

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
Full Commission | Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2024
4 p.m.
The Terminal
42 21st Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

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

Members: Brian Allen, Darin Alviano, Tony Amadio, Mike Baker, Brad Berlin, Kevin Boozel, Scott Bricker, Brian Burick, Tom Ceraso, Doug Chew, Rich Cleveland, Mark Critz, Amber Davis, Rachel Duda, Scott Dunn, Jared Edgreen, Pat Fabian,, Kim Geyer, Adil Ginwala, Sheila Gombita, Mark Gordon, Robin Gorman, Kelly Gray, Bob Griffin, Dan Grzybek, Sherene Hess, Mark Hillard, Sara Innamorato, Charles Jones, Fred Junko, Katharine Kelleman, Jeremy Kelly, Dan Kennedy, Sean Kertes, Kelly Shroads, Brandon Leach, Bob Lesnick, Bob Macey, Larry Maggi, Jack Manning, Jeff Marshall, Betsy McClure, Kristin Mulkerin, Don Myers, Leslie Osche, Joylette Portlock, Johnna Pro, Ernest Rajakone, Bob Regola, Chris Sainato, Chris Sandvig, Anthony Shea, Nick Sherman, Laura Sohinki; John Strate, John Timney, Vince Vicites, Daniel Vogler, Barb Warwick, Jason Zang, and Blair Zimmerman.

Others: Mavis Rainey, Oakland TMA; Kyle Chintalapalli, Mayor Gainey's Office; Angela Baker, PennDOT District 12-0; Jason Rigone, Westmoreland County Planning and Economic Development Department; Chuck Kolling, Pam Snyder, Buchanan Ingersoll and Rooney; and Dusty Kirk, Reed Smith LLP

Staff: Bel Ayele, Ozzie Benhart, Mary Brangan, Kirk Brethauer, Leann Chaney, Faith Collins, Ronda Craig, 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 October 28, 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 August 26, 2024 Meeting.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the August 26th meeting by Commissioner Strate which was seconded by Commissioner McClure. The motion was unanimous.

3. Public Comment – None.
4. Executive Director's Report – Rich Fitzgerald, Executive Director

Mr. Fitzgerald gave an update on the visit to Washington, DC

- 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
-

Then he spoke on appearing on “Our Region’s Business” on WPXI

- 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.

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.

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

5. Transportation Report—Lillian Gabreski, Director of Transportation

Ms. Gabreski gave a update on the transportation initiatives.

- **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
- **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

6. Report on Transportation Performance Management, System Performance and CMAQ Performance Measures—Chuck Imbrogno, Manager of Models and Data Analysis

Mr. Imbrogno gave a report on Transportation Performance Management System.

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

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)

7. Action on Resolution 9-24, Endorse the region’s CMAQ Performance Measures—Chuck Imbrogno, Manager of Models and Data Analysis

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 four-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 progress 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.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 9-24 by Commissioner Vicites which was seconded by Commissioner Strate. The motion was unanimous.

8. Report on Complete Streets Policy—Leann Chaney, Senior Active Transportation Coordinator

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

The concept gained significant momentum in the early 2000s, with organizations like Smart Growth America and the National Complete Streets Coalition advocating for policies and design guidelines that prioritize the needs of all street users. Has continued to evolve and is now embraced by transportation and public health professionals.

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

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

Locally Adopted CS Policies

- City of Pittsburgh (2016)
- Sharpsburg (2017)

- Etna (2018)
- Millvale (2018)
- Wilkins Township (2019)
- Scottdale (2020)
- Smithton (2020)
- Forest Hills Borough (2022)
- White Township (2022)
- Mt. Lebanon (2022)
- Dormont Borough (2023)

The vision is to 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.

9. Action on Resolution 10-24, Adopting the Complete Streets Policy for Southwestern Pennsylvania—
Leann Chaney, Senior Active Transportation Coordinator

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.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 10-24 by Commissioner Osche which was seconded by Commissioner Ceraso. The motion was unanimous.

10. Workforce & Economic Development Report—Jenn Lasser, Director of Workforce & Economic Development

- 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

- 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
- 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 DISCOVERY DAY – NOVEMBER 20TH

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!

11. Overview Status Report on PA Sites – Jenn Lasser, Director of Workforce & Economic Development

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

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.

Quarterly application process – NEXT DEADLINE IS DEC 31st

12. Reminder of the next meeting date

Next Meeting Date – December 16, 2024

13. Adjourn – 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy McClure
Secretary-Treasurer