

**Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
Transportation Operations & Safety Forum
October 19, 2023
Virtual Meeting Summary**

Attendees (48):

PennDOT District 10: Kirk Schrecengost, Adam Marshall
PennDOT District 11: John Balay, Ethan Taylor, Madison Bartrug
PA Turnpike: John Parker, Nathan Bordner
Allegheny County: Ann Ogoreuc, Jason Molinero, Jaclyn Karolski
Butler County: Joel Mackey
Greene County: Jeremy L Kelly
Westmoreland County: Daniel Carpenter, Nate Clair
Washington County: Jason Theakston
TMAs: Mavis Rainey, Tosh Chambers
City of Pittsburgh: Panini Chowdhury, Chase Klingensmith
Cranberry Township: Kelly Maurer, Marty McKinney
Carnegie Mellon University: Sarah Fox, Nik Martelaro
SPC Staff: Josh Spano, Evan Schoss, Zach Hollingshad, Domenic D’Andrea, Julia Ferry, Leann Chaney, Sarah Walfort,
Consultants: Kevin Ferry, Kelly Rigot, Larry Overn, Eileen Collins, Jeff Uhler, Jennie McCracken, Jim French, Millie French,
Scott Popovich, Joe Gurley, Ross Buchan, Matt Parrish, Damien George, David DiGioia, Jay Goldstein, Steve McGinley,
Tyler Beduhn

Welcome and Introductions

Joshua Spano welcomed and introduced the attendees

City of Pittsburgh – Crash Data Dashboard

Panini presented the City of Pittsburgh’s publicly accessible crash data

- Demoed the web tool to show its capabilities to refine, and analyze crash data from 2018-2023 by neighborhood
- Explained the availability of multiple visualization techniques that provides the user dynamic ways to explore the data sets
- Answered a question about the availability of bus crash data on the dashboard
- <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/854cc687784c461caef34a41f68f2b69>

How to Make Sense of Bus Transit Automation – Policy Paper

Nik Martelaro and Sarah Fox presented on the utilization and development of autonomous bus transit technologies. They reviewed the current applications of vehicle automation in transit including rail, shuttles, vans, electric buses, and personal vehicles. Followed by a geographic representation of where pilot initiatives in the US have taken place in the past and as well as locations with future plans to test Bus Transit Automation.

- Recommendations were provided for a new training program that intends to provide human operators of autonomous vehicles with the tools they need to safely maneuver the vehicle in emergency situations.
- Discussed burdens of “Automation surprise”, mode error, authority control, and skill atrophy.
- Highlighted the responsible parties when problems arise
- Leveraged air transits success with automated systems serving as an example of how automation technology can be used to increase the safety and efficiency of a transit mode.
- Provided this link for more information ([Tinyurl.com/transitworkforce](https://tinyurl.com/transitworkforce))

New Employee Introduction

Zach Hollingshad presented a short bio about his past experience, interests, educational background, and his current role at the SPC.

SPC's US DOT Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Application

Josh Spano reviewed details for the Safe Streets and Road for All Grant Program. Which provides \$1 billion in funding for fiscal year 2023-2024. Funding will be dispersed with a required 20% match by the MPO's, counties, cities, towns, State Transit Agencies and Tribal Governments. This funding is intended to be a resource for perspective projects that improve roadway safety by significantly reducing or elimination roadway fatalities and/or serious injuries.

- Presented the Pilot Comprehensive Safety Plan for Allegheny County
- The pilot was developed with the Vision Zero Plan that focuses on utilizing methods of analysis, equity, public engagement, and outcomes

Other on – going active/updates:

Evan Schoss, Transportation Planner, SPC

Discussed and provided updates for the Traffic Incident Management Program

- Mentioned the Upcoming Crash Responder Safety Week
- Reviewed meetings that are on going and planned throughout the region
- Pointed to the SPC YouTube channel which features eight videos that are publicly available and that touch on things such as school bus safety, first responder safety, and operating a vehicle during inclement weather
- <https://www.youtube.com/@SPCRegion>

Josh Spano, Manager, Transportation Operations and Safety Programs, SPC

Gave an overview of the progress and future of the Regional Traffic Signal Program

- Outlined future Road Safety Audits along US 422 and Morganza/McMurray Road.
- Provided a brief update on Cycle 5 RFPs
- Introduced the upcoming plan to perform a Pedestrian and Bicycle Road Safety Audit

Next Meeting

- Spring 2024

Upcoming SPC Meetings:

- November 2nd, Regional TDM Partners Meeting
- December 5th, Active Transportation Forum
- February 6th, Freight Forum