboration and partnerships
- Project fosters sustainability, health and vitality, preserves the environment, increases resiliency in the transportation system, reduces emissions and increases air quality, as well as promotes equity among all residents of the community

Ancillary Factors (10%): SPC Staff evaluated the candidate projects on the five Ancillary Factors

- Consistency with the Region's Long-Range Transportation Plan (*Smart-Moves*)
- Consistency with the Region's Active Transportation Plan
- Safety and crash reduction
- Environmental Justice and Title VI
- Non-Federal and Non-traditional funding

Deliverability (40%): Candidate projects that clearly demonstrate that the project is free of significant deliverability issues and can be delivered within the proposed budget and schedule resulted in high deliverability ratings.

5. Report on the 30-Day Public Comment Period/Public Meetings about the Draft 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Ronda Craig, Public Involvement Coordinator

TIP Public Meeting Process:

- The Draft TIP and supporting documents were available on the SPC Website for public review from May 8, 2024 through June 7, 2024.
- Public Involvement activities
  - Public Comment Period ended on June 7th.
  - 11 public meetings were held within the comment period
  - 54 comments were received.
- Meetings were recorded and made available on the SPC website.
- SPC staff coordinated with PennDOT, City, County, and transit agency staff to craft a response to all 54 comments.
- Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) and Transit Operators Committee (TOC) have both recommended adoption of the draft TIP by the Commission.

SPC received 54 comments during the 2025-2028 TIP update.

- 15 public comments on safety
- 13 public comments on active transportation
- 6 public comments on transit
- 6 public comments on roadway conditions
- 3 public comments on Amtrak and Passenger Rail
- 3 public comments on bridge condition
- 3 comments pertained to efficiency and operations
- 2 general comments
- 1 new capacity comment
- 1 livability comment
- 1 comment on Environmental Justice and Justice 40

MEDIA IMPACT NUMBERS:

**Earned Media (Approx. Values)**

- Total Number of Clips: 14
- Total Audience: 313,232
- PR Value: \$6,493

**Social Media**

- Total # of posts across all platforms: 86
- Total # of likes: 259
- Total # of shares: 60
- Total # of comments: 4
- Engagement rate over the 30-day public comment period across all platforms: 10.54%

6. Report on the Air Quality Conformity Determination for the Draft 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program – Dom D’Andrea, Director of Transportation

In conclusion, our draft TIP and LRTP is in conformance with the federal Clean Air Act, and our Environmental Justice analysis indicates that projects identified in our draft Long- Range Plan demonstrates that benefits of the programmed projects and total investment of resources are equitable to populations who are traditionally or have the potential to be disadvantaged in the planning process.

Furthermore, no population groups were found to be disproportionately or adversely affected by the implementation of our draft Plan.

7. Action on Resolution 5-24 to Adopt the Air Quality Conformity Determination for the Draft 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program – Dom D’Andrea, Director of Transportation

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION to make a finding of conformity that the region's fiscally constrained 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Pittsburgh Transportation Management Area (TMA) and the 2050 Transportation Plan (a component of *SmartMoves for a Changing Region*) are consistent with the requirements of the federal Clean Air Act.

WHEREAS, the federal Clean Air Act authorizes the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), to define the boundaries of areas not in attainment of the Standards, and to establish criteria and procedures for attaining and maintaining the Standards; and

WHEREAS, the EPA requires conformity assessments for three nonattainment and maintenance areas in the SPC planning region for the 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS; these include the Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley nonattainment area (comprised of the seven counties: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland); the Greene County maintenance area (comprised of Greene County in its entirety); and the Clearfield-Indiana maintenance area (comprised of Clearfield County, which is outside of SPC's planning area, and Indiana County which is within SPC's planning area); and

WHEREAS, the EPA requires conformity assessments for four nonattainment areas in the SPC planning region for the PM 2.5 NAAQS; these include the Liberty-Clairton nonattainment area (comprised of five municipalities within Allegheny County); the Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley nonattainment area (comprised of Beaver, Butler, Washington, and Westmoreland counties in their entirety and portions of Allegheny, Armstrong, Greene, and Lawrence counties); the Allegheny County nonattainment area (comprised of Allegheny County in its entirety); and the Johnstown nonattainment area (comprised of portions of Indiana County within SPC's planning area, and all of Cambria County which is in the planning area of the Johnstown MPO); and

WHEREAS, the EPA requires a conformity assessment for the Liberty-Clairton area as a maintenance area in the SPC planning region for the PM 10 NAAQS consisting of five municipalities within Allegheny County; and

WHEREAS, the EPA, in the Transportation Conformity Rule (40 CFR Part 93), provides criteria and procedures to be followed by Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in making conformity determinations regarding transportation plans, programs, and projects within designated nonattainment and maintenance areas; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Conformity Rule and Sections 174, 176(c), and 176(d) of the federal Clean Air Act (Sections 7504, 7506(c), and 7506(d) of Title 42 USC) require that the MPO not approve any plan, program, or project which does not conform

WHEREAS, the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC), as the MPO for the Pittsburgh Transportation Management Area, is responsible under Section 134 of Title 23 USC and Section 5303 of Title 49 USC for carrying out a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process; Section 174 of the federal Clean Air Act designates this same organization as responsible for the transportation-related air quality planning within designated nonattainment and maintenance areas to achieve and maintain NAAQS; and

WHEREAS, SPC staff has conducted a qualitative and quantitative analysis for the designated PM 2.5, PM 10, and 8-Hour Ozone nonattainment and maintenance areas within the SPC region in accordance with the applicable criteria and procedures of the federal Clean Air Act and the Transportation Conformity Rule, and has demonstrated conformity of the 2025-2028 TIP and the 2050 Transportation Plan to the Clean Air Act; and

WHEREAS, the results of the conformity analysis were widely available for public review and comment consistent with SPC's established public review procedures from May 8, 2024 through June 7, 2024

including eleven public meetings; responses to all public comments have been compiled and made available to Commission members for review.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission finds that the region's fiscally constrained 2025-2028 TIP and the 2050 Transportation Plan conform to the federal Clean Air Act by supporting its intention of achieving and maintaining the NAAQS;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the region's 2025-2028 TIP and the 2050 Transportation Plan are consistent with the federal Clean Air Act and Transportation Conformity Rule; no goals, directives, recommendations, or projects in the region's Long-Range Plan or TIP contradict in a negative manner any specific requirements or commitments of the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP);

RESOLVED FURTHER that assessment of the designated PM 2.5, PM 10, and 8-Hour Ozone nonattainment and maintenance areas within the SPC region demonstrates that the transportation plans, programs, and projects for those areas conform to the provisions of the federal Clean Air Act and the applicable criteria and procedures of the Transportation Conformity Rule.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 5-24 by Commissioner Amadio which was seconded by Commissioner Junko. The motion was unanimous.

8. Action on Resolution 6-24 to Certify the Transportation Planning Process – Dom D'Andrea, Director of Transportation

RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION to certify that the metropolitan transportation planning process is being carried out in accordance with all applicable federal requirements and that the local process to enhance the participation of the general public, including the transportation disadvantaged, has been followed in developing the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and *SmartMoves for a Changing Region*.

WHEREAS, 23 CFR Part 450.336 specifies that, concurrent with submittal of the proposed TIP to the FHWA and the FTA as part of the Statewide TIP (STIP) approval, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) shall certify that the metropolitan transportation planning process is being carried out in accordance with all applicable requirements;

WHEREAS, Section 134 of Title 23 USC, Section 5303-5304 of Title 49 USC, and 23 CFR Part 450 set forth the national policy that the MPO designated for each urbanized area is to carry out a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive multimodal transportation planning process, including the development of a metropolitan transportation plan and a transportation improvement program (TIP) and establish policies and procedures for MPOs to conduct the metropolitan planning process;

WHEREAS, the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) continues to be financially constrained as required by 23 CFR Part 450.326 and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) policy on the documentation of financial capacity, published in FTA Circular 7008.1A;

WHEREAS, the requirements of Sections 174 and 176(c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7504, 7506(c) and (d)) and 40 CFR Part 93 have been met for non-attainment and maintenance areas;

WHEREAS, the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended (42 USC 2000d-1) and 49 CFR Part 21; 49 USC 5332, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex or age in employment or business opportunity; The Older Americans Act, as amended (42 USC 6101), prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance; 23 USC Section 324, prohibiting discrimination based on gender; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC 794), the American Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC 12101 et seq.), and 49 CFR Parts 27, 37, and 38, regarding discrimination against individuals with disabilities have been met;

WHEREAS, the requirements of Section 11101 of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA-Public Law 117-58) and 49 CFR Part 26 regarding the involvement of disadvantaged or minority business enterprises in FHWA funded planning projects and FTA funded projects have been met;

WHEREAS, the provisions of 23 CFR part 230, regarding the implementation of an equal employment opportunity program on Federal and Federal-aid highway construction contracts have been addressed;

WHEREAS, the provision of 49 CFR part 20 prohibiting recipients of federal funds from using those funds for lobbying purposes has been met; and

WHEREAS, SPC's established process for public involvement in the metropolitan transportation planning process was followed during TIP development. A review of public involvement in the regional transportation planning process and the resultant Transportation Improvement Program demonstrated that the benefits of the regional transportation planning process accrue to both Environmental Justice (EJ) and Non-EJ communities. Low-income and minority populations are not disproportionately impacted and are beneficiaries of the metropolitan transportation planning process in Southwestern Pennsylvania;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Pittsburgh Transportation Management Area (TMA) certifies that its metropolitan transportation planning process is being carried out in accordance with all of the applicable federal requirements and certifies that the local process to enhance the participation of the general public, including the transportation disadvantaged, has been followed in developing the region's transportation plans and programs, including the FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

A motion was made to approve Resolution 6-24 by Commissioner Sainato which was seconded by Commissioner Maggi. The motion was unanimous.

9. Action on Resolution 7-24 to Adopt 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program – Dom D'Andrea, Director of Transportation

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION to adopt the FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Pittsburgh Transportation Management Area and to authorize the submission of the TIP and its companion documents to the appropriate authorities and agencies, and to approve an update to *SmartMoves for a Changing Region* to reflect the updated revenues, project costs and schedules identified in SPC's FFY 2025-2028 TIP.

WHEREAS, Section 134 of Title 23 U.S.C., Part 450 of Title 23 CFR and 49 U.S.C. 5303-5304 requires that Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) conduct a comprehensive transportation planning process and develop and maintain a Long-Range Plan and a Transportation Improvement Program;

WHEREAS, federal law requires that regional transportation plans and programs be developed by MPOs and approved by the Governor of the state and to be reviewed by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA);

WHEREAS, federal law requires the state to develop statewide transportation plans and programming subject to review by the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT);

WHEREAS, SPC's established process for public involvement in the planning process was followed during TIP development. A review of public involvement in the regional transportation planning process and the resultant Transportation Improvement Program demonstrated that the benefits of the regional transportation planning process accrue to both Environmental Justice (EJ) and Non-EJ communities. Low-income and minority populations are not disproportionately impacted and are beneficiaries of the transportation planning process in Southwestern Pennsylvania;

WHEREAS, in accordance with the requirements of the Clean Air Act (as amended) and the Transportation Conformity Rule, qualitative and quantitative analysis of the FFY 2025-2028 TIP and *SmartMoves for a Changing Region* update has demonstrated that they conform to the provisions of the Clean Air Act and the applicable criteria and procedures of the Transportation Conformity Rule, with the resultant conformity finding approved by Commission Resolution 5-24;

WHEREAS, updated *SmartMoves for a Changing Region* project tables identify changes in revenues, costs and schedules for projects identified in *SmartMoves* as a result of the TIP Update;

WHEREAS, SPC's Transit Operators and Transportation Technical Committees recommended Commission approval of the 2025-2028 TIP and companion documents at its June 12th and June 13th respective meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the FFY 2025-2028 TIP meets all applicable federal requirements and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission approves and adopts the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Pittsburgh Management Area;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the FFY 2025-2028 TIP and companion documents are approved for submission to the appropriate authorities and agencies: 1) to the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) for approval by the Governor, 2) to PennDOT for inclusion in the state transportation plan and program, with referral to US DOT, and 3) to FTA and FHWA for review; and

RESOLVED FURTHER that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission approves the amendment to *SmartMoves for a Changing Region*

A motion was made to approve Resolution 7-24 by Commissioner Boozel which was seconded by Commissioner Vicites. The motion was unanimous.

10. Economic & Workforce Development Update – Jenn Lasser, Director of Economic & Workforce Development

INDIVIDUAL GRANTS UNDER BBB:

62.7M Regional Grant awarded by EDA in Sept 2022

1. SME Robotics Adoption (Catalyst Connection)
2. Robotics Manufacturing Hub (ARM)
3. Expanded Pathways to New Economy Careers (SPC)
4. Applied Robotics Startup Factory (Innovation Works)
5. Expanded Pathways to Entrepreneurship (Innovate PGH)

Regional Job Creation, Training, Equity, Entrepreneurship, Business Support, Cluster Growth all significant areas of focus.

EXPANDED PATHWAYS TO NEW ECONOMIC CAREERS:

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- Expand training & placement opportunities
  - Certificate, Apprenticeships, Advanced Degrees
- Build a vibrant & robust robotics ecosystem
  - Conduct outreach, build partnerships – goal of rooted businesses
- Clear pathways and wrap-around services for students & workers

- Understand and remove barriers to employment
- Be responsive to needs of regional businesses
  - Establish training needs and talent strategies and deliver.
- Establish Regional Training Hubs
  - Serve business & workers – Train & Retain!

IWG COUNTY MEETINGS:

- Interagency on Working Group on Coal Communities The Biden Administration established the Interagency Working Group (IWG) on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization to facilitate economic revitalization in coal, oil and gas, and power plant communities and to support workers.
- First activities in SWPA August 2023 – met with 5 counties
- October 20, 2023 – Westmoreland County Community College Event
- March 2024 – Requested meetings with Armstrong, Beaver, Fayette, Greene, Indiana and Washington
- April – May – June – Planning
- June 2024 – In-Person Meetings held June 11, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>
- June 2024 – Virtual Armstrong 24<sup>th</sup>, Beaver 25<sup>th</sup>, and Greene 26<sup>th</sup>

11. “Community Chronicles” – Rich Fitzgerald, Executive Director

Mr. Fitzgerald gave an update on the Harrisburg Trip:

- In May, County Commissioners and SPC staff traveled to Harrisburg to highlight regional priorities for lawmakers and key state government stakeholders such as broadband, site development, permitting reform, transportation & infrastructure, and more.
- We met with lawmakers one-on-one, held a productive breakfast meeting with the SWPA delegation, DCED, the Broadband Authority, PUC, and connected with members of the House Transportation Committee.
- Attended the Allegheny Conference/PGH Chamber and the Philly Chamber’s joint reception in the evening.
- The following day, our organization hosted a breakfast meeting with the delegation that represents our 10-county region. Attendees included:

TIP Meetings:

- As part of the region’s Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that our organization manages, we held meetings in each of the ten counties and the City of Pittsburgh.
- Public meetings were well attended by members of the public, County Commissioners/City Officials, partners, and SPC staff.
- We received numerous comments over the course of the 30-day public comment period. Feedback was gathered to further improve future meetings.

Interagency Working Group on Coal & Power Plant Communities:

- Our team supported IWG ‘Rapid Response Team’ meetings in Fayette, Indiana, and Washington Counties. The purpose of these meetings was to gather feedback from key stakeholders on economic revitalization in communities impacted by the energy transition.
- Officials from 11 Federal Agencies were present in the meetings.
- Resources to connect communities with technical support, grant funding, and tax credits were shared.
- There are upcoming virtual meetings in Armstrong, Beaver, and Greene Counties.



ARDC Grant – Armstrong County:

- Armstrong County received \$5,000 from the Allegheny River Development Corporation (ARDC) for the maintenance of locks and dams in the county.
- ARDC currently funds all operations at Locks 6, 7, 8, & 9 and partially funds locks 4 and 5.
- Lock and Dam 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 are all located in Armstrong County.

High Point Pro Motor Cross – Greene County

- 54<sup>th</sup> annual Pro Motocross Championship.
- Took place at the High Point Raceway in Mount Morris, Greene County.
- Thousands of attendees from across the country.
- Showcased the beauty and hospitality of our region.
- Thrilling showcase of top-tier motocross talent, right here in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that on October 7, 2024 there will be a Chamber Event in Harrisburg.

Commissioner Osche remarked that Butler County Fair will be July 9-14. Please come to Butler County and enjoy the Fair.

12. Action on Resolution 8-24 to Adopt a Meeting Schedule for FY 2024-2025 – Rich Fitzgerald, Executive Director

A RESOLUTION to adopt a Meeting Schedule for 2024-2025.

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Sunshine Law Title 65 requires that a Schedule of all Commission and Executive Committee Meetings for the fiscal year be adopted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission adopts the attached Meeting Schedule.

**Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission Meetings**

<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
August 26	February 24
October 28	April 28
December 16	June 23

A motion was made to approve Resolution 8-24 by Commissioner Maggi which was seconded by Commissioner Chew. The motion was unanimous.

13. Reminder of the next meeting date  
*Next Meeting Date – August 26, 2024*

14. Adjourn – 4:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy McClure  
Secretary-Treasurer