

Public Participation Report Response to Public Comments

March/April 2021

Draft Public Participation Plan Update



Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

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Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

2021

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Vice Chairman: Leslie A. Osche
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Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (2 Votes)

Brian Allen
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Kevin McCullough
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Larry Shifflet

Governor's Office

Ali Doyle

Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development

Johnna Pro

Port Authority of Allegheny County (1 Vote)

Katharine Kelleman
Ed Typanski

Transit Operators Committee

Sheila Gombita

Federal Highway Administration*

Alicia Nolan

Federal Transit Administration*

Theresa Garcia-Crews

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

Laura Mohollen

Federal Aviation Administration*

U. S. Economic Development Administration*

*Nonvoting Members

The preparation of this publication was financed in part through grants from the United States Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration; the U.S. Department of Commerce; the Appalachian Regional Commission; the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; the Department of Transportation of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and, the counties of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Washington, Westmoreland, and the City of Pittsburgh. The views and opinions of the authors or agency expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of these agencies.

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Italiano

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Espanol

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中文

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Nepali:

यो फाराम अनुरोध गरिएमा वैकल्पिक ढाँचाहरूमा उपलब्ध छन्। अनुरोध गरेमा बिना शुल्क SPC ले अनुवादन र दोभाषे सेवा उपलब्ध गराउँछ। थप जानकारीको लागि SPC (412) 391-5590 मा फोन गर्नुहोस्।

Gujarati:

આ દસ્તાવેજ વિનંતી પર વૈકલ્પિક ફોર્મટ્સમાં ઉપલબ્ધ હોય છે. SPC કોઈપણ શુલ્ક લીધા વિના વિનંતી પર અનુવાદ અને અર્થઘટન સેવાઓ પૂરી પાડશે. વધુ માહિતી માટે કૃપા કરી (412) 391-5590 પર SPCને કોલ કરો.

Oriya:

ଏହି ଡକ୍ୟୁମେଣ୍ଟର ଅନୁରୋଧରେ ବୈକଳ୍ପିକ ଫର୍ମାଟରେ ଉପଲବ୍ଧ। କୌଣସି ଚାର୍ଜ ଛଡ଼ା ଏସପିସି ଅନୁବାଦ ଏବଂ ବ୍ୟାଖ୍ୟା ସେବା ପ୍ରଦାନ କରିବ।

ଦୟାକରି ଅଧିକ ସୂଚନା ପାଇଁ ଏସପିସି (412) 391-5590 ରେ କଲ୍ କରନ୍ତୁ।

Punjabi:

ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਕਰਨ 'ਤੇ ਵਿਕਲਪਕ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ। SPC ਬਿਨਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ

ਖਰਚ 'ਤੇ ਬੇਨਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਅਤੇ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਆ

ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਪ੍ਰਦਾਨ ਕਰੇਗਾ।

ਵਧੇਰੇ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਲਈ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ SPC ਨੂੰ

(412) 391-5590 'ਤੇ ਕਾਲ ਕਰੋ।

Sinhalese:

ඉල්ලීම මත මෙම ලේඛනය විකල්ප

ආකෘතිවලින් ලබාගත හැකිය.

SPC විසින් කිසිදු ගාස්තුවක් අය කිරීමකින් තොරව භාෂා පරිවර්තන හා භාෂණ පරිවර්තන සේවාවන් සපයනු ඇත.

කරුණාකර වැඩි දුර විස්තර සඳහා (412) 391-5590

මිස්සේ SPC අමතන්න.

Marathi:

हा दस्तऐवज विनंतीनुसार पर्यायी स्वरूपांमध्ये उपलब्ध आहे. विनंतीनुसार SPC भाषांतर आणि अर्थविवरण सेवा विनामूल्य प्रदान करेल. अधिक माहितीसाठी कृपया SPC ला (412) 391-5590 येथे कॉल करा.

Bengali:

অনুরোধ জানালে এই ডকুমেন্টটি অন্যান্য ফরম্যাটেও পাওয়া যায়। অনুরোধ জানালে SPC কোনও চার্জ ছাড়াই অনুবাদ এবং ব্যাখ্যা করার পরিশেবা প্রদান করবে।

আরও তথ্যের জন্য অনুগ্রহ করে (412) 391-5590 নম্বরে SPC কে ফোন করুন।

Hindi:

यह दस्तावेज़ अनुरोध पर वैकल्पिक फॉरमेट में उपलब्ध है।

एस पी सी (SPC) अनुवाद और व्याख्या सेवाएं अनुरोध पर बिना शुल्क उपलब्ध कराएगी।

कृपया अधिक जानकारी के लिए (412) 391-5590 पर एस पी सी (SPC) को कॉल करें।

Sindhi:

درخواست جي صورت ۾ هي دستاويز متبادل ٻولي ۾ دستياب آهي.

درخواست جي صورت ۾ SPC ترجمي ۽ ترجماني جون مفت خدمتون فراهم ڪندي.

مهرباني ڪري وڌيڪ معلومات لاءِ (412) 391-5590 تي SPC کي ڪال ڪريو.

:Urdu

يہ دستاويز درخواست کيے جانے پر متبادل اشكال ميں دستياب ہے۔

SPC درخواست کيے جانے پر ترجمہ اور ترجماني کي خدمات مفت فراہم کرے گا۔

مزید معلومات کيے SPC کو (412) 391-5590 پر کال کریں۔

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) hereby gives public notice that it is the policy of the Commission to assure full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. Title VI and other related statutes require that no person in the United States of America shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which SPC receives federal financial assistance. Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by an unlawful discriminatory practice by SPC under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint with the Commission. Any such complaint must be in writing and filed with SPC's Title VI Coordinator within one hundred eighty (180) days following the date of the alleged discriminatory occurrence. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Discrimination Complaint Form, please see our website at: www.spcregion.org or call 412-391-5590.

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How the Draft 2021 Public Participation Plan changed as a result of the public comment period of March 3, 2021 to April 16, 2021.

I. Introduction

This document presents comments received and responses to comments for the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission's (SPC) public comment period from March 3, 2021 to April 16, 2021 on the following draft documents:

- Draft 2021 Public Participation Plan

A summary of all comments and responses in this Public Participation Report were distributed to members of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission for their review prior to the April 26, 2021 meeting for action to consider the above items.

II. Organization of Report

This report includes a Summary of Public Comments and the Response to Public Comments on the following draft documents:

- Draft 2021 Public Participation Plan

SPC staff has responded to each comment and shared both the comments and responses with the SPC Commissioners.

- **Part 1** includes the Summary of Public Comments and the Response to Public Comments.
- **Part 2** includes copies of the written and electronic comments that were received during the March 3, 2021 to April 16, 2021 public comment period.
- **Part 3** includes summaries of a Virtual Public meeting that was held during the March 3, 2021 to April 16, 2021 public comment period.
- **Part 4** includes documentation of the public outreach activities during the March 3, 2021 to April 16, 2021 public comment period.
- **Part 5** documents revisions to the Draft 2021 Public Participation Plan as a result of the public comment period of March 3, 2021 to April 16, 2021.

Part 1

Summary of Public Comments and the Response to Public Comments

Public Comments and Responses to Comments—Spring 2021

In spring 2021, we received 20 comments to our Draft 2021 Public Participation Plan. All 20 were received from the Port Authority of Allegheny County. The comments ranged from technical changes such as correcting language to specific recommendations on what to add to help increase public participation. All 20 comments were responded to and some changes to the document were made from the comment suggestions.

Part 2

Written and Electronic Comments

**Public Participation Report
March/April 2021**

2021 Draft Public Participation Plan Update Summary of Public Comments and Responses - March/April 2021		
Public Comment Summary	Response	Comment Source
This is a lengthy document for citizens to absorb. It should be reorganized with specific SPC public outreach actions/commitments at the beginning. Alternatively, an Executive Summary could be prepared focusing on the key elements of the Plan.	Thank you for your comments. This suggestion will be considered for inclusion in the final approved document.	Port Authority of Allegheny County
The document should explain why the TIP, Air Quality Conformity and Long-Range Plan are important and how public input could affect the outcomes of these processes. The Allegheny County/City of Pittsburgh TIP meetings attended by Port Authority staff in recent years had very little public and stakeholder attendance. Some of this could be attributed to limited public understanding of the TIP's importance in establishing the region's transportation priorities.	Thank you for your comments. This suggestion will be considered for inclusion in the final approved document.	Port Authority of Allegheny County
SPC committees such as the Transportation Technical Committee, Transit Operators Committee, Active Transportation Forum, Transportation & Operations Forums, Freight Forum and TDM partners should also be listed and described with meeting frequency and contact information provided. The existence of these committees and their meetings need to be communicated more broadly to the public.	Thank you for your comments. SPC provides committee information on its website and publishes an annual calendar of all committee meeting dates and times.	Port Authority of Allegheny County
When SPC's phone number is provided, the extension for the appropriate SPC staff should also be provided.	Thank you for your comment. SPC provides detailed contact information for staff in every public notice as the appropriate staff member can change for different meetings based on the subject matter.	Port Authority of Allegheny County
A stated goal of this plan is for input to inform programs transparently. However, SPC's most impactful programs distribute funding, which does not always align with its public-input-based plans.	Thank you for your comments. Public input is considered as an essential element of the development of all SPC long range plan and transportation improvement program funding allocations.	Port Authority of Allegheny County
Is there data showing that the membership of Public Participation Panels and recent outreach efforts reflect the diversity of the region's population? If yes, this document should include such data.	Thank you for your comment. SPC maintains demographic data on Panel members in a separate document as membership can change frequently.	Port Authority of Allegheny County
This document should set measurable goals to ensure that future outreach engages participants who reflect the diversity of the region's population.	Thank you for your comment. SPC continually seeks to improve outreach to all communities in the region.	Port Authority of Allegheny County

2021 Draft Public Participation Plan Update Summary of Public Comments and Responses - March/April 2021		
Public Comment Summary	Response	Comment Source
Many people do not attend public meetings convened to discuss transportation planning and projects. One approach used by many organizations in the region is to reach people where they already are. For example, SPC could request to have presentations placed on the agendas for community and other meetings already taking place. SPC could set up tables or booths at community events such as festivals and farmers markets. The plan should incorporate this public engagement technique.	Thank you for your comments. SPC often participates in different types of events hosted by other organizations, community events and other public gatherings.	Port Authority of Allegheny County
P. 13, Regional LEP Estimates – If known, the document should identify which areas of the region have high numbers of LEP population for the languages listed.	Thank you for your comment. LEP figures and their location are included in SPC's LEP plan and Environmental Justice Analyses as these are updated semi-annually to reflect the most recent data available.	Port Authority of Allegheny County
P. 14, first paragraph – The URL links only to the SPC website. It should link to the detailed analysis of LEP populations. A one- or two-paragraph summary of that analysis should be provided in this section.	Thank you for your comment. The text will be revised and the URL will be clarified.	Port Authority of Allegheny County
P. 14 Meaningful Access for LEP Persons – This section begins with "We strive to provide LEP individuals with meaningful access to key transportation planning decisions and opportunities to become involved in the regional planning processes." If this is the intent, consider revising to having the Plan strive to provide LEP "populations with meaningful access to key transportation planning decisions and opportunities." This means, in addition to communicating in and providing documents in other languages, SPC should also meet with these populations to identify their specific mobility needs and concerns related to limited English proficiency in understanding information about transportation planning, facilities and services.	Thank you for your comment. The text will be revised to reflect this change. SPC strives to reach our LEP communities and has included a list of services and community outreach partners in this updated plan.	Port Authority of Allegheny County
P. 15, first bullet – Revise with addition of red text to "Use locations and times that maximize accessibility to transit and van service."	Thank you for your comment. The text will be revised to reflect this change.	Port Authority of Allegheny County
P. 15, fifth bullet – For all major public meetings (such as for the TIP), could SPC always have a sign language interpreter without hearing impaired people having to request one in advance?	Thank you for your comment. SPC will research the costs of providing a sign language interpreter at major public meetings without requests and will consider the feasibility of incorporating it as routine meeting procedure.	Port Authority of Allegheny County

**Public Participation Report
March/April 2021**

2021 Draft Public Participation Plan Update Summary of Public Comments and Responses - March/April 2021		
Public Comment Summary	Response	Comment Source
P. 16, Elderly, Non-Car Households, and other Traditionally Underserved – For the past few years, the TIP meetings for the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County have only been convened at one time (in the evening) and in one location (at SPC’s office). To improve accessibility, additional meetings should be convened at other times and other locations in the City and County.	Thank you for your comment. The process going forward currently includes more and different locations for these meetings.	Port Authority of Allegheny County
P. 19, last bullet – It would be informative to list a few previous examples of SPC’s engagement with persons with disabilities and with senior, low-income, minority, and LEP populations.	Thank you for your comment. This suggestion will be considered for inclusion in the final approved document.	Port Authority of Allegheny County
P. 20, E. Speakers Network – Consider changing the first line to “SPC staff is available to provide speakers...”	Thank you for your comment. The text will be updated to reflect this change.	Port Authority of Allegheny County
P. 22, I. Provide Visual Tools – Consider inclusion of a rendering and providing a link to an example of an animated visualization in this section so that readers have a fuller understanding of visualization techniques.	Thank you for your comment. This suggestion will be considered for inclusion in the final approved document.	Port Authority of Allegheny County
P. 22, J. Publicize SPC Activities, first paragraph – A list of all the media outlets for which SPC places advertisements and other notifications should be added to the appendices and a reference to this list inserted into this paragraph.	Thank you for your comment. This suggestion will be considered for inclusion in the final approved document.	Port Authority of Allegheny County
P. 23, Public notice information – Public notices should provide transit access information where meetings are in locations served by transit.	Thank you for your comment. SPC provides the Port Authority’s customer service number and the number of the CommuteInfo Program where the public can access information on the other regional transit providers. Providing detailed route information in a region this size is not feasible within the limited space of such notices, but a way for the public to access such information is always included.	Port Authority of Allegheny County
P. 34, Virtual Options – It is true that holding virtual events increases the convenience for participation in meetings. However, for those who lack access to computers/Internet or do not feel comfortable using computers/Internet, there should also be a commitment to ensuring that the public (particularly underserved/vulnerable populations) has other means of engaging when virtual engagement is the prime mode of outreach.	Thank you for your comment. Virtual meetings are only one tool we use to increase public participation. Virtual meeting notices include information on how to access materials and provide input for those without internet access. In-person meetings will also be used when appropriate to ensure all interested parties are able to participate in SPC activities.	Port Authority of Allegheny County

Part 3

Summary of Virtual Meeting

Virtual Public Meetings—Spring 2021

In spring 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Governor Wolf's Stay-At-Home orders, SPC was unable to hold in-person public meetings with our Public Participation Panels for the public comment period. One virtual public meeting was held instead giving an overview of what was included in the draft public participation plan. Resources were put on the SPC website and comments were accepted through email and mail. Recordings of the archived virtual public meetings are available on the SPC YouTube Channel.

Part 4

Documentation of Public Outreach Activities



Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
@spcregion



Twitter
Example

We are seeking your input and have opened a public comment period on our draft 2021 Public Participation Plan an update to the SPC Public Participation Plan 2015. This public comment period begins today, March 3, 2021, and will conclude on April 16, 2021.

[spcregion.org/get-involved/p...](https://www.spcregion.org/get-involved/p...)

7:53 AM · Mar 3, 2021 · Twitter Web App



Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

Published by Vincent Valdes · March 3 ·



Facebook
Example

We are seeking your input and have opened a public comment period on our draft 2021 Public Participation Plan an update to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission Public Participation Plan 2015. This public comment period begins today, March 3, 2021, and will conclude on April 16, 2021.

The draft 2021 Public Participation Plan provides an outline of the tools and techniques we use to inform and engage the public throughout our transportation planning and programming processes. The Plan must comply with federal participation plan regulations and guidelines for metropolitan transportation planning and programs.

<https://www.spcregion.org/get-involved/public-comment-ppp/>

SPCREGION.ORG

Public Comment - Draft 2021 Public Participation Plan - Southwestern...

Note: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on gatherings, SPC is unable hold in-person public meetings at this time. A virtual...

Constant Contact email outreach to SPC's Public Participation Panels, Environmental Justice Network, Tribal Consultation Network, City and County Planning Partners, and County Library Networks.

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

Public Participation



SPC Public Participation Plan Update

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) is currently updating its public participation plan. The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission 2021 Public Participation Plan provides an outline of the tools and techniques we use to inform and engage the public throughout our transportation planning and programming processes. We have used your input from the survey we asked you to fill out this past fall in creating this update and we thank you for your helpful comments and ideas!

We are seeking comments from the public on this important draft documents prior to its adoption and have advertised that the public may review these documents and provide comment to SPC between March 3, 2021 and April 16, 2021.

Thank you again for your assistance in making our SPC more accessible to the public! Please contact Jared Bedekovich at jbedekovich@spcregion.org if you have any questions.

Public Comment Period for This Topic

Begins: Wednesday, March, 03, 2021

Ends: Friday, April, 16, 2021

[**Click Here to Enter your
Public Comment**](#)

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

Public Participation



SPC Public Participation Plan Update

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) has opened a public comment period on the draft 2021 Public Participation Plan an update to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission Public Participation Plan 2015.

This public comment period begins today, March 3rd, 2021, and will conclude on April 16th, 2021.

The draft 2021 Public Participation Plan provides an outline of the tools and techniques we use to inform and engage the public throughout our transportation planning and programming processes. The Plan must comply with federal participation plan regulations and guidelines for metropolitan transportation planning and programs. This guidance helps to ensure that our Public Participation Plan provides opportunities and access for all individuals to provide input on key transportation planning, policy and investment decisions.

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- Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission 2021 Public Participation Plan provides an outline of the tools and techniques we use to inform and engage the public throughout our transportation planning and programming processes. The plan must comply with federal participation plan regulations and guidelines for metropolitan transportation planning and programs. This guidance helps to ensure that our Public Participation Plan provides opportunities and access for all individuals to provide input on key transportation planning, policy and investment decisions.

We have advertised that the public may review these documents online and provide comment to SPC between March 3, 2021 and April 16, 2021. Your nation has been identified as a member of the Pennsylvania Tribal Consultation Network. You may receive inquiries from the public on how to access these documents. These documents may be found online at www.spcregion.org. We request that you make this notice easily accessible, and that you inform your staff so they can direct the public to this material.

A notice is attached regarding public meetings and additional means by which the public can comment on these draft documents. The notice also contains information on how to access assistance for individuals with language, speech, sight or hearing needs.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation. Please contact me at jbedekovich@spcregion.org or 412-391-5590, extension 343, if you have any questions.

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[Click Here to view and
download the Public
Notice](#)



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We have advertised that the public may review these documents online and provide comment to SPC between March 3, 2021 and April 16, 2021. Your facility is identified as a member of our Online Document Review Network. You may receive inquiries from the public on how to access these documents. These documents may be found online at www.spcregion.org. We request that you make this notice easily accessible, and that you inform your staff so they can direct the public to this material.

A notice is attached regarding public meetings and additional means by which the public can comment on these draft documents. The notice also contains information on how to access assistance for individuals with language, speech, sight or hearing needs.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation. Please contact me at jbedekovich@spcregion.org or 412-391-5590, extension 343, if you have any questions.

Public Comment Period for This Topic

Begins: Wednesday, March, 03, 2021
Ends: Friday, April, 16, 2021

[**Click Here to view and
download the Public
Notice**](#)

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

Public Participation



SPC Public Participation Plan Update

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) is currently updating its public participation plan. The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission 2021 Public Participation Plan provides an outline of the tools and techniques we use to inform and engage the public throughout our transportation planning and programming processes.

SPC is seeking comments from the public on this important draft document prior to adoption:

- Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission 2021 Public Participation Plan provides an outline of the tools and techniques we use to inform and engage the public throughout our transportation planning and programming processes. The plan must comply with federal participation plan regulations and guidelines for metropolitan transportation planning and programs. This guidance helps to ensure that our Public Participation Plan provides opportunities and access for all individuals to provide input on key transportation planning, policy and investment decisions.

We have advertised that the public may review these documents online and provide comment to SPC between March 3, 2021 and April 16, 2021. Your facility is identified as a member of our Online Document Review Network. You may receive inquiries from the public on how to access these documents. These documents may be found online at www.spcregion.org. We request that you make this notice easily accessible, and that you inform your staff so they can direct the public to this material.

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Part 5

Document Revisions as a Result of Public Comment

Changes to the Draft 2021 Public Participation Plan in Response to Public Comments

In accordance with SPC's Public Participation Plan, the public is offered the opportunity to review the Draft 2021 Public Participation Plan, and to provide comments during a public comment period. This public input opportunity was widely advertised, and a virtual public meeting was held to provide the opportunity for public comment.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO 2021 Public Participation Plan

- Page 14, first paragraph: The link was changed to a detailed analysis of LEP populations and a paragraph summary was added to this section.
- Page 14, Meaningful Access for LEP Persons: Text was changed to highlight the intent of providing LEP populations with meaningful access to key transportation planning decisions and opportunities.
- Page 15, first bullet: Revised text to "Use locations and times that maximize accessibility to transit and van service."
- Page 20, Speakers Network: Revised text to "SPC is available to provide speakers on the regional transportation planning process and transportation plans at the request of civic groups, professional organizations, neighborhood associations, and other groups."