

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

August 28, 2023

4 p.m.



Opening Agenda Items

- Agenda Item 1: Call to Order
 - Quorum
 - Conflict of Interest Declarations on Action Items
- Agenda Item 2: Action on Minutes from June 26, 2023 Meeting
- Agenda Item 3: Public Comment

Action Item: 9-23 Resolution

Welcoming Commissioner Ted Kopas to the Commission (Westmoreland County)

Vince Valdes, Executive Director

Agenda Item: 4



Action Item: 10-23 Resolution

Welcoming Aadil Ginwala (City of Pittsburgh)

Vince Valdes, Executive Director

Agenda Item: 5



Questions?



Action Item: 11-23 Resolution

U.S. DOT's Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Program

Dom D'Andrea, Director of Transportation Planning

Agenda Item: 6



U.S. DOT Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Program



Pittsburgh Regional Transit



MDGP Application Criteria

Eligible Projects:

- Highways and bridges
- Public transportation
- Intercity passenger rail
- Railway-Highway Grade Separation
- Freight and Multimodal
- Groups of such projects of national and regional significance

Three major discretionary programs into one:

- National Infrastructure Project Assistance (MEGA) program – new
- Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) program – existing
- Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (RURAL) – new

Key program criteria:

- Safety
- State of good repair
- Economic impacts/freight/jobs
- Positive impacts on environment
- Equity/multi-modal options/QOL
- Innovation areas
- Project readiness
- Benefit-cost

Available funding


- \$15B total for five years (2022-2026)
- \$5.5B for this round (2023-2024)

Eastern Pittsburgh Multimodal Corridor Project

Synchronizing two important corridors in our region, I-376 and the East Busway

Proposed elements:

- East Busway infrastructure improvements
- East Busway slope stabilization
- Battery electric buses
- I-376 Active Traffic Management
- I-376 “Bathtub” flood protection
- I-376 Hard shoulder running
- Arterial Traffic Management
- Sidewalks and Crosswalks







PROJECT OUTCOME CRITERIA AUGUST 21, 2023

**EASTERN PITTSBURGH
MULTIMODAL CORRIDOR PROJECT**

U.S. Department of Transportation
Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity

*Building Resilient
Connections for
All to the Heart of
the Region*

Submitted by the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

Eastern Pittsburgh Multimodal Corridor

Key program criteria:

- Safety ✓
- State of good repair ✓
- Economic impacts/freight/jobs ✓
- Climate change, resiliency, & the environment ✓
- Equity, multimodal options, & quality of life ✓
- Innovation areas ✓
- Project readiness ✓
- Benefit-cost ✓

MPDG Request Amount: \$150,357,600

Total Project Cost: \$250,596,000

Benefit-Cost: With reduced emissions and congestion, increased safety, improved quality of life and economic impacts, and reduced travel times and operation and maintenance costs the project is significantly cost effective with a Benefit Cost Ratio of 3.8:1, well above DOT's "High" rating of at least 1.5

Questions?



Action Item: 12-23 Resolution

U.S. DOT's Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Discretionary Grant Program

Andy Waple, Deputy Executive Director

Agenda Item: 7



U.S. DOT PROTECT Discretionary Funding Program

Resilience Improvement Program Funding Application



PROTECT Discretionary Program Overview

Program Purpose:

- Plan for and strengthen surface transportation to be more resilient to natural hazards, including climate change, sea level rise, flooding, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters
- Program aims to:
 - Reduce damage and disruption to the transportation system,
 - Improve the safety of the traveling public, and
 - Improve equity by addressing the needs of disadvantaged communities

Funding:

- \$848M available (FFY22 & FFY23) for this funding opportunity
 - Up to \$45M for planning grants (no match required)
 - Up to \$638M for resilience improvement grants
 - Up to \$45M for community resilience and evacuation route grants
 - Up to \$120M for costal infrastructure grants

SPC Proposal

Two phase planning process:

- **Phase I:** develop improved data tools and interactive mapping for assessing surface transportation asset vulnerability to extreme flooding, now and into the future, under multiple climate change risk scenarios.
- **Phase II:** develop a Resilience Improvement Program to focus on protecting transportation assets including highways and bridges, as well as modal networks such as the transit busways and fixed guideway transit, freight networks, rail corridors, and active transportation infrastructure.



PROJECT NARRATIVE

AUGUST 18, 2023

**RESILIENCE IMPROVEMENT
PLAN FOR SOUTHWESTERN
PENNSYLVANIA**

U.S. Department of Transportation
PROTECT Planning Grant Opportunity


Submitted by the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission



SPC Proposal

Benefits of a Resilience Improvement Plan

- Reduced match requirement when applying for PROTECT implementation grants (10% to 3%)
- Future NOFOs under the PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program may prioritize projects that are awarded planning grants funded under this NOFO.
- PennDOT is encouraging MPOs to develop plans for use of formula funds (\$62-77M/year statewide) yet to be distributed




PROJECT NARRATIVE

AUGUST 18, 2023

**RESILIENCE IMPROVEMENT
PLAN FOR SOUTHWESTERN
PENNSYLVANIA**

U.S. Department of Transportation
PROTECT Planning Grant Opportunity

Submitted by the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission



Questions?



Interagency Working Group Stakeholder Session

Jenn Lasser, Director of Economic & Workforce Development

Agenda Item: 8



EDA Update

Jenn Lasser, Director of Economic & Workforce Development

Agenda Item: 9



Action Item: Adoption of Resolution 13-23 in support of the Tech Hub Letter of Support

Jenn Lasser, Director of Economic & Workforce Development

Agenda Item: 10



Questions?



Brief: Safe Driving Video Campaign (Safety & Ops)

Dom D'Andrea, Director of Transportation Planning

Caitlin O'Connor, Director of Public Relations & Communication Initiatives

Agenda Item: 11



Safe Driving Video Campaign

Our way to help educate and generate awareness among our publics/audiences by providing safe driving/road safety tips.

A collaboration between the Transportation (Safety & Ops team) & Communications departments. Designing, writing, and creating/editing these videos in-house.

Featuring and promoting the videos on our owned channels (social media platforms and newsletter). Also distributing to specific publics/audiences.

Videos have a timely theme dependent upon the season we're in.

Safe Driving Video Campaign

Video 1 (July)
Summer Driving

Video 2 (August)
School Bus Safety

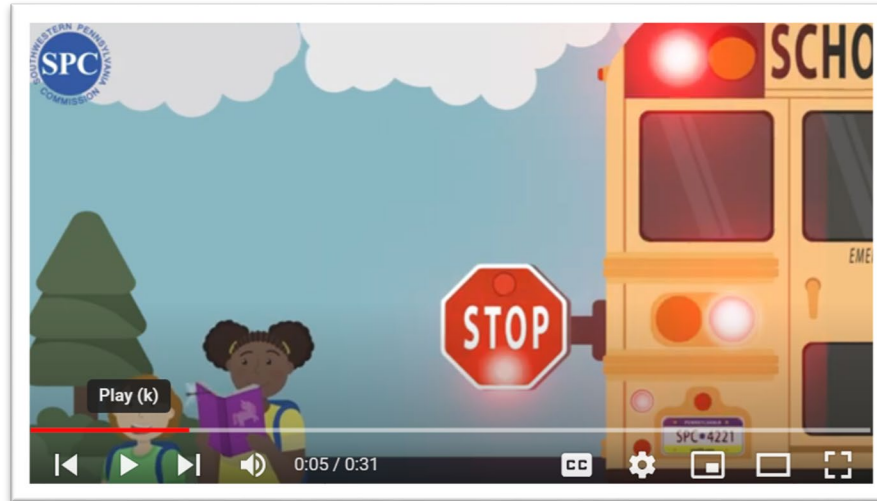
Video 3 (September)
Road Flooding

Video 4 (October)
What Actions to Take When Accidents
Happen

Video 5 (November)
Drive Cautiously During Daylight Savings
Time/Change

Video 6 (December)
Driving in Dangerous Winter Conditions

Video: Back-to-School Bus Safety



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OkLjBQZuJko&list=PL8jCkoxzsfOKWH0G1mY1EYRJX52sWsdLL>

Questions?



Message: Vince Valdes, Executive Director

Next Meeting Date—October 23, 2023

Agenda Item: 12



Questions?



Other SPC Business

Agenda Item: 13



Adjourn

Agenda Item: 14

