

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission 2021-2022 Annual Report

Fostering Community Growth



Allegheny | Armstrong | Beaver | Butler | Fayette | Greene
Indiana | Lawrence | Pittsburgh | Washington | Westmoreland



Welcome

It's been an incredibly busy and productive year at SPC. We sustained our mission of supporting our Commissioners, planning partners, and the public by working with regional communities, fostering continued growth and prosperity.

The Southwestern Pennsylvania region is as fruitful as it is diverse, and our work at SPC echoes that sentiment. One of our main crops is transportation planning within communities. From dense urban centers to small towns to rural agricultural areas, we collaborated with communities of all sizes to develop innovative solutions in transportation infrastructure, strengthening the roots of mobility.

We are also ripe with entrepreneurial and economic development opportunities, blooming with innovation, and hold steadfast to the deep roots of our rich history. We provided innovative solutions and support for businesses, helping them to expand and tap into new markets both regionally and globally. Just like a community garden, we work together to create something new in the places we live.

I invite you to read on and explore the tools SPC uses to collaborate with our partners, planting seeds of opportunity for the people and communities of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Thank you,



Vincent Valdes

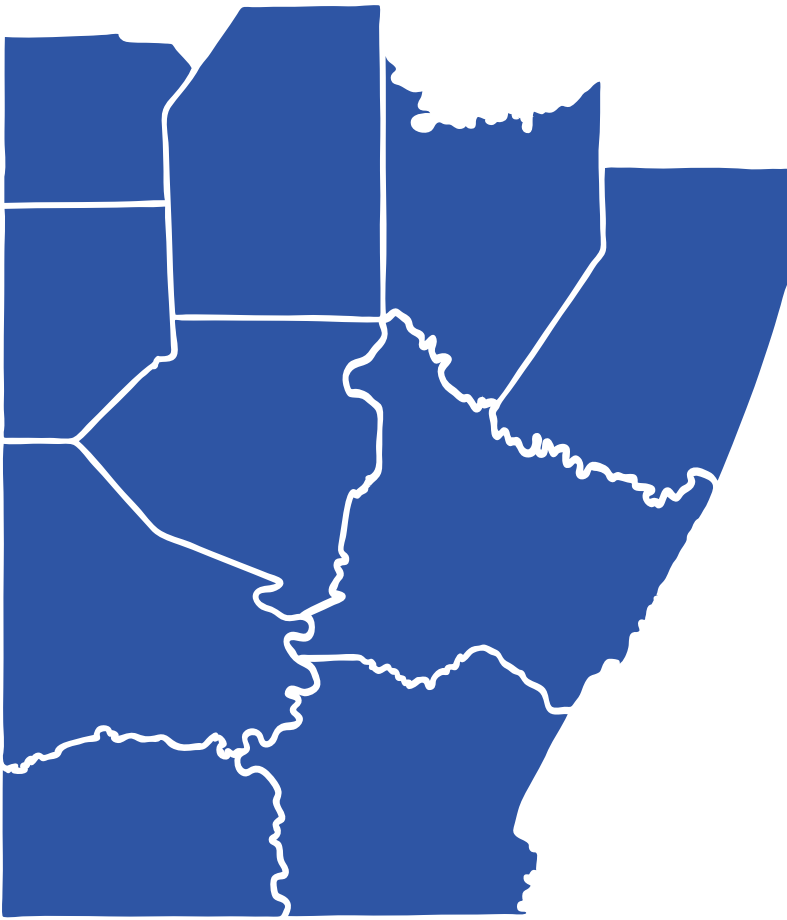


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The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) hereby gives public notice that it is the policy of the Commission to assure full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Executive Order 12898 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.

Our Regional Community



Click on the county name to learn about the projects we have worked on.



Major Achievements

Southwestern Pennsylvania Connected: Equitable Broadband Access

Partnering with Allies for Children, Metro21 and Traffic21 at Carnegie Mellon University, and regional stakeholders, we recognized the need for and have developed a regional Connectivity Roadmap identifying and guiding deployment of high-speed broadband connectivity programs and projects throughout the region.

Many communities within the region lack adequate high-speed internet access and equipment that are essential for residents to better connect to jobs, education, health care, and to attract new business. The Roadmap guides the way to an accessible and affordable regional network where broadband is a basic utility available for all.

The Connectivity Roadmap identifies regional goals and how to identify projects while providing recommendations and next steps for all involved to improve broadband infrastructure, tools, and skills across Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Learn more at:

<https://www.spcregion.org/connected/>

SmartMoves Connections

Public participation during the long range plan update revealed a resounding public want for better regional transit. We heard and took action, responding to that message.

SmartMoves Connections distills a wealth of information, data and experience into a document set providing example solutions to “make transit better” in our region. We focused on how people use transit, connecting to where they work, where they shop, and where they get medical care. Suggestions are provided to make those trips easier and faster, while reducing air pollution. Pathways are provided to invest the public’s money in services, buildings, and communities, improving not only transit, but life in our region.

As we work to implement SmartMoves Connections’ ideas and seek funding for pilot projects, we continue to be inspired by the people and communities we serve. As the vision of SmartMoves Connections becomes reality, we recognize our Commissioners for their insight and effective direction. SmartMoves are achievable and ready to improve transit in our region.

Visit the SmartMoves Connections Story Map to learn more, explore the regional Multimodal Clusters map, view locations that may be ready to invest in Multimodal Hubs and Corridors today:

<https://www.spcregion.org/programs-services/transportation/multimodal-transportation/>

New Data Navigator Tool

Earlier this year, our Regional Data Center’s web presence received a complete overhaul and re-design. Data-driven and casual users alike will now find a wealth of on-demand, fully customizable options to access a variety of data from the US Census Bureau and other sources for information focused on the Southwestern Pennsylvania region.

Auto-generated PDF, Excel, csv, and html file export options offer complete flexibility for how our users want their data delivered. Regional data is presented in detailed, interactive Census profiles, a series of prebuilt tables, and a Data Navigator tool that allows the user to build customized data tables.

Visualizations are also included in the form of Tableau dashboards and Data Tidbits content that highlight key data for the SPC region.

Check out the new Data Navigator tool here:

<https://www.spcregion.org/resources-tools/regional-data-center/>



Major Achievements

2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program

SPC's adopted regional long range transportation plan—SmartMoves for a Changing Region—includes over \$22.7 billion for the region's transportation priorities over 25 years. SmartMoves prioritizes programs and projects that advance the Regional Vision of a world-class, safe and well maintained, integrated transportation system that provides mobility for all, enables resilient communities, and supports a globally competitive economy.

The region's long range transportation plan is implemented with a series of shorter-term investment plans, known as Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs). Each TIP is a step along that 25-year investment in our region's future. SPC adopted the 2023-2026 TIP in June 2022, which will invest over \$6.6 billion for roads and bridges (\$1.6 billion), public transit (\$2.2 billion), and Interstates/Turnpike (\$2.8 billion) in state, federal, and local funds to improve our region's transportation system over the next four years.

Check out the current (2021-2024) and proposed (2023-2026) TIPs at:

<https://www.spcregion.org/programs-services/transportation/smartmoves-long-range-plan-transportation-improvement-program/>

Covid-19 Assistance for Small Businesses: CHIRP

SPC provided millions to our hospitality industry through the state's CHIRP Program (COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program). We administered this grant program set up by the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) designed to help hospitality industry establishments weather the effects of the pandemic.

Our Workforce and Economic Development team worked tirelessly during the pandemic to finalize contracts and application processes with county officials in Allegheny, Butler, Greene, and Indiana Counties, who requested our support. The total dollars dispersed via CHIRP totaled \$15.8 million (Allegheny: \$12.4 million; Butler: \$2.1 million; Greene: \$405,000; Indiana: \$940,000).

Between SPC's loans for FY20/21, and the CHIRP dollars we disbursed in the spring of 2021, SPC's Economic Development team put a total of \$16,962,943 out on the street, an astounding 24 times the amount of money over the previous year.

Learn more about SPC's Commercial Lending program here:

<https://www.spcregion.org/programs-services/business-assistance/>

Regional Roundabout Screening Study

SPC completed the Regional Roundabout Screening Study to improve safety, encourage lower speeds, reduce conflict points, and improve operational performance at intersections. 1,300+ underperforming regional intersections were examined. Our screening study process identified 160 high potential roundabout locations. Further benefit-cost analyses identified the top 32 roundabout locations and concept plans and detailed reports for seven locations are included in the report. The study will position SPC to work with partners to develop future roundabout projects in the region.

Learn more about SPC's Operations & Safety planning program here:

<https://www.spcregion.org/programs-services/transportation/operations-safety/>

Supporting our Communities

Reaching the Public: Creative Multimedia

Our audience reach and engagement continued to achieve new heights through the tireless efforts of our in-house Multimedia Production Team. From animated explainer videos highlighting SWPA Connected, CommuteInfo programs, and our Annual Report, to talking head promotional videos for our Commercial Lending team, we are continuing along a proven path of effective and ever-evolving innovation and creativity.

Check out our videos on the SPC YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/SWPAComm>

Around the World: International Export Assistance

SPC's Export Development Program provides assistance to and creates opportunities for Southwestern Pennsylvania companies to expand their business internationally, thereby increasing export sales and employment prospects in the region. In 2021-2022, our clients reported \$48 million in new export sales—a 200% increase compared to 2020!

Learn more about our Export Development Program:
<https://www.spcregion.org/programs-services/business-assistance/>

Protecting our Natural Resources: Water Resource Center

The Water Resource Center (WRC) expanded its assistance in 2021-2022 by offering its award-winning educational workshop programs and quarterly newsletters to the state-wide MPO partners in addition to the SWPA region. The WRC provided nine (9) virtual workshops at no cost with a total of 301 attendees and quarterly newsletters were distributed to over 2,000 contacts. Educational programs and outreach included traditional resilience and stormwater-related topics and also broadened offerings to include climate change and alternative energy.

Learn more about the Water Resource Center:
<https://spcwater.org/>

Safety, Growth and Multiple Modes: Brodhead Road Corridor Planning Study

Working with Beaver County and PennDOT, SPC completed this planning study to analyze existing and projected future conditions on Brodhead Road and to provide short-, medium-, and long-term concepts for improving multimodal transportation and safety and accommodating future growth. This study is intended to serve as a plan that will guide planning and programming of transportation projects and policies in this corridor for the next 25 years.

Read the Brodhead Road study here:
<https://www.spcregion.org/2022/02/15/brodhead-road-corridor-planning-study-released/>

What's Next?

Click on each seed to see what's **growing** at SPC!



Soon after the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was signed into law

In 2022, SPC submitted a \$128 million application

Through the IIJA, SPC's Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TASA) will

The policies, goals, and strategies from our current Long Range Plan,

2021-2022 Fiscal Year in Reveiw

SPC's administrative arm is the Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation.

Our operations are funded through a combination of federal, state and private foundation grants, SPC member contributions, and in-kind service contributions that support various transportation planning and economic development projects.

SPC's fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30, and the accompanying financial information is for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. Our program revenues totaled \$11.1 million dollars during the 2020 - 2021 fiscal year.

The audit report for the corresponding period expresses an unmodified opinion with no findings related to the financial statements.

Program Revenues

Federal Grants	\$7,615,454
State Grants	\$1,533,855
In-Kind Contributions	\$782,392
Member Contributions	\$761,608
Contributions	\$254,900
Other	\$157,708
Total	\$11,105,917

Program Activities

Unified Planning Work Program	\$7,364,378
Economic Development Program	3,669,056
General	\$72,483
Total	\$11,105,917

Contributions by County

Our Board's annual contribution to SPC gives their counties access to direct technical assistance, transportation/economic development planning, project development support, small business loans, export/contracting assistance, water resource planning, and data analysis, and directly connects your projects to state and federal funding.

Annual Dues Paid | Total Funds Accessed via Contribution

Thank You

I'd like to extend my gratitude to the Commissioners, planning partners and funders who have continuously collaborated to support SPC's work over the past year.

To the Commissioners: Thank you for representing your part of the Southwestern Pennsylvania region. Your input and guidance at SPC are the cornerstones of effective regional planning for our diverse communities.

To our planning partners: Thank you for providing important regulatory and procedural foundation blocks, which are essential for moving from ideas to implementation.

To our funders: Thank you for enabling SPC's commitment to keep Southwestern Pennsylvania connected and moving forward towards our best future as a region.



Leslie Osche, Chairman

Officers and Members of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

Chairman:

Leslie A. Osche

Vice Chairman:

Pat Fabian

Secretary-Treasurer:

Vincent Vicites

Executive Director:

Vincent Valdes

Allegheny County

Jennifer Beer
Rich Fitzgerald
Lynn Heckman
Clifford Levine
Robert J. Macey

Armstrong County

Darin Alviano
Pat Fabian
Donald K. Myers
Jason L. Renshaw
Kelli Wingard

Beaver County

Tony Amadio
Daniel Camp
Kelly Gray
Charles Jones
Jack Manning

Butler County

Kevin Boozel
Kim Geyer
Mark Gordon
Richard Hadley
Leslie A. Osche

Fayette County

Scott Dunn
Joe Grata
Fred Junko
Dave Lohr
Vincent A. Vicites

Greene County

Mike Belding
Rich Cleveland
Jeff Marshall
Betsy McClure
Blair Zimmerman

Indiana County

Robin Gorman
Sherene Hess
Mark Hilliard
Mike Keith
Byron G. Stauffer, Jr.

Lawrence County

Brad Berlin
Morgan Boyd
Amy McKinney
Loretta Spielvogel
Daniel J. Vogler

Washington County

Robert Griffith
Larry Maggi
Nick Sherman
John Timney
Diana Irely Vaughan

Westmoreland County

Tom Ceraso
Douglas Chew
Sean Kertes
Robert Regola
Gina Cerilli Thrasher

City of Pittsburgh

Scott Bricker
Rev. Ricky Burgess
Ed Gainey
Mavis Rainey|
Aurora Sharrard

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (2 Votes)

Brian Allen
William Kovach
Kevin McCullough
Cheryl Moon-Sirianni
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*

Our Planning Partners

Army Corps of Engineers

Local Government Academy

Neighboring MPOs/RPOs

PA Broadband Authority

PA Dept. of Environmental Protection

Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities

Transit Operators

Transportation Management Associations

Our Funders

PennDOT

FHWA

FTA

EDA

ARC

PA DCED

DOD/DLA

SPC Member Governments

The Hillman Foundation

All voting members of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission are members of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation.

* Nonvoting Members