

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission



Full Commission Meeting

October 28, 2024

4 p.m.



Opening Agenda Items

Welcome/Introductions and Call to Order

- Quorum
- Conflict of Interest Declarations on Action Items

Action on Minutes from August 26, 2024 Meeting

Public Comment



Executive Director's Report

Rich Fitzgerald, Executive Director

Agenda Item: 4



Visit to D.C.

- We attended the Allegheny Conference's D.C. Fly-In
- Had meetings with:
 - Staff from Congressman Reschenthaler
 - Congresswoman Summer Lee
 - Congressman Mike Kelly
 - Congressman Chris Deluzio
 - Congressman "GT" Thompson
 - The White House (EEOB)
 - U.S. Department of Commerce (EDA)
 - U.S. Department of Energy
 - U.S. Small Business Administration









Visit to Harrisburg

- We had meetings with the following lawmakers/offices:
 - State Senator Nick Miller
 - Speaker Joanna McClinton
 - State Senator Chris Gehhard
 - State Rep. Carl Metzgar
 - State Senator Wayne Fontana
 - State Senator Jay Costa
- We also met with:
 - Brandon Carson, Executive Director of the PA Broadband Authority
 - Uri Monson, Secretary of the Budget
 - Mike Hanna, Executive Deputy Secretary, DCED
 - Mandy Book, Deputy Secretary, DCED
- Attended the Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce's Annual Dinner and heard from:
 - Tennis Legend, Serena Williams
 - U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (FL)
 - U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm







WPXI-TV: Our Region's Business TV Taping

- Show will air next Sunday, November 3
- Rich and Commissioner Fabian were interviewed together for “Our Region’s Business”.
- Talked about SPC’s role, our planning work for the 10 county region, and how collaboration is at the foundation of everything we do.
- Bill Flanagan wants to have SPC on the show every quarter to provide an update on our work.
- “Our Region’s Business” is sponsored by the Allegheny Conference and airs every Sunday at 11 a.m.



AI Horizons Symposium

- AI Horizons Symposium was held in Bakery Square.
- Brought together AI companies, AI start-ups, educational institutions like CMU & Pitt, and other industry leaders (AI Avenue).
- Governor Shapiro, Lt. Governor Austin Davis, Mayor Gainey, ACE Innamorato, and many other elected officials spoke and attended the symposium.
- Launch of NVIDIA's AI Tech Community (first of its kind outside of Silicon Valley).



Washington County Township Association Officials

- Rich was invited to be the keynote speaker.
- He was there with Washington County Commissioner Nick Sherman.
- Ronda Craig, our Public Involvement Coordinator, staffed an SPC table and engaged with attendees throughout the day. She is attending other events like this throughout the region.
- Event was in association with the Pennsylvania Association of Township Officials (PATS).



River Tour with State House Transportation Members

- Rich and Lillie joined members of the House Transportation Committee including Chairman Ed Neilson.
- U.S. Army Corps & Port of Pittsburgh Commission were there.
- The purpose of the boat tour was to demonstrate the vital resource that it plays in our local economy.
- Went on one of the Gateway Clipper boats.
- Had the opportunity to see a lock.
- There are many upgrades needed to our local infrastructure and this enabled the House lawmakers to see it.



Charles Anderson Bridge Groundbreaking

- Mayor Gainey held a press conference/groundbreaking for the Charles Anderson Bridge Rehabilitation project.
- Our team, through the Mayor's leadership, helped to coordinate with the City and PennDOT through the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) and get it prioritized on the TIP.
- The project has been on the fast track since March 2023.
- Safety concerns was the driving force behind prioritizing this project on the TIP.
- Over 20,000 individuals drive across the bridge every day.



Rural Listening Sessions: Waynesburg & Slippery Rock

- Center for Rural Pennsylvania (Revitalization Commission) is conducting “Listening Sessions” in rural communities across the Commonwealth.
- State Rep. Charity Grimm Krupa attended in Greene County. State Sen. Scott Hutchinson attended in Butler County.
- Mark Critz, Western Regional Director and Executive Director of the Rural Development Council, was there.
- The Center for Rural Pennsylvania is a legislative arm of the General Assembly. It is led by Dr. Kyle Kopko.
- Mark Critz
- Commissioner Betsy McClure and Jordan Grady (President, Butler Chamber of Commerce) serve on the Commission.
- The Commission’s main focus is to learn about the needs that rural communities are facing and discuss ways that economic conditions can be strengthened.



Transportation Report

Lillian Gabreski, Director of Transportation

Agenda Item: 5



Transportation Department Activities

- **Program Development**

- Current TIP administration
 - Close-out of 2023 TIP
 - Start of the 2025 TIP with October modifications
- Draft 2025-2027 UPWP Development
- Reminder: PennDOT Multi-Modal Deadline 11/5/24

- **Operations and Safety**

- Regional Traffic Signal Program
- RSA Program
- Crash Responder Safety Week – November 18-22.
- Local Technical Assistance Trainings (LTAP) – Winter 2024 & Spring 2025

Transportation Department Activities

- **Transit**

- Human Services Coordinated Plan
- Transit Service Alignment Plan – Butler Transit Authority
- Mid-Mon Valley Transit – new farebox and fare payment procurement
- PRTs Busline Redesign
- Westmoreland Transit new labor agreement

- **Transportation Demand Management**

- Active Transportation Plan
- Complete Streets Policy
- TDM Marketing Plan – “TDM Works!”
- Celebrated TDM Week (September 16-20)
- CommuteInfo Update



Report on Transportation Performance Management, CMAQ Performance Measures

*Chuck Imbrogno, Manager of Models & Data
Analysis*

Agenda Item: 6



CMAQ Program Performance Measures

Process Set in Federal Rules - State DOTs / MPOs to Cooperatively:

- **Calculate baseline performance (Every 4 yrs)**
- **Set performance targets (Every 4 yrs)**
- **Monitor / measure progress toward targets (Every 2 yrs)**
- **Report to USDOT (Every 2 yrs)**
- **Review / revise / update targets (Every 2 yrs – if needed)**

Oct 2022 – SPC set 2021 baseline and 2023, 2025 targets

Sept 2024 – Staff draft report on progress to 2023, 2025 targets

Draft report to PennDOT – Sept 30, 2024





CMAQ Program Performance Measures

Three CMAQ Program Performance Measures are defined in USDOT Rulemakings:

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

CMAQ Program Performance Measures


2023 and 2025 Targets - PHED

PM3 Congestion Measure	Annual Hours of Peak Hour Delay per Capita					
	2021 Target	2021 Actual (Baseline)	2023 2-Yr Target	2023 Actual	2025 4-Yr Target	2025 Actual
PHED	11.8	9.3	10.5 	11.6 	10.5	



CMAQ Program Performance Measures







2023 and 2025 Targets – Non-SOV Percent

PM3 Congestion Measure	2021 Baseline	2023 2-Year Target (2021-2023)	2023 Actual	2025 4-Year Target (2021-2025)	2025 Actual)
Percent Non-SOV Travel	27.6%	27.0% 	31.8% 	27.0%	



CMAQ Program Performance Measures

2023 and 2025 Targets – CMAQ Emission Reduction

PM3 Emission Reduction Measure (kg/day)	On-Road Mobile-Source Emission Reduction (kg/day)					
	2021 Baseline	2022-2023 2-Year Emission Reduction Target	2022-2023 Actual Emission Reduction	2022-2025 4-Year Emission Reduction Target	Adjusted 2025 4-Yr Emission Reduction Target	2022-2025 Actual Emission Reduction
VOC Emissions	95.63	35.58 	27.60 	71.16	71.16	
NOx Emissions	276.13	92.64 	667.43 	185.27	185.27	
PM _{2.5} Emissions	13.23	4.88 	17.67 	9.76	9.76	
PM ₁₀ Emissions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
CO Emissions	376.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	



Action on Resolution No. 9-24, Endorse the Region's CMAQ Performance Measures

*Chuck Imbrogno, Manager of Models & Data
Analysis*

Agenda Item: 7



SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 9-24

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION (SPC), to endorse the region's 2022-2025 CMAQ Performance Plan's Mid Performance Period Report.

WHEREAS, The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) established, and the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) reinforced, a system of national goals and performance measures designed to ensure the effective use of Federal transportation funds,

WHEREAS, federal regulations at 23 CFR 490.707 and 490.807 establish three performance measures for the CMAQ Program:

- Annual Hours of Peak-Hour Excessive Delay (PHED) Per Capita;
- Percentage of Non-Single Occupancy Vehicle (Non-SOV) Travel;
- On-Road Mobile Source Emissions Reduction for CMAQ Funded Projects.

WHEREAS, Metropolitan Planning Organizations are required to establish targets for each of these performance measures that represent the anticipated performance outcome in carrying out the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program;

WHEREAS, as required by 23 U.S.C. 149(1), each metropolitan planning organization serving an Urbanized Area with a population over 200,000 people representing an air quality nonattainment or maintenance area shall develop on a five-year cycle a CMAQ Performance Plan that:

- A. Includes an area baseline level for each of the performance measures;
- B. Establishes 2- and 4-year performance targets for the measures;
- C. Describes 2- and 4-year programs made in achieving the performance targets;
- D. Includes a description of projects identified for funding under the CMAQ Program and how those projects will contribute to achieving the CMAQ emission and traffic congestion reduction targets.

WHEREAS, in September 2022 SPC staff prepared, and the Commission endorsed, the required 4-year Performance Period report and CMAQ Performance Plan that satisfies the federal requirements;

WHEREAS, SPC staff has prepared the region's required 2-year CMAQ Performance Plan's Mid Performance Period Report that satisfies the federal requirements;

WHEREAS, the Transportation Technical Committee at its October 10, 2024 meeting, and the Transit Operators Committee, at its October 16, 2024 meeting recommended that SPC endorse the region's 2022-2025 CMAQ Performance Plan's Mid Performance Period Report.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in accord with federal regulations at 23 CFR 490.105(f), that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission endorses the region's 2022-2025 CMAQ Performance Plan's Mid Performance Period Report and authorizes staff to transmit it to PennDOT for inclusion in the state's biennial report to FHWA.

I, _____, HEREBY CERTIFY that I am Secretary-Treasurer of the SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION; that the foregoing resolution was adopted, in accordance with the By-Laws, by the Commissioners of said Commission at a meeting duly called and held on the 28th day of October 2024, a quorum being present, and that said resolution is now in full force and effect.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I hereto subscribe my name as Secretary-Treasurer.

Secretary-Treasurer

Report on Complete Streets Policy

*Leann Chaney, Senior Active Transportation
Coordinator*

Agenda Item: 8



Complete Streets are Streets for Everyone

- Complete Streets is an approach to planning, designing, building and operating streets in an equitable and context-sensitive manner to prioritize safety, comfort, and connectivity to destinations for everyone who uses the street network.

Before
Complete Streets

After
Complete Streets



Context Sensitive

A Complete Streets approach does not mean putting a bike lane or sidewalk on every street or a bus on every corridor.

- Context and needs of users are different in rural areas and towns, suburban and urban communities, and urban cores
- Hierarchy of the roadway network and roadway environment are important considerations in engineering and design



Image credit: PennDOT Design Manual Part 2, Contextual Roadway Design (Publication 13)

SmartMoves + CS

SmartMoves envisions “collaboration among local governments and other stakeholders to implement complete streets policies in communities across the region.”



Locally Adopted CS Policies

1. City of Pittsburgh (2016)
2. Sharpsburg (2017)
3. Etna (2018)
4. Millvale (2018)
5. Wilkins Township (2019)
6. Scottdale (2020)
7. Smithton (2020)
8. Forest Hills Borough (2022)
9. White Township (2022)
10. Mt. Lebanon (2022)
11. Dormont Borough (2023)

Moving to a Regional Policy

- Commissioners' Working Group on Active Transportation + Complete Streets
- Moving to a CS Design Model – A Report to Congress on Opportunities and Challenges
- FHWA Safe System Approach



Complete Streets Policy Framework



Literature Review

Review of other regional MPO CS policies

- Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)/San Francisco Bay Area
- Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)
- Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG)
- Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG)
- Mid-America Regional Council (MARC)/Bi-State Kansas City Region
- Lackawanna-Luzerne, PA



Vision

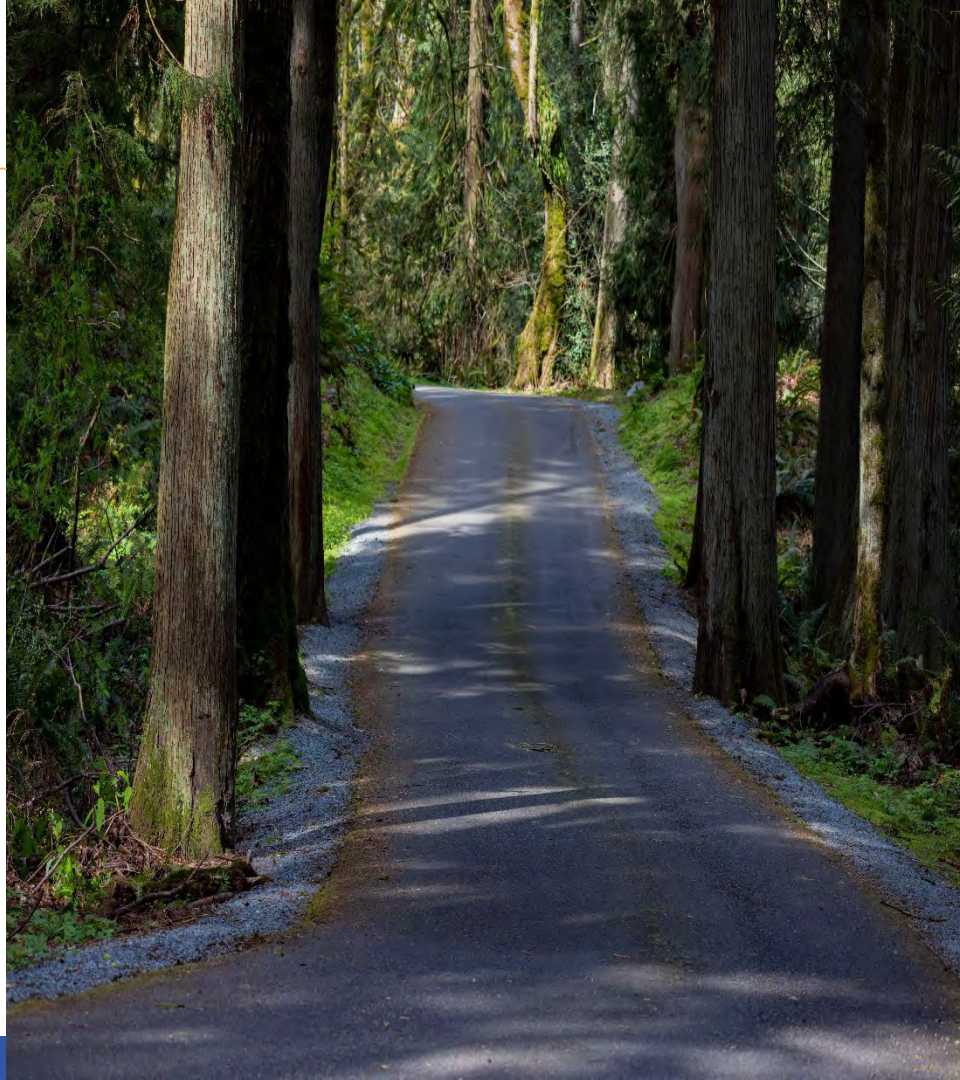
Integrate a Complete Streets approach into transportation planning, practices, policies and decision-making processes to prioritize safety, comfort, and connectivity to destinations for everyone who uses the street network, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation users, children, older individuals, individuals with disabilities, motorists, and freight vehicles.



Applicability

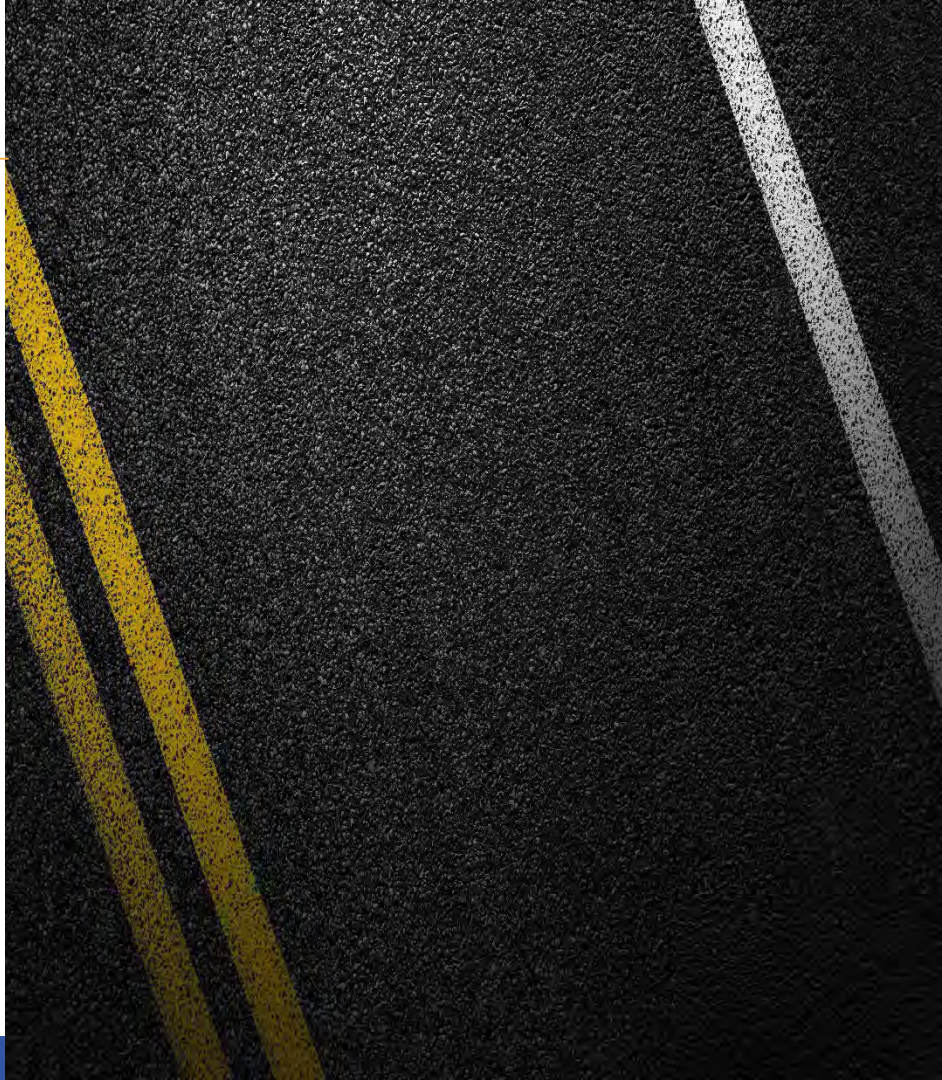
This policy applies to all projects seeking funding through our administered competitive funding programs (listed below) for new construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, repair, maintenance and ongoing operations of roadways, bridges, transit and paratransit infrastructure, on-street sections of trails, and physical changes to other transportation infrastructure.

- Congestion Mitigation + Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)
- Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)
- Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA)
- Smart Transportation for Livable Communities (STLC)



Previous Actions

- Commissioners' Working Group on Active Transportation + Complete Streets
- Rounds of staff reviews/edits
- April 2024: Draft policy presented to RPAC for review/feedback
- June 2024: Final draft present to RPAC, recommended for adoption



Action on Resolution No. 10-24, Adopting the Complete Streets Policy for SWPA

Leann Chaney, Senior Active Transportation Coordinator

Agenda Item: 9



SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 10-24

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION adopting the *Complete Streets Policy for Southwestern Pennsylvania*

WHEREAS, the term Complete Streets is described as an approach to planning, designing, building and operating streets in an equitable and context-sensitive manner to prioritize safety, comfort, and connectivity to destinations for everyone who uses the street network, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation users, children, older individuals, individuals with disabilities, motorists, and freight vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Complete Streets is an implementation strategy of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Safe System Approach, which sets an ethical imperative that no one should die or be seriously injured while using the street network; and

WHEREAS, the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) Long Range Transportation Plan, *SmartMoves for a Changing Region*, puts forth the Regional Vision of a world-class, safe, well maintained and connected multimodal transportation system that provides mobility for all, empowers resilient and sustainable communities, and supports a globally competitive economy; and

WHEREAS, to advance this vision, *SmartMoves* identifies strategies that focus on working toward Vision Zero by investing in safety for all system users and providing equitable mobility options for all users through improvements in public transit, pedestrian, and bicycle infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Complete Streets are achieved primarily by focusing on the planning and design of transportation projects, including construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, repair, and operation and maintenance of roadways, bridges, and related infrastructure that improves safety and comfort for all road users while providing access and mobility; and

WHEREAS, This Policy applies to all non-exempt projects seeking funding through SPC-administered competitive funding programs (CMAQ, CRP, TASA, and STLC) for new construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, repair, maintenance and ongoing operations of roadways, bridges, transit and paratransit infrastructure, on-street sections of trails, and other physical changes to transportation infrastructure; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission approves and adopts the *Complete Streets Policy for Southwestern Pennsylvania*, attached hereto as Exhibit A.

I, Betsy McClure, HEREBY CERTIFY that I am Secretary-Treasurer of the SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION that the foregoing resolution was adopted, in accordance with the By-Laws, by the Members of said Commission at a meeting duly called and held on the 28th day of October 2024, and that said resolution is now in full force and effect.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I hereto subscribe my name as Secretary-Treasurer

Secretary-Treasurer

Workforce & Economic Development Report

*Jenn Lasser, Director of Economic &
Workforce Development*

Agenda Item: 10



Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance

- SPC Awarded 2 annual grants (PREP/Engage) from DCED to support economic development, small business and business retention in the region.
- **Export & International Trade**
 - Hosted 2 Events
 - Global Trade Networking Mixer
 - SW REN Meeting
- **Procurement & Gov Contracting Assistance**
 - Awards: 11 Companies – 52 Awards totaling over 3.1M
 - Hosted 2 Trainings:
 - Doing Business with the HACP, 7 attendees
 - Doing Business with the GSA, 7 attendees
- **Business Finance**
 - 2 Loans presented to Exec Committee

Community Development & Grant Support

- ARC Area Development:
 - 13 Applications Submitted for 4.5M
- 2 Local Access Road Projects AWARDED
 - Indiana County – Windy Ridge Business & Technology Park – \$475k
 - Fayette County - Fayette County Career Technical Institute – Phase 1A Health Science Workforce \$558k
- Green County Grant Overview
 - Provided overview of programs and available support to Greene County Commissioners and Planning
 - This is available to any county, just need to schedule it.
- IWG
 - November Virtual Event is Postponed until early 2025.

AI Horizons

- Held October 14th 2024
- One day event featuring PA Governor Josh Shapiro, CMU President Farnam Jahanian and national tech presenters (Google, Lovelace AI, NVIDIA)
- SPC Staff Attended
- Rich Fitzgerald spoke on Winning the AI Race: Strategies for Cities to Thrive in the Next Innovation Economy panel



ARC POWER Announcement

- October 16th 2024
- ARC chose Pittsburgh and Catalyst Connection to announce over 68.2M in grant awards
 - PA received the MOST awards
 - SWPA received the MOST awards
 - THANK YOU FAITH COLLINS!
- Rich Fitzgerald spoke on behalf of SPC/LDD at press conference
- After press conference SPC as LDD helped host Federal Co-Chair Gayle Manchin, ARC Staff and DCED at two local projects (TIP & Community Kitchen)



Rural Population Discussion

- Center for Rural PA partnered with SPC as the LDD to host 2 listening sessions on October 19th in Greene County and Butler County
- The discussion centered around projected data and issues like population loss, investments in infrastructure, broadband, decreasing tax bases, school districts, agriculture development,
- Future discussions on possible incentives that the state could offer to help spur economic development and increase rural populations.



Build Back Better Partner PRN – Discovery Day November 20th 2024

- Join PRN at the David L Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh for this free and open event showcasing cutting-edge robotics, automation, and artificial intelligence (AI) solutions that are driving innovation across multiple industries.
- Pittsburgh Robotics Discovery Day on November 20th 2024 will feature over 130 exhibitors with live demonstrations of groundbreaking technologies that are transforming the way humans live, move and work.
- From business leaders looking to innovate, to tech enthusiasts exploring the latest trends, to job seekers searching for emerging career opportunities, to those simply curious about how robotics and AI are reshaping our world - this event has something for everyone.
- Last year over 4000 in attendance!
- Register at ROBOPGH.ORG



Overview Status Report on PA Sites

*Jenn Lasser, Director of Economic &
Workforce Development*

Agenda Item: 11



Pennsylvania Strategic Investments To Enhance Sites (PA SITES) Program

PROGRAM GUIDELINES
September 2024



Pennsylvania
Department of Community
& Economic Development



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Josh Shapiro, Governor

PA Department of Community & Economic Development
doed.pa.gov



Pennsylvania Strategic Investments to Enhance Sites (PA SITES)

- Established to develop competitive sites for businesses to relocate or expand within the Commonwealth.
- 500M made available is spread-out over multiple years through programs within PA Sites
- New Program Guidelines were released in September 2024
- EDOs started creating a list of key sites back in May 2024 in advance
- SPC visits to Harrisburg
- Tour last week with Deloitte
- Everyone here to help advance the region and support – Team Efforts



Eligible Applicants:

Municipality

Economic Development Organization

Redevelopment Authority

Municipal Authority

Industrial Development Agency

For-Profit Organization

Application Requirements:

Matching Funds -
competitively
evaluated

Demonstrate Site
Control

Job Creation /
Capital
Investment

Non-
Discrimination

Conflict of
Interest Provision

Project Records
Access


PA Prevailing
Wage

Worker Safety

Annual Reporting
& Certification of
Expenses

Planning Grants:


Planning grants may be used to determine the feasibility of a project and/or obtain technical information related to a project.




May be used to pay for costs associated with predevelopment planning



Eligible Uses of Funds - Costs associated with the development of a comprehensive real estate plan.



Ineligible Costs - Costs incurred prior to the approval of the grant.



Maximum grant award for any one planning project is \$250,000.

Construction: Grants and Loans

- Eligible Projects:
 - Previously Utilized Sites
 - Undeveloped Sites
- Eligible uses of Funding (see specific details online)
 - Acquisition of land and buildings, rights of way, and easements
 - The construction or rehabilitation
 - Demolition of existing site structures and removal of abandoned foundations
 - Rehabilitation of existing on-site buildings
 - Clearing and preparation of land for construction.
 - Environmental site assessment and remediation.
 - Related engineering, design, and inspection costs.
 - Signage, landscaping, and street lighting.
 - Administrative costs, permit fees, legal costs, etc.

Construction: Grants and Loans

- Ineligible Costs:
 - Fees for securing other financing, interest charges on borrowed funds, refinancing of existing debt
 - Tap-in fees
 - Unpaid taxes or municipal liens
 - Lobbying services, fines or reparations resulting from lawsuits, citations, or regulatory actions
 - Costs incurred prior to the approval of the grant

Construction: Grants and Loans



Grants/Loans – No
Limit/Maximum



Loan Repayment Terms –not
to exceed 20 years



Interest Rates –Fixed at the
time of approval



Security – first lien position
preferred (may have
exceptions)



Commitment Fee –Loans
subject to a commitment fee
(varies)



IMPORTANT: Work
commenced prior to
receiving DCED approval will
result in the project being
ineligible for consideration.

Reminders:



Quarterly application process – NEXT DEADLINE IS DEC 31st!



Millions available – don't wait to apply



Please read (and then re-read) the program guidelines for specific details and examples to ensure a flawless application



We're here to help with technical assistance – utilize SPC and partners throughout the region

Next Meeting: December 16, 2024

Agenda Item: 12



Adjourn

Agenda Item: 13

