

SmartMoves

for a Changing Region

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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Italiano

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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 अनुवाद र दोभाषे सेवा उपलब्ध गराउँछ।
थप जानकारीको लागि SPC (412) 391-5590 मा फोन गर्नुहोस्।

Sinhalese

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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
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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।

Gujarati

આ દસ્તાવેજ વિનંતી પર વૈકલ્પિક ફોર્મેટમાં 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। ଜ୍ୟୋତିଷ ଚାର୍ଜ
ଛଡ଼ା ଏସପିସି ଅନୁବାଦ ଏବଂ ବ୍ୟାଖ୍ୟା ସେବା ପ୍ରଦାନ କରିବ।
ବିଶାଳ 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 ਦੁਬਾਰਾ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ
ਪ੍ਰਦਾਨ ਕਰੇਗਾ।
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ਕਰੋ।

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

یہ دستاویز درخواست کیے جانے پر متبادل اشکال میں دستیاب ہے۔
SPC درخواست کیے جانے پر ترجمہ اور ترجمانی کی خدمات مفت فراہم کرے
گا۔
مزید معلومات کیلئے SPC کو (412) 391-5590 پر کال کریں۔



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THE REGIONAL VISION

The Regional Vision is a world-class, safe and well maintained, connected multimodal transportation system that provides mobility for all, empowers resilient and sustainable communities, and supports a globally competitive economy.

Our region is changing. Our population is changing; our economy is changing; our environment is changing; our technology is changing. And the way we need to make things happen is changing. This regional plan focuses on the SmartMoves we can make to take charge of change and make our region a better place for all.

OUR REGION'S GOALS



CONNECTED MOBILITY

A world-class, safe and well maintained, integrated transportation system that provides multimodal mobility for all.



SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

The revitalization of our communities will make us a magnet for new investment. Intensive investments in connectivity, walkable neighborhoods, and green infrastructure will attract business and residents to newer and older communities alike.



GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE ECONOMY

Strategic infrastructure investments and workforce training will make the region recognized as a global leader in technology and innovation.

SmartMoves for a Changing Region

This Long Range Transportation Plan document represents an update to the previous plan completed in 2019. Many of the goals, visions, and strategies that were the result of a significant stakeholder outreach effort at that time are still applicable today. Nine months after that plan was adopted, our country experienced the beginning of the spread of the COVID-19 virus which resulted in a pandemic which killed millions of people in the US and abroad. As we write this update in the Spring of 2023, the U.S. national emergency to respond to the pandemic ended as the President signed a bipartisan congressional resolution to bring it to a close after 3 years. As we emerge from the pandemic, its lessons have us thinking about how to change and build a more resilient economy, transportation system, and community. Indeed, we need more smart moves for our changing region.

CREATING OPPORTUNITY

The Regional Vision means taking advantage of our considerable existing assets and developing, supporting, and implementing projects and programs that advance our progress. It means investing in regionally-connected, seamless transit, and new transit investments in key corridors and networks. It means developing modern support infrastructure that prepares the region not only for current technological advances, but also for the new technology being advanced in this region.

This plan is about creating and connecting people to opportunity.

The opportunity can be physical tangible connections like **improved regional transit** or **enhanced broadband connectivity**.

The opportunity can create connections to **training for the jobs of the future** that afford the region's workforce **family-sustaining job opportunities** in new and emerging industries.

The opportunity is about the region connecting with opportunities to invest in and take **stewardship of our older communities**, as well as investing in strategies that **protect our environment** and **address climate change and resiliency**.

Technology and innovation can be much more than self-driving cars and artificial intelligence, and it can work in rural as well as urban parts of the region. We envision innovative new farming techniques and technology deployment that will connect our entire region with high speed access to the internet, allowing our residents to work from anywhere and connecting them to global economic opportunities.

CATALYST FOR COLLABORATION

The region will continue to experience acute shocks and chronic stresses related to extreme weather, shifting demographics and workforce, and funding for critical infrastructure. We must adapt, and this plan should be used as a guide to proactively develop responses through collaboration, information exchange, and shared goals that are applicable in both urban and rural areas. This plan is to be used as a catalyst for collaboration that creates opportunity in the region.

ADVANCING THE VISION

SmartMoves contains Goals and Strategies for a wide breadth of community and economic development topics that are interrelated with the transportation system, as it directly supports and enables our communities and our economy to prosper. This plan continues to focus on core transportation investments such as maintaining

our current system; optimizing our system through operational improvements; 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 and pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.

The plan describes the overall strategic Vision for the region's transportation system and also, as required by federal regulations, describes the specific projects and investments that can be advanced with revenues that are reasonably expected to be available during the life of the plan (Appendix IV).

This plan also includes a set of multimodal projects and initiatives to modernize and expand our transportation system (Appendix IV) that are in various stages of the planning process, and at this time, do not have funding identified for implementation. All of these projects and initiatives contribute to the Regional Vision. The Strategies and Actions contained in the subsequent sections of this plan, coupled with the ongoing planning efforts already underway in the region, will not only help to guide the development of these projects, but also help to identify partnerships and opportunities for collaboration to assist in implementing the Vision and the plan.

SmartMoves recognizes that as things change, our transportation and mobility needs will also change and will likely continue to change significantly within the horizon of the plan – 2045. This plan also recognizes that we already don’t have enough funding to maintain and optimize our current system at a comprehensive level, or to implement all of the transformative projects the region needs to achieve the Regional Vision.

SmartMoves is the region’s official plan authorized by the federal government that directly attaches real funding to real projects that will be advanced in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

The Vision for the region’s transportation system includes major expansion to the region’s public transportation network including expansion of high quality service from Downtown Pittsburgh to the Airport, the north, the eastern suburbs, the Mon-Valley, and points beyond. The plan sets the stage to better coordinate service among our region’s 10 public transit agencies in order to facilitate seamless linkages with other first and last-mile modes of transportation. This Vision also includes new transit centers and improved transit stops, as well as resources for local governments to implement complete streets improvements that connect where we live to where we work and play.

Transit:

- Equitable, seamless linkages between the region’s public transit services.
- Expansion of frequent, high quality service from Downtown Pittsburgh to the East, West, North, and South, Pittsburgh International Airport, and Oakland.

Active Transportation:

- Completion of the regional trail network.
- Connect the arterial trail network to communities and local active transportation networks.

Roadways:

- A network of safe, well maintained, and modern highways and bridges across all tiers of the highway system.
- Implementation of context based street design.

VISION TO ACTION

Each of our 3 Major Goals rising from our Vision have Strategies associated with them that set the context for more specific projects, initiatives, and actions that are critical for the success of the changing Southwestern Pennsylvania region. These Goals and Strategies are interrelated and strive to connect the dots between the region, its residents, and opportunity.

This plan transparently depicts how

investments advance the Strategies, and, in some cases, how the Strategies can enhance the investments - ultimately working together to achieve the Major Goals and the Regional Vision.

SMARTMOVES ENVISIONS:



Major projects that maintain our existing system while also **enhancing safety, accessibility, mobility, and connectivity** across the region.



Major expansions of communications technology to our rural communities.



Coming together as a region to **address climate change**.



Working collaboratively to find **sustainable revenues for transportation** infrastructure.



Investment in, and revitalization of, the region’s communities to reinforce the **sustainability of our towns and neighborhoods**.

SmartMoves for a Changing Region

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

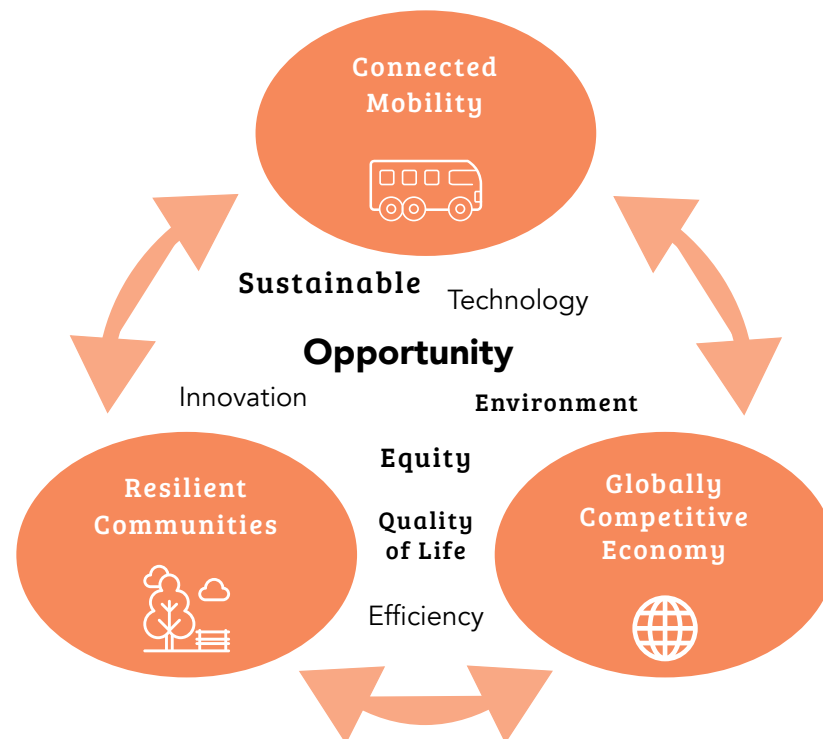
This plan envisions that expanded local and regional active transportation facilities are considered whenever roads or bridges are rehabilitated or reconstructed. Connecting major regional trail networks to one another and to local facilities, enabling safe, seamless travel by active transportation modes across the region, is a priority. Supported by the region's Active Transportation Plan, SmartMoves envisions collaboration among local governments and other stakeholders to implement complete streets policies in communities across the region. This entails education on best practices and the benefits of complete streets to communities, the economy, and the overall health and safety of the region's residents. This plan sets aside significant funds to implement projects that advance active transportation, link land use and transportation planning, expand transit options, revitalize communities, and improve air quality.

IMPROVED MOBILITY

The Vision includes well maintained roadways and bridges that are safe for all users. SmartMoves makes significant investments in improving mobility conditions, safety, and operations. The use of new and emerging technologies in operations, design, construction

methodologies, and materials will be critical moving into the future, allowing us to maximize use of our limited state and federal funds. The modernization of our Interstate highways through interchange reconfigurations and upgrades will ensure the safe and reliable movement of people and goods throughout the region and beyond. Corridors of regional significance will be maintained and improved to facilitate the safe and efficient movement of people and goods. These improvements range

from maintenance of current infrastructure to the complete reconstruction and upgrading of high priority corridors. Once these projects are ready to program on the Transportation Improvement Program, (TIP) – the implementation vehicle of the Long Range Plan, SPC will work with the PennDOT Connects process to ensure that local governments, transit providers and other stakeholders have the opportunity to shape the improvements in their communities.



Advancing the Vision: Projects

Our 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.



Example Projects for: Transit

- Downtown to Oakland Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)*
- West Busway BRT Extension to Pittsburgh International Airport
- East Busway Extension to the East Suburbs and Mon-Valley
- Establish Regional Transit Centers at Key Locations throughout the Region
- Expanded Regional Park-n-Ride Capacity*

Strategies Advanced:

- Equitable Access
- Emerging Technology
- Public Transit

Example Projects for: Active Transportation

- I-579 CAP*
- Three Rivers Heritage Trail to Freeport*
- Sheepskin Trail from Mon-River Trail to Great Allegheny Passage (GAP)*
- Westmoreland Heritage Trail to GAP*
- Hoodlebug Trail to Blairsville*
- Ohio River Trail from McKees Rocks through Beaver County to Ohio

Strategies Advanced:

- Reinvest in Communities
- Sustainability
- Clean Air

Example Projects for: Roadways

- U.S. Route 30 Modernization*
- PA Turnpike Cashless Tolling Interchanges (Routes 130, 981, 910)
- State Route 228 Modernization and Capacity Upgrades*
- State Route 885/Second Ave Corridor Improvements
- Monaca Gateway Corridor Improvements*
- East Carson Street Mobility and Safety Improvements*

Strategies Advanced:

- Infrastructure
- Prioritize and Streamline
- Smart Technology

*Project or portion of project is under development and is funded in TIP and/or LRP

CONNECTED MOBILITY

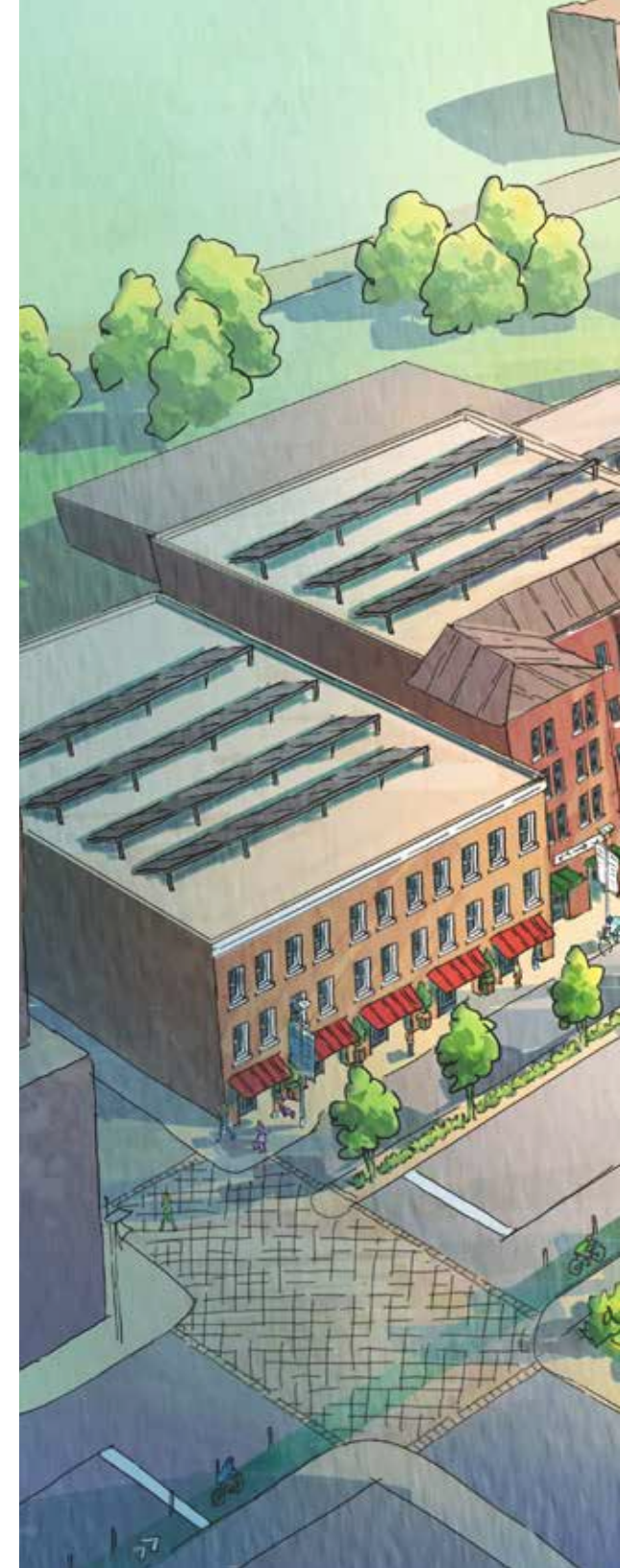


Goal:

A world-class, safe and well maintained, integrated transportation system that provides multimodal mobility for all.

Themes:

- **Mobility for All: Equity Keeps Us Whole**
- **High Tech Mobility: Connected and Autonomous Vehicles**
- **Funding and Financing: Sustainable Funding**
- **Prioritize and Streamline: Faster Project Development and Delivery**





Strategies at Work

Connected Mobility

Mobility for All

- Equitable Access

High Tech Mobility

- Modernize Supporting Infrastructure
- Minimize negative impacts

Funding and Financing

- Sustainable Public Transit Funding
- Public Transit Equity
- Implement Smartmoves Connections

Prioritize and Streamline

- Coordinated Investment

Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Reinvest in Communities

- Promote Investment
- Utilize Incentives and Regulations

Globally Competitive Economy

Infrastructure

- Public/Private Partnerships

Emerging Technologies

- Identify Emerging Technologies
- Connected and Autonomous Vehicles
- Implement Connectivity Roadmap

Connected Mobility

Sustainable revenues to adequately fund public infrastructure and programs are critical in advancing the Vision and Goals of SmartMoves. A stable, predictable revenue stream will allow us to accurately predict future funding levels and advance priority projects in a timely manner. However, in order to deliver the type of transformative projects the region desires, additional and sustainable sources of revenue will be necessary. To address the need for additional revenues, an ongoing, collaborative effort

across both the public and private sectors is essential for delivering a strong message that conveys the benefits of infrastructure investments to the regional economy and community livability.

When planning for transportation investments, the region must consider not just the transportation benefits, but also how well the improvements fit the context of the surrounding community it serves. The transportation system must be considered as a whole, rather than a

series of separate networks. Involving the community in the early stages of the project development process will not only help to identify community needs and goals, but also assist in the delivery of projects by considering all factors before project design begins. This collaboration, along with strong partnerships between all parties involved, will assist in efficiently delivering projects, thereby enabling the region to capture as much state and federal funding as possible.

EQUITY KEEPS US WHOLE

The future holds great opportunities to achieve seamless mobility across the Southwestern Pennsylvania region. The widespread use of smart phones and high speed internet connections enable us to become a more connected society and use multiple mobility options, even for a single-purpose trip.

- Integrate multiple forms of public/ private transportation to provide increased mobility equitably for all users including those in underserved rural areas and disadvantaged populations.
- Ensure all projects consider transportation access, multimodal options, affordability, noise, vibration, air pollution, and impacts to area housing availability, affordability, and services.

In order to achieve equity in transportation, strategies aimed at helping communities get the investments necessary to spur mobility need to be well-planned, smartly developed, and effectively implemented. The region-wide transportation network envisioned in this plan includes multiple travel options that not only meet universally-accepted expectations, but also support the health, mobility, activity, and participation of people across their lifespan.

HIGH TECH: CONNECTED AND AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

Technology is reshaping the transportation system as we know it. Emerging technologies in mobility are being developed at a rapid pace that will likely continue to do so for many years to come. The region must be

nimble and forward-thinking to anticipate and embrace these technologies, as they will play a role in where we live, how we move, and where we work. Partnerships between the public and private sectors, along with our academic institutions, are critical in recognizing and proactively addressing the potential impacts that technology will have in terms of safety, equity, land use, and public sector revenue.

- Develop and deploy appropriate infrastructure to facilitate safe and efficient use of Connected Infrastructure as well as Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CAVs).
- minimize impacts associated with Connected and Autonomous Vehicles on safety, public sector revenue, congestion, and local quality of life.

FUNDING AND FINANCING: SUSTAINABLE FUNDING

Stable, reliable funding for infrastructure is critical to the quality of life and economic vitality of Southwestern Pennsylvania. Without predictable funding commitments at all levels, it will become more difficult to maintain our existing system at acceptable levels, invest in new projects and transit services, and to further develop our regional trail networks.

Revenues from the federal Highway Trust Fund are declining due to reduced fuel consumption, popularity of electric vehicles, and the continuing reduction in buying power from the state and federal gas tax, which means that new revenue tools may be necessary to fund infrastructure improvements.

In order to address this funding disparity, additional revenue sources will be needed and, in many cases, support from a variety of stakeholders, including the private sector and the public, will be critical in establishing and sustaining these sources. To assemble this support, a robust educational outreach campaign centered on public infrastructure and its benefits to the economy and communities will be needed.

In June, 2021, SPC finalized

a new approach to regional transit planning—one based on locating the Transit Supportive Land Uses already present in our region. Using an analysis of aerial photography and travel data, SmartMoves Connections maps the clusters of land with multimodal potential. These are put into six categories where Multimodal Hubs and Multimodal Corridors could be good mobility options.

- Fund additional transportation infrastructure through private sector partnerships, user fees, value capture, and other appropriate mechanisms; broaden revenue tools available to local governments to fund infrastructure projects.
- Conduct education on the need for revenue increases as a continuing process, not a “one and done” endeavor; and garner overall understanding of public infrastructure benefits, needs, and subsequent support for needed infrastructure revenues.
- Develop a comprehensive regional plan for public transit connections, including the identification of a possible regional source for dedicated public transit funding to facilitate seamless linkages and cooperation across the region.
- Continue to implement SmartMoves Connections – A Regional Vision for Public Transit by focusing on enhancing and expanding transit connections, programs and facilities that equitably benefit users while minimizing negative environmental impacts; identify and utilize dedicated and discretionary funding to enable seamless linkages and cooperation across the region.

PRIORITIZE AND STREAMLINE: FASTER PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY

The region’s transportation network must function as an integrated system rather than a series of unrelated networks. It is imperative that the transportation agencies responsible

for planning, implementing, and maintaining different components of the transportation system work in concert to give the region the opportunity to make mobility choices.

Not only do we need to continue to prioritize investment based on performance criteria at the corridor level, we also need to consider the context of each community in order to create genuine, livable places, emphasizing complete streets with a variety of mobility options. It is crucial to work toward the same shared goals of this plan, realizing that solutions to mobility are not one-size-fits-all and will look different across the urban, suburban, and rural areas of the region. Partnerships between transportation agencies, local governments, and the private sector are essential to this effort.

- Employ holistic planning for mobility and accessibility when developing and prioritizing projects. Make transportation improvements fit community context and enhance local quality of life.
- Employ holistic planning for mobility and accessibility when developing and prioritizing projects. Make transportation improvements fit community context and enhance local quality of life.

Strategies at Work

Connected Mobility

Mobility for All

- Equitable Access

Prioritize and Streamline

- Coordinated Investment

Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Reinvest in Communities

- Promote Investment
- Utilize Incentives and Regulations

Clean Water Strategy

- Promote Best Practices
- Integrated Water Resource Management Approach
- Create Incentives for Stormwater Management

Globally Competitive Economy

Infrastructure

- Public/Private Partnerships





SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



Goal:

The revitalization of our communities will make us a magnet for new investment. Intensive investments in connectivity, walkable neighborhoods, and green infrastructure will attract business and residents to newer and older communities alike.

Themes:

- **Resilient Communities: Elevate Community**
- **Tackle Climate Change, Air, and Water: The Earth Sustains Us**

Sustainable and Resilient Communities

The livability and sustainability of our communities is a priority. Intensive investments in connectivity, safe walkable neighborhoods, and green infrastructure will attract business and residents and provide opportunities for the communities of the region to flourish. Attractive, affordable housing, close to jobs and services in livable communities that are accessible by public transportation, are essential components to ensure residents are afforded equitable access to opportunity and that we are able to retain current businesses. These same

attributes will help communities attract new residents and businesses.

All communities need to be well served by high-speed broadband to ensure all of Southwestern Pennsylvania is able to participate in a changing, data-driven economy, and children throughout the region have access to all of the educational opportunities of the increasingly digital world. The provision of education affords opportunity for individuals to build successful lives and communities to achieve economic prosperity.

Working together to promote and implement best practices in land use policy, community development, transportation planning, and leveraging private sector development will help communities and the region as a whole to create unique, livable areas with a sense of place that are accessible for all residents. These places will be nimble and able to proactively plan for uncertain conditions, as well as able to adapt and overcome acute shocks and chronic stresses, creating 21st century communities that are prepared for the future.

ELEVATE COMMUNITY

Investment and reinvestment into the region's existing communities is absolutely critical in creating and sustaining livable communities. Southwestern Pennsylvania is home to communities of all sizes, from the densely populated urban core of the City of Pittsburgh and its suburbs to smaller cities, towns, and villages and sparsely populated rural areas. Each of these places is unique and has a story to tell. Through vision, collaboration, and sound community planning, the stories of these communities can be heard.

With sound community and transportation planning, vacant properties and gray / brownfield sites can be used to spur community development and revitalization. The adaptive reuse of vacant residential, commercial, and industrial properties can help to reduce crime rates, increase the tax base, and combat population loss. While vacant properties have plagued many industrial cities and towns, they pose a unique opportunity for local government officials, community organizations, and residents to transform blighted and underutilized properties into vibrant assets that provide attractive, walkable, transit-friendly communities with complete streets and affordable housing options that will

help retain current and attract new residents and businesses. By utilizing public policy incentives and lessons learned from other successful post-industrial communities, we can utilize these properties to benefit communities and region at large.

- Promote institutional investment in older communities, repurposing versus demolition, and ensure that affordable housing is retained utilizing best practice models in the region for land use, vacant properties, and environmental strategies.
- Provide municipal education on land use best practices, Smart Growth principles, community development, transportation planning, and on existing mechanisms to leverage private sector development.

- Embrace and expand emerging infrastructure innovations and technologies including planning, design, materials, and construction processes for a more adaptable and resilient built environment.
- Promote strategic infrastructure investment in communities that reduces physical exposure and vulnerability from natural hazards, including flooding and landslides.

TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE, AIR, AND WATER: THE EARTH SUSTAINS US

Climate change is defined as a significant change in the measures of climate, such as temperature, rainfall, or wind, lasting for an extended period – decades or longer. Combating these changes is a multifaceted, multi-agency endeavor. A broad coalition of stakeholders is needed to identify local/regional risks and tailor strategies in order to achieve the greatest benefit to air quality and the environment. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the City of Pittsburgh both have recently developed Climate Action Plans (CAPs), which could serve as a foundation for a regional plan.

The region’s natural resources are its greatest asset. These resources contribute to the

environmental health as well as the economic health of our region. Conservation is key critical to the long term sustainability of those contributions. Southwestern Pennsylvania is home to one of the Commonwealth’s seven Conservation Landscapes, the Laurel Highlands. Conservation Landscapes are regions bound together by a shared sense of place and identity that come together collaboratively to drive strategic investment and actions around sustainability, conservation, community revitalization, and recreational projects. These collaborations are found in regions where there are strong natural assets, local readiness and buy-in, and state-level investment and support.

- Invest in strategies that adapt to and decelerate the impacts of climate change. This includes investment in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery, as well as creating awareness about climate change, its projected impacts, and regional strategies.
- Conservation of the region’s natural resource assets and key tracts of land enhances environmental quality, natural land connectivity, habitat corridors, and agricultural lands preservation, and provides recreational opportunities for residents and tourists, as well as reclaim and remediate environmentally sensitive lands.

- Promote and support sustainable regional water resource management and planning for water topics such as stormwater, flooding, water quantity, water quality, and infrastructure systems.
- Support and encourage transportation projects and programs that will contribute to attainment or maintenance of the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for ozone, carbon monoxide (CO), and particulate matter (PM).

GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE ECONOMY



Goal:

Strategic infrastructure investments and workforce training will make the region recognized as a global leader in technology and innovation.

Themes:

- **Grow, Train, and Retrain: Workforce For Change**
- **Prioritize, Improve, and Support: Infrastructure Supports Us**
- **Partner and Deploy: Technology Advances Us**





Strategies at Work

Connected Mobility

Mobility for All

- Equitable Access

Funding and Financing

- Sustainable Public Transit Funding
- Implement Smartmoves Connections

Prioritize and Streamline

- Coordinated Investment

Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Reinvest in Communities

- Promote Investment
- Utilize Incentives and Regulations

Clean Water Strategy

- Promote Best Practices

Globally Competitive Economy

Infrastructure

- Public/Private Partnerships

Emerging Technologies

- Identify Emerging Technologies
- Connected and Autonomous Vehicles
- Implement Connectivity Roadmap

Globally Competitive Economy

As the region looks to the future and the economic opportunities it can provide to its residents, it will need to make SmartMoves to maximize opportunities. Actively addressing workforce, infrastructure, energy, and technology are critical to ensuring the entire region can reach its potential for everyone

to have equal opportunities for success. How we approach workforce to match skills and meet demand; how we transform our infrastructure into an asset rather than a risk; how quickly and widely we adopt and deploy existing and new technologies; and, how we capitalize on the energy sector will determine

if this region is globally competitive. The answers rely on us making SmartMoves for strategic infrastructure investments and workforce training that will make the region recognized as a global leader in technology and innovation.

GROW, TRAIN, AND RETRAIN: WORKFORCE FOR CHANGE

Building a diverse local workforce to meet the demand for highly skilled talent across sectors is critical. Growing the size of the candidate market and ensuring it has the soft skills needed to meet the 21st century expectations of a modern workforce through training and retraining is also crucial.

The region may not have enough eligible workforce candidates to fill the jobs of the future. For the region to be successful it will require that we form what may be seen as non-traditional partnerships for action. The Vision seeks to increase the size of the region's work force in general and for the sectors and occupations of high demand through traditional and new innovative actions.

The region will need to prepare the workforce for emerging industry demands in growing future industries like Additive Manufacturing, Robotics, and Artificial Intelligence. These industries will require different skills and we need to prepare the region's workforce to remain competitive.

- Grow job candidate market by promoting the benefits of recruitment, retention and immigration of skilled labor, and workforce reintegration of individuals with barriers to work.
- Train and/or retrain employees and new college graduates for the jobs in the region and train for emerging technology opportunities, like Additive Manufacturing and Artificial Intelligence.
- Train and/or retrain employees and new college graduates for the jobs in the region and train for emerging technology opportunities like Additive Manufacturing, Robotics, and Artificial Intelligence.

PRIORITIZE, IMPROVE, AND SUPPORT: INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORTS US

Keeping our aging public infrastructure in a state of good repair is necessary to support growth in the region, but it is just as important that we build the infrastructure of the future. Prioritizing infrastructure that provides for economic success, including embracing innovation and technology to improve its efficiency, and supporting projects that maximize the local use of the locally derived energy industry, such as the Appalachian Storage Hub, is vital to the future of the region.

Infrastructure plays a vital role in the economy of a region. This Strategy is focused on reducing the cost and maximizing the benefit of infrastructure through the use of technology. From the material sciences to artificial intelligence, emerging technologies can change the economics of infrastructure investments to provide maximum benefit.

According to the American Chemistry Council (ACC), the Appalachian region has the potential to become a major petrochemical and plastic resin-producing region. The Vision supports the development of a storage hub in the region to take maximum advantage of locally-sourced natural gas liquids.

- Prioritize infrastructure projects by considering their full regional economic, environmental and community benefits, emphasizing projects that are consistent with national and regional community, economic and environmental priorities and needs.
- Improve infrastructure efficiency via processes and technology implementation through the full project development process including the design, construction, operation, and maintenance phases.
- Support regional workforce growth and focus to attract and leverage regional investment for diverse, inclusive, and sustainable growth.
- Support and incentivize new and emerging industries and clean energy hub development such as those associated with Carbon Capture Utilization and Sequestration (CCUS) and Hydrogen.

- Grow and expand our economy and strong manufacturing and industrial base by supporting decarbonization initiatives, solutions, and workforce needs.

PARTNER AND DEPLOY: TECHNOLOGY ADVANCES US

Rapidly advancing technology affects all aspects of the economy from infrastructure and mobility to advanced manufacturing, to healthcare, retail, and the service industry. Fast paced technology identification, deployment, and adoption across all sectors will give the region a competitive advantage. Ensuring that the entire region is provided equal access to high speed internet connectivity is essential to prevent residents and communities from being left behind.

Innovation and technology continue to change the way industries, companies, businesses, and individuals communicate and perform. Active partnerships are needed to identify new technologies and assess their relevance to keep this region at the cutting edge of technological innovation.

Everything from commerce to education relies on access to high speed internet service. Providing high speed internet

access to our entire region will help make communities economically competitive and able to participate in the global economy.

- Identify, track, develop, and deploy new technology advancements across the region through the use of public private partnerships; opportunities include mobility, communications, sustainable development and infrastructure resiliency.
- Continue to implement the Connectivity Roadmap by developing, supporting and deploying high speed connectivity programs and projects to affordably, equitably, and systematically address the unserved and underserved areas of the region.

Strategies at Work

Connected Mobility

Funding and Financing

- Regional Collaboration

Prioritize and Streamline

- Promote Collaboration

Resilient Communities

Elevate Communities

- Pursue Innovative Ideas and Solutions

Sustainability

- Valuing our Natural Resources

Natural Resources

- Promote Natural Resources for Recreation

Clean Water Strategy

- Integrated Water Resource Management Approach

Globally Competitive Economy

Infrastructure

- Public/Private Partnerships



Illustration: Three Rivers Heritage Trail, Etna

Foundation for Moving Forward

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Local Development District (LDD), and Economic Development District (EDD) for Southwestern Pennsylvania. In these roles, SPC is the leader in regional planning for Southwestern Pennsylvania and is charged with developing both the regional long range transportation plan and the comprehensive economic development strategy. While mandated by different federal regulations, *SmartMoves for a Changing Region* integrates these into a coordinated regional program of projects and actions that are guided by the principle that the relationships between our communities, economic development, and the region's transportation system are interconnected, interdependent, and fundamental to the success of Southwestern Pennsylvania. SPC works with multiple planning partners at the federal, state, regional, and local levels on programs and projects that move the Regional Vision, Major Goals, and Strategies forward.

SPC's planning area encompasses the ten counties of Southwestern Pennsylvania and their connections to points beyond the region. The planning process addresses

surface transportation needs for roadways, bridges, and public transit; travel by automobile, truck, buses, trains, bicycle, or walking; issues with safety, accessibility, and mobility; and, access to work, school, shopping, recreation, and our homes.

The long range plan is one of the core products of SPC's cooperative, coordinated

SPC is the leader in regional planning for Southwestern Pennsylvania and is charged with developing both the regional long range transportation plan and the comprehensive economic development strategy.

and comprehensive (3c) metropolitan transportation planning process. In Summer 2017, the SPC Executive Committee charged the region's county planning directors to create a Long Range Plan Task Force with diverse expertise to develop a new planning process. Based on direction from the Task Force, SPC developed Expert Resource Panels to identify and examine trends and Forces of Change that are impacting the

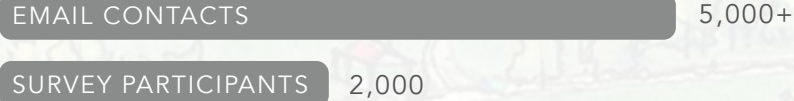
region today and will continue to impact the region in the future. SPC staff, working with the planning directors, took the direction and feedback given by its Task Force, and advanced the new planning process to create a holistic, state of the practice plan that will enable the region to collaboratively work together and advance Southwestern

Pennsylvania forward.

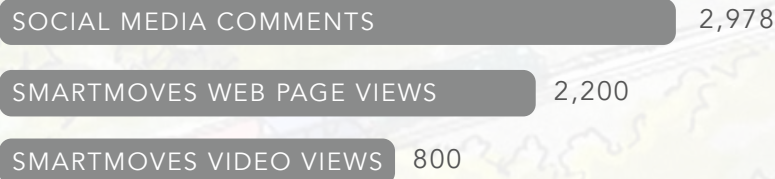
At the direction of the SPC Executive Committee, the Regional Policy Advisory Committee, and the Commission as a whole, we worked collaboratively with stakeholders and the public throughout the region to create a Regional Vision, Goals, and Strategies that move the region forward in a holistic positive direction. These Strategies, along with the foundation of the Ten Federal Planning Factors and

the National Performance Goals, guide the investments and priorities for state and federal transportation investments over the next 25 years. This will ensure the projects and programs contained in the plan will work in concert to assist the Southwestern Pennsylvania region achieve its desired vision for the future.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



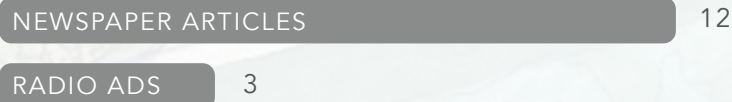
SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE



COLLABORATION



MEDIA EXPOSURE



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Public engagement throughout the development of the long range plan provides important opportunities for the public, planning partners, and interested parties to share information, ideas, needs, and priorities as we work together to build our region's future. SPC's Public Participation Program offers a variety of opportunities for any interested party to engage in the regional transportation planning process. SPC brings planning directly to our member counties through Public Participation Panels, which are comprised of more than 300 individuals reflecting the demographic diversity, needs, and concerns of communities throughout our 10-county region. The Panels help to conduct outreach, identify needs and resources, suggest alternatives, and assist in the evaluation of implementation strategies in the planning process. The Panels hosted public meetings in each of our 10 counties throughout the process. The SPC public participation process is outlined and detailed in its adopted Public Participation Plan.

There were two rounds of ten public meetings held – one in Fall 2022 to gather input on the plan and one in Spring 2023 to present the draft plan.

Moving Forward: Implementation

SmartMoves for a Changing Region defines the Regional Vision and Major Goals and Strategies developed through a collaborative regional planning process that identifies transportation, community, and economic development needs and priorities. Transportation focused strategies, resulting in infrastructure improvement projects and related programs are implemented in a number of ways, primarily through the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which provides the bulk of the region's transportation investment funds. These TIP programs are supplemented by other federal, state and local transportation investments, including those made by the US Department of Transportation, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and PennDOT's Central Office in Harrisburg. The regional TIP (and statewide STIP) is updated on a regular basis to reflect current funding levels and priorities.

SPC's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) identifies transportation planning priorities and activities that will be carried out each year, including the implementation of specific Strategies and Actions contained in this plan. Federal transportation legislation authorizes planning funds so that regional planning organizations are able to fulfill the federal planning requirements (23 U.S.C. 134 and 135, 49 U.S.C. 5303-5304, and 23 CFR part 450) and to conduct the regional transportation planning that advances local priorities set forth in the long range planning process. The tasks to update federally required planning and programming documents such as the TIP, the Congestion Management Process, the Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan, and the region's Safety Action Plan and the Regional Operations Plan are identified.

Also identified are the tasks to be undertaken and the partners needed to advance the

implementation of specific Strategies and Actions depicted in previous sections of this plan. Example tasks to implement the Strategies could include initiatives such as creating holistic visions for corridors of regional significance; the development of a best practices resource center; development of a regional plan to tackle climate change; planning to revitalize communities throughout the region; conducting public outreach to raise awareness of the need for increased transportation funding and the public benefits therein; and the examination of how to increase coordination and linkages between regional transit providers.

SPC intends on continuing the broad collaboration and engagement conducted during this long range plan development process to develop the projects, programs, and initiatives that will be advanced through regional partnerships across Southwestern Pennsylvania.





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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