

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission  
Minutes of the Meeting  
June 29, 2020 – 4:30 p.m.  
Zoom Meeting

The one hundred forty first meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission was called to order by Chairman Rich Fitzgerald.

Members: Brian Allen, Darin Alviano, Tony Amadio, Mike Belding, Kevin Boozel, Morgan Boyd, Scott Bricker, Tom Ceraso, Gina Cerilli, Douglas Chew, Mike Coonley, Pat Fabian, Rich Fitzgerald, Jim Gagliano, Kim Geyer, Sheila Gombita, Mark Gordon, Robin Gorman, Joe Grata, Kelly Gray, Dick Hadley, Lynn Heckman, Sherene Hess, Diana Irey Vaughan, Charles Jones, Fred Junko, Katharine Kelleman, Sean Kertes, Clifford Levine, Larry Maggi, Jack Manning, Jeff Marshall, Kevin McCullough, Amy McKinney, Cheryl Moon-Sirianni, Don Myers, Leslie Osche, Johnna Pro, Mavis Rainey, Bob Regola, Aurora Sharrard, Nick Sherman, Larry Shifflet, Loretta Spielvogel, Byron Stauffer, Jr., Vince Vicites, Jessica Walls-Lavelle, and Blair Zimmerman.

Others: Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County Department of Economic Development; Hope Werner, PennDOT District 11-0; Nolan Ritchie, Senate Transportation Committee; and Scott Schafer.

Staff: Vincent Valdes, Jim Hassinger, Kirk Brethauer, Domenic D’Andrea, Linda Duffy, Ryan Gordon, Anthony Hickton, Chuck Imbrogno, Tom Klevan, Jenn Lasser, Vince Massaro, Steve Meredith, Shannon O’Connell, Jeremy Papay, Kay Tomko, Sara Walfoort, and Andy Waple.

1. Chairman Fitzgerald called to order the June 29, 2020 meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
  - a. Quorum – There being a quorum present the meeting proceeded
  - b. Any Conflict of Interest Declarations on Action Items – None
2. Action on Minutes of the April 27, 2020 Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2020 meeting by Commissioner Leslie Osche which was seconded by Larry Shifflet. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

3. Public Comment

There were no public comments at the meeting. Andy Waple mentioned that public comments received during the public comment period were distributed to the Commission members last week. There were 56 written comments.

Chairman Fitzgerald noted that he, Commissioner Maggi and Commissioner Osche served on the Search Committee for SPC’s new Executive Director. He commented that Vincent Valdes had the experience, the resume, the energy, and the ideas that led them to choose him. He then asked Vincent to speak to the Commission.

Vincent Valdes said he is a people person. He said he is dedicated to using his full energies working for the Commission. He promises to use his experience and energy to service not just SPC, but the entire region improving community. The region has natural beauty and resources. He wants regionalism to be made competitive on an international perspective. This region is now powerful and he wants to make it more powerful. He wants to meet everyone face to face and work with them. He thanked the Commission for the opportunity and the privilege.

#### 4. Financial Report – Vince Massaro

Vince Massaro reported on the financials for the fiscal period July 1, 2019 to April 30, 2020. Total project related revenues actual and encumbered to date are \$11,089,709 compared to the adopted annual budget of \$13,603,991. This reflects about 82% of the budget recognized.

On the expenditure side we have \$11,089,709 actual and encumbered to date compared to the adopted annual budget of \$13,603,991. This reflects 82% of the budget recognized.

Our grant funding agreements are all in place and DCED reimbursements are up and running. The auditors will be in the office at the end of July and then will be back in September. They will present the final Audit Report at the December meeting.

5. Report on Public Comment Period Response for Draft 2021-2024 Transportation Program (TIP), Environmental Justice Benefits and Burdens Assessment of the Draft 2021-2024 TIP, Air Quality Conformity Determination for the Draft 2021-2024 TIP, Amendment to the region's *SmartMoves for a Changing Region* to reflect project phasing and cost information included in the Draft 2021-2024 TIP – Andy Waple

Andy said over the past year, SPC, along with our County and City partners, Transit Providers, TMAs and PennDOT have been working to develop the 2021-2024 TIP before you today for your consideration.

#### 2021-2024 TIP Schedule

##### **Spring/Summer 2019**

- SPC & STC Begin Public Outreach for TIP Update (web survey and comment, PPP meetings)
- Financial projections developed (FHWA, PennDOT, MPO/RPO Partners)

##### **Fall 2019**

- Project Evaluation and Selection for Draft 2021-2024 TIP
- CMAQ and TA Projects selected via competitive application processes
- PPP and Public Meetings

##### **Winter 2019 /2020**

- Draft TIP presented to SPC and forwarded to PennDOT Central Office for review

##### **Spring 2020**

- PennDOT review; AQ Conformity & EJ Analysis; document preparations
- 30 Day Public Comment Period – including virtual public meetings (May-June)

The update began with public input via the State Transportation Commission's launch of an interactive web application to gather input on problem areas and priorities around the Commonwealth. In the SPC region, this resulted in over 1,100 comments. SPC, working with partners, analyzed these comments and either carried them forward into TIP development or assigned them to the most appropriate entity. SPC also held a round of PPP meetings to solicit input.

In the fall, working with partners, projects were evaluated and selected for inclusion into the draft and another round of PPP meetings were held.

In December 2019 SPC staff presented the draft program to the Commission and submitted the draft to PennDOT Central Office for review.

This spring we have been conducting the AQ and EJ reviews and holding the last round of public meetings.

## Public Engagement

- State Transportation Commission 12-year plan – 600+ Comments
- *SmartMoves* points of engagement (22,000+)
- TIP Story Map viewed 1,880 times
- 800+ TIP webpage views
- 10 in-person Public Meetings (fall 2019) and 3 Virtual Public Meetings (200+ views)
- Emails & Social Media (1,800+)
- PennDOT Connects Meetings
- Online and Written – 56 Comments
- 4 newspaper articles (*PG, Tribune Review, Indiana Gazette, Observer Reporter*)

Regional Vision - A world-class, safe and well maintained, integrated transportation system that provides mobility for all, enables resilient communities, and supports a globally competitive economy.

Andy said the regional vision, along with the policies set forth in the Long-Range Plan, guide the investments and strategies being programmed in the TIP, which is the primary implementation vehicle for the long range plan. As you will see, the 2021-2024 TIP makes significant investments to further these policies and the regional vision.

Early coordination with local governments during the project development process ensures the transportation investments we are making fit the needs of communities and can be viewed as assets that foster growth and economic development as well as create genuine communities.

## SmartMoves Amendment Summary

- Account for new 2021-2024 TIP Financial Projections
  - Substantial reduction in anticipated revenues due to increase in Interstate Funding and reduction in projected state revenues
  - \$17.2B to \$8.3B over next 25 years
- Updated project schedules and cost estimates
- Several projects scheduled in Phase II of Plan (2025-2032) moved to Phase III (2033-2045)
- Preservation and Reconstruction line items in Phases II & III significantly reduced to allocate more funding to specific projects

Andy reported this is a reduction of about 50%.

## 2021-2024 TIP Investment Summary

Andy reported that the draft 2021-2024 TIP also reflects investment themes that are consistent with the region's long range plan as well as the PennDOT Twelve Year Program. These are Infrastructure Condition, Safety, Efficiency and System Reliability, Multimodal Options, and Economic Development. He noted that the summary does not include impacts as a result of COVID-19. We will address that when we know more. The SPC region is investing over \$5.6 billion in transportation infrastructure and operations in the next four-year period.

*\$576 million in bridge maintenance*

*\$2.2 billion in public transportation*

*\$326 million in operations and safety projects*

*\$500 million in projects that are within ~1 mile of regional freight facilities*

*\$358 million in transit facility and equipment improvements*

*\$36 million in funding towards bicycle and pedestrian network, multimodal options, sustainability and livability, and pedestrian ADA ramps*

*\$121 million in buses and passenger vehicles*

Andy commented that there were \$1.3 Billion in regional TIP highway and bridge formula funds; \$2.2 Billion in regional public transportation funds (PAAC accounts for \$2.0 Billion of those funds); and \$2.1 Billion in other state managed (409), state and federal discretionary (IM, Spike, TIGER), private and PTC funds.

#### Infrastructure Condition

##### **Highway and Bridges**

- 332 bridges rehabilitated or reconstructed
- 837 miles of roadway rehabilitated or reconstructed

##### **Public Transportation**

- \$382.5M for Fixed Guideway Capital Maintenance
- \$30M for Bus Facilities and Equipment
- \$32M for Bus Signal and Communications Equipment

##### **SmartMoves Strategies:**

- *Modernize Infrastructure*
- *Reinvest in Communities*
- *Apply New and Best Practices*
- *Holistic Planning*
- *Public Transit Equity*
- *Coordinated Investment*
- *Take Care of Water*
- *Mobility for All*

Andy explained that design, reconstruct or rehabilitate 332 SD bridges (reducing SD deck area by over 488,000 sq. ft). This reduces the total number of poor condition (SD) bridges in the region by 16.9%; 87 bridges on NHS (33 poor) \$207.7M (\$116.3m); Paving – 837 miles non-interstate and (216 Non-Int. NHS, \$203.3M).

#### Operations and Safety

##### **\$326M for Operations and Safety Projects**

- \$48M Intersection Improvements
- \$74M Traffic Signal Upgrades
- \$31M Slide Remediation Projects
- \$4M ADA Accommodations

\$4M for Railroad Crossing Safety

**SmartMoves Strategies:**

- *Modernize Infrastructure*
- *Reinvest in Communities*
- *Apply New and Best Practices*
- *Holistic Planning*
- *Coordinated Investment*
- *Take Care of Water*
- *Clear the Air*
- *Emerging Technology*
- *Reduce Vulnerability from Natural Hazards*

**Efficiency and System Reliability**

- \$524M for Roadway Projects on Transit Routes (93 Projects)
- \$157M for Projects on Congestion Management Corridors
- \$121M for Bus Purchases (393 Buses and shared ride vehicles)
- Adaptive Traffic Signal Systems (US-19, 30; SR-51, 60, 910, 1001)

**SmartMoves Strategies**

- *Modernize Infrastructure*
- *Public Transit Equity*
- *Reinvest in Communities*
- *Apply New and Best Practices*
- *Holistic Planning*
- *Coordinated Investment*
- *Take Care of Water*
- *Clear the Air*
- *Emerging Technology*
- *Mobility for All*

Andy provided the following breakdown of Corridor Investments:

US 19: \$28 Million

SR 28: \$126 Million

SR 30: \$39M

SR50: \$19.6M

SR 228: \$50.5 Million

US-19 adaptive includes Banksville and West Liberty (SR3069)/Washington Rd.

**Economic Development & Modal Options**

- Bus Rapid Transit from Downtown to Oakland
- Hoodlebug Trail – Mile Hill Section
- Interstate Improvements (I-70,I-79, I-376)
- Healthy Ride Electrified
- Laurel Valley Transportation Improvement Project
- Brodhead Road, Downtown Charleroi and Waynesburg Betterment Projects
- SR 228 - Balls Bend Reconstruction

## SmartMoves Strategies

- *Mobility for All*
- *Modernize Infrastructure*
- *Public Transit Equity*
- *Coordinated Investment*
- *Reinvest in Communities*
- *Take Care of Water*
- *Apply New and Best Practices*
- *Emerging Technology*
- *Holistic Planning*

Andy further explained:

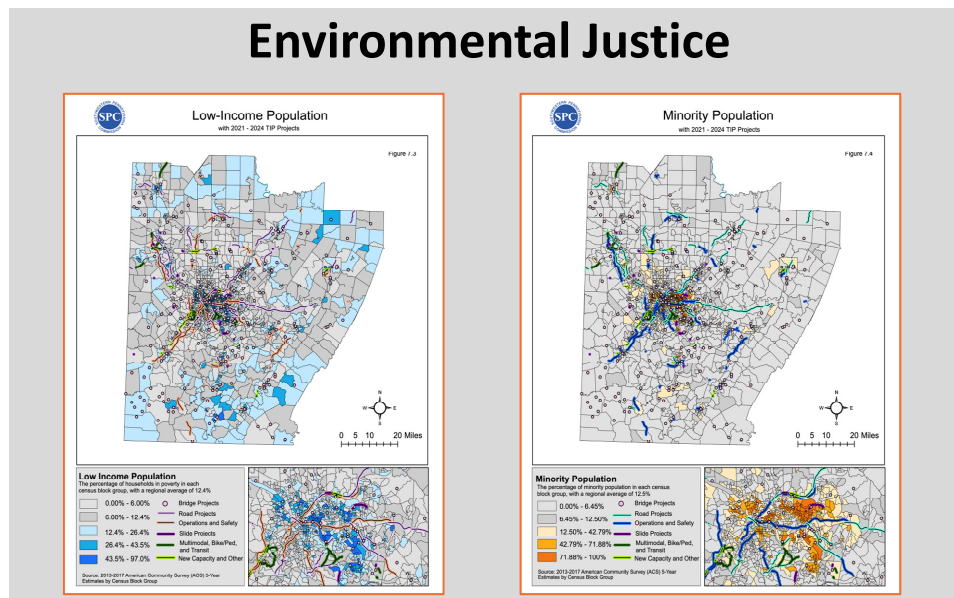
\$500M in roadway projects within 1 mile of a freight facility

\$496M in interstate investments

I-70: \$192 Million

I-79: \$150 Million

I-376: \$192 Million

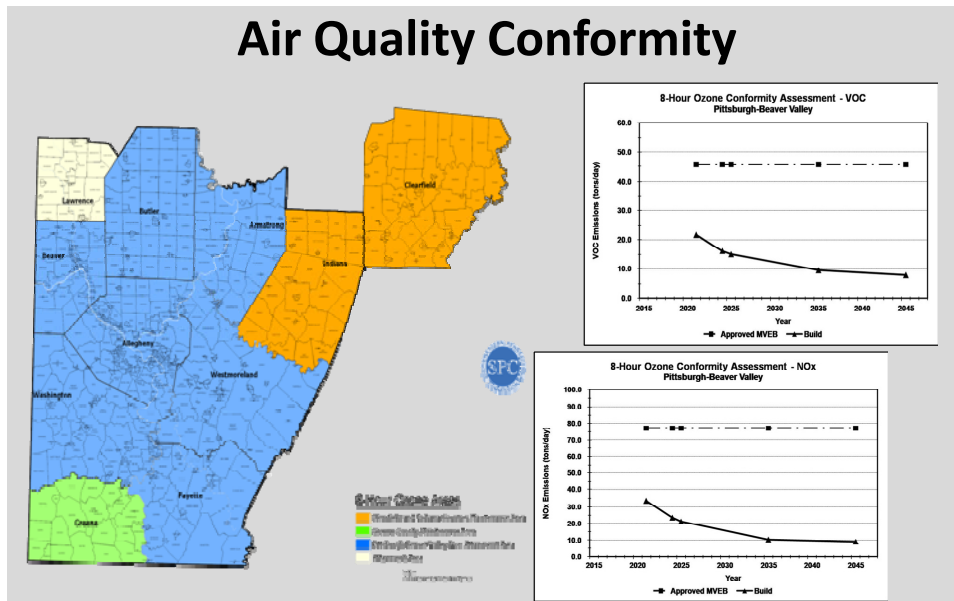


- Identify disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of the respective agency's programs, policies and activities on low-income populations and minority populations.
- Ensures social equity in programming transportation investments, including full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision making process

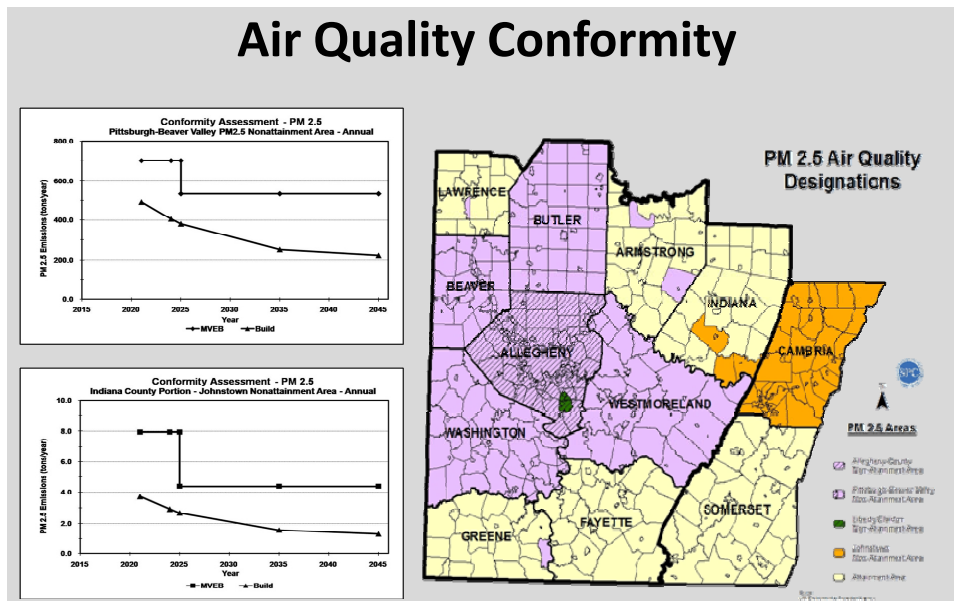
54% of investment in low income EJ blocks (39% of projects) (8.7% of regions households)

33% of investment in minority EJ census blocks (25% of projects) (9.7% of regional pop)

# Air Quality Conformity



# Air Quality Conformity



Larry Shifflet thanked SPC for all the extra effort with the COVID-19 impacts. He also thanked Andy and his staff on behalf of PennDOT for this program update.

In response to a question by Commissioner Ceraso, Andy said the Long-Range Plan amendment, including funding reductions and an updated project list, are provided on the SPC Draft TIP webpage.

6. Action on Resolution 6-20 to Make a Finding of Air Quality Conformity for 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and *SmartMoves for a Changing Region* – Andy Waple

A motion was made to approve Resolution 6-20 by Lynn Heckman which was seconded by Commissioner Tony Amadio. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

7. Action on Resolution 7-20 to Certify SPC's Transportation Planning Process – Andy Waple

Andy explained that for recertification, 12 specific statutes were addressed in the Self-Certification Checklist. The checklist was included in the Draft TIP materials during the 30-day public comment period. All of these Resolutions were unanimously recommended for Commission approval by the TOC and TTC.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 7-20 by Commissioner Tom Ceraso which was seconded by Commissioner Irey Vaughn. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

8. Action on Resolution 8-20 to Adopt the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program – Andy Waple

A motion was made to approve Resolution 8-20 by Commissioner Tony Amadio which was seconded by Commissioner Mike Belding. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

9. Action on Resolution 9-20 to Adopt a Meeting Schedule for 2020-2021 – Vincent Valdes

Vincent said the next meeting of the Commission will be held on July 27, followed by meetings on September 28, December 14, January 25, April 26, and June 28.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 9-20 by Commissioner Kevin Boozel which was seconded by Fred Junko. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

10. Action on Certificate of Appreciation to Honor the Services of Joseph Szczur

Andy reported that Joe retired from PennDOT on June 30. He had a 36-year career with PennDOT and had been with District 12 since 2004.

Lynn Heckman said she has known Joe for over 20 years. His knowledge of transportation is unprecedented. Cheryl Moon Sirianni said he was an excellent District Executive and he cared about PennDOT and the region. Larry Shifflet said Joe was very respectable and we will miss him. He mentioned that William Kovach has been chosen as his successor.

11. Staff Report/Other Business/Announcements – Vincent Valdes

Vincent reported that he will be approaching USDOT for grants. The Complete Trip ITS4US Broad Area Announcement has \$40M and is soliciting proposals for regions to develop increased mobility options for all travelers regardless of location, income or disability. SPC, as a regional resource under normal operations, will apply as the region “is the right person in the right place with the right vision”. He will meet with staff to put the proposal together and will present it at the next meeting on July 27. It's feasible and resonates and he's excited to be a part of that.

Next Meeting Date – July 27, 2020

12. New Business – None.

13. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Osche  
Secretary-Treasurer