Corporation Board of Directors & Commission Executive Committee

October 23, 2023

3 p.m.

Opening Agenda Items

☑ Agenda Item: 1 - Call to Order
- Quorum
- Conflict of Interest Declarations on Action Items

☑ Agenda Item: 2 - Action on the Minutes from August 28, 2023

☑ Agenda Item: 3 - Public Comment

Action Item: Board Resolution 13-23
Making Ailisa Sobien Interim Secretary-Treasurer

Vince Valdes, Executive Director

Agenda Item: 4

Questions?

Financial Report

Ailisa Sobien, Finance Director
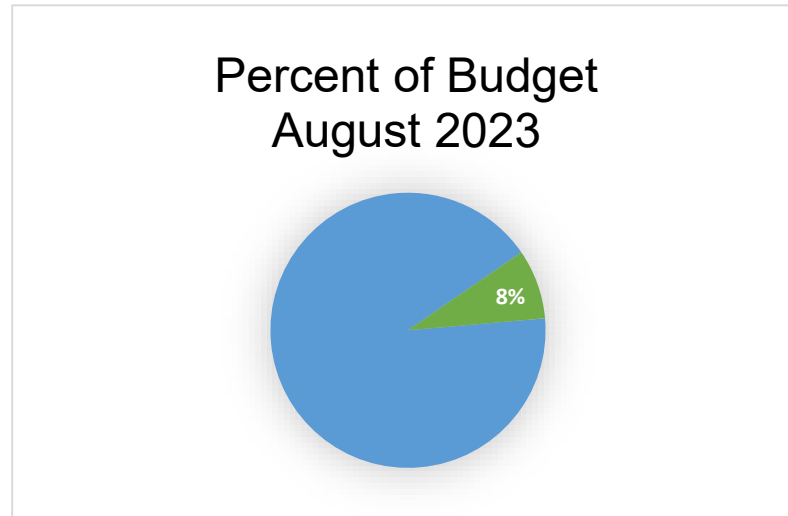
Agenda Item: 5

Financial Report

FY 23-24 Budget Status – August 31, 2023

- FY23-24 Budget $24,003,761
- Revenue and Expenses: $ 1,968,104
- Percent of Budget: 8.0%

Percent of Budget
August 2023

8%

Questions?

Transportation Report

Dom D'Andrea, Director of Transportation Planning

Agenda Item: 6

2025-2028 TIP Schedule

Fall 2023 (through end of this year)
- TIP Workgroup meetings (15) and project selection for Draft 2023-2026 TIP-Ongoing
- TA, CMAQ, and CRP Projects selected via competitive application processes-Ongoing
- Financial projections and guidance-Received
- First round PPP and Public Meetings for feedback-All Meetings scheduled

Winter 2023/2024
- Pre-Draft TIP completed and forwarded to PennDOT Central Office for review

Spring 2024
- PennDOT review; AQ Conformity & EJ Analysis; document preparations
- Smart Transportation Program project evaluation and selection
- 30 Day Public Comment Period-including 11 public meetings (May-June) and Comment/Response documentation
- 2025-2028 TIP adoption at June, 2024 Commission meeting

2025-2028 TIP FALL PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Oct 26, Indiana County, In-Person, 3 pm-5 pm

- Oct 30, Greene County, In-Person, 11 am-1 pm

- Nov 1, Allegheny County, In-Person, 3:30 pm-5 pm

- Nov 2, Westmoreland County, In-Person, 2 pm -4 pm

- Nov 9, Fayette County, In-Person, 5:30 pm -7:30 pm

- Nov 13, Beaver County, In-Person, 12:30 pm-2:30 pm

- Nov 21, Washington County, In-Person, 3 pm -5pm

- Nov 29, City of Pittsburgh, Virtual, 5 pm -7pm

- Dec 1, Lawrence County, In-Person, 11:30 am -1pm

- Dec 6, Butler County, In-Person, 6 am -8 pm

- Dec 8, Armstrong County, In-Person, 3 pm -5pm

Comment or Questions? Ask Ronda! rcraig@spcregion.org

SPC Competitive Programs

- Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Programs (TA)
- SPC Congestion Management and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program
- SPC Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)
- Consolidation of the process for TA/CMAQ/CRP

32 final applications received
- Traffic flow improvements (13)
- Trail improvements (7)
- Pedestrian/Bicycle improvements (6)
- Transit improvements (3)
- Park n Ride (1)
- Historic Preservation of Transportation Facility (1)
- Diesel Emissions Reduction/Alt. Fuels (1)

2025 TIP

Name of Project	Project Sponsor	Funds Requested	County	Municipality
City of Butler Main Street Student and Pedestrian Safety Project	City of Butler	$1,545,356	Butler	City of Butler
Kittanning Borough Streetscape Project	Armstrong County/Kittanning Borough	$500,000	Armstrong	Kittanning Borough
Kintersburg Covered Bridge Rehabilitation	Indiana County	$562,491	Indiana	Rayne Township
Commodore Perry Regional Trail Extension Project	Adams Township	$585,938	Butler	Adams Township
PA 403/US 22 Park and Ride	PennDOT District 10	$3,200,000	Indiana	East Wheatfield Township
North 6th Street Sidewalk Project	Indiana Borough Planning Department	$63,180	Indiana	Indiana Borough
Micro Transit Pilot Project	Pittsburgh Regional Transit (PRT)	$3,971,582	Allegheny	McKeesport and Tarentum, Brackenridge, & Harrison
University Line Oakland to Squirrrel Hill BRT	Pittsburgh Regional Transit (PRT)	$7,418,343	Allegheny	City of Pittsburgh
Brownsville Road Corridor Safety and Accessibility Improvement	City of Pittsburgh	$3,603,495	Allegheny	City of Pittsburgh
East Ohio Street Streetscape Improvements	City of Pittsburgh	$1,853,183	Allegheny	City of Pittsburgh
Negley Avenue Complete Street Project	City of Pittsburgh	$2,726,227	Allegheny	City of Pittsburgh
Mitchell Road Multimodal Project	Lawrence County	$1,369,773	Lawrence	Neshannock Township
Verona VOPP Trail Connector	Verona Borough	$1,500,000	Allegheny	Verona Borough
PortPITT Marine Diesel and Landslide Equipment Retrofits	Port of Pittsburgh Commission	$6,000,000	Region	Region
Panhandle Trail Extension Acquisition	Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County	$1,000,000	Allegheny	Carnegie Borough, Scott Township, Collier Township
Mobility Justice in Micromobility: Pittsburgh Sets a New Standard	City of Pittsburgh	$2,160,000	Allegheny	City of Pittsburgh
SR 22 (William Penn Highway) at SR 2054 (Northern Pike) Intersection Improvments	PennDOT District 11	$2,780,000	Allegheny	Monroeville
I-279 Southbound Off-Ramp to East Street Intersection Improvements	PennDOT District 11	$376,000	Allegheny	City of Pittsburgh
SR 3005 at SR 3034 Intersection Improvements	PennDOT District 11	$1,040,000	Allegheny	Bridgeville/Upper St. Clair
SR 4012 (Union Ave./Highland) at SR 4014 (Gass Rd) Roundabout	PennDOT District 11	$1,519,760	Allegheny	Ross Township and West View Borough
SR 51 (S Jordon Street) at SR 151 (Laurel Road) Roundabout	PennDOT District 11	$2,378,080	Beaver	South Heights Borough
SR 8 (William Flinn Highway) at SR 4070 (Wildwood Road) Intersection Widening	PennDOT District 11	$4,400,000	Allegheny	Hampton Township
SR 8 (William Flinn Highway) at Sandy Hill Widening Improvement	PennDOT District 11	$1,640,000	Allegheny	Richland Township
Fairview Park Trail Network	South Fayette Township	$802,060	Allegheny	South Fayette Township
Westmoreland Heritage Trail Middle Gap Development	Westmoreland County	$2,900,000	Westmoreland	Salem Township and Municipality of Murrysville
Waynesburg Commons Multimodal Improvement Project	Greene County	$946,083	Greene County	Waynesburg Borough
Sheepskin Trail City of Uniontown Bridge Replacement	Fayette County	$1,300,832	Fayette County	Uniontown
Bridging the Gap - Kiski Junction	Armstrong Trails	$1,770,000	Westmoreland	Allegheny Township
Route 22 Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Project	Indiana County	$1,250,000	Indiana County	Burrell Township
PA 51 Improvements	PennDOT District 12	$3,603,944	Fayette County	City of Uniontown
SR 201 and SR 3013 Roundabout	PennDOT District 12	$500,000	Westmoreland	Rostraver Township
Uniontown Corridor 116 Improvements	PennDOT District 12	$5,023,600	Fayette	City of Uniontown

$70,289,927

Other Activities

- Regional Transit Fare Collection System-Feasibility Study

Questions?

Strategic Initiatives & Policy Report

DJ Ryan, Director of Strategic Initiatives & Policy

Agenda Item: 7

Strategic Initiatives & Policy – Dept. Update

- Allegheny River Work Continues

  - STAR Group formed

  - Rep. Reschenthaler working directly with USACE

  - Sen. Casey working on WRDA

  - Both initiatives will consult all federal electeds in SWPA

- Turtle Creek projects around the new EOS energy site

- Continue to monitor the USACE nuclear waste site in Armstrong County

Strategic Initiatives & Policy – Dept. Update

- WRC team working with Three Rivers Waterkeeper on river pollution and debris sites, completed an initial survey last month.

- CPRG Work continues, first-round consultant selection interviews completed

- 3D Mapping Project for the rivers

- Complete streets policy revisions are almost complete and will be taken next to the Complete Streets working group for input

- AT/Bike counting wrapping up for the season with two counts at Pitt

Questions?
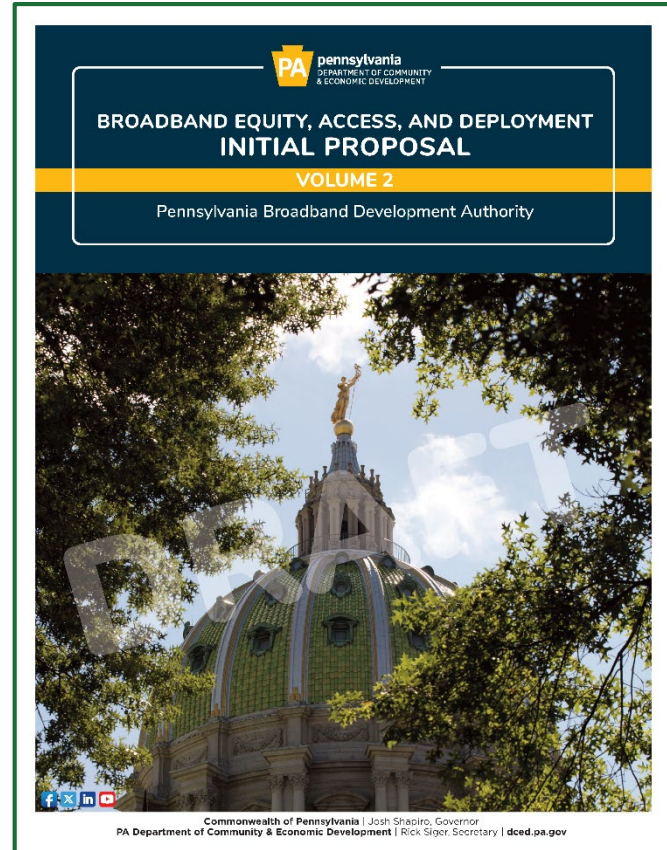
Broadband Connectivity Report

Andy Waple, Deputy Executive Director

Agenda Item: 8

PBDA BEAD Five-Year Action Plan – Volume II

- Includes critical components of PBDA's plans for implementing BEAD grant funding, to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to high-speed internet

- Describes efforts that can be implemented to ensure Pennsylvania's residents, businesses, and communities have equitable and affordable access to broadband service.

- Available for public review and comment for the required 30 days, **from October 16, 2023 through November 14, 2023**

- To be submitted to NTIA by 12/27/2023

Regional Digital Navigator Program Model

Program Elements:

- **Program Roadmap** – Goals and objectives, outline and mapping of targeted populations, best practices, implementation timelines, funding opportunities and programs, etc. shared approach.

- **Asset Mapping and Partnership Development** – Inventory of community organizations and resources to determine ability and willingness to run and staff programs across the region

- **Curriculum Resources** – Inventory of existing, readily available materials best suited to the most common needs of our region's population (based on feedback from partner input)

- **Program Evaluation and Reporting Templates** – Regional approach through standardized templates

- **Marketing and Branding** – A centralized marketing plan and recognizable branding will help digital navigators across the region gain higher visibility and be readily associated as part of a single regional program. Centered around Southwestern Pennsylvania Connected platform.

Questions?

Economic & Workforce Development Report

Jenn Lasser, Director of Workforce & Economic Development

Agenda Item: 9

Business Assistance (PREP) - EXPORT

- **Assistance Provided:**
  - 37 Companies Assisted
  - 65 Counseling Sessions

- **Work Orders:**
  - 13 Companies
  - 25 Overseas Work Orders
  - 17 Countries

Business Assistance (PREP) – Commercial Lending

- **Assistance Provided**
  - 32 Companies
  - 51 Counseling Sessions

- **Loans Closed - 2**
  - Tresky Family, LLC & Perryopolis Foods, Inc. dba Perryopolis Save-A-Lot – EDA RLF $82,500
  - Versa Vault LLC – EDA Cares - $50,000

- **Loan Applications – 3**
  - Ace Wire Spring & Form Co Inc – EDA Cares - $335,851
  - Ace Wire Spring & Form Co Inc. – Catalyst Connection MTLF - $335,851
  - Creekside Springs LLC – EDA RLF - $100,000

- **Loan Amendments – 1**
  - Demco Excavating, Inc. – Release of Collateral

Business Assistance (PREP) – Gov. Procurement

- **Assistance Provided**
  - 4 Companies Assisted
  - 16 Counseling Sessions

- **Contract Awards**
  - 15 companies, 52 awards totaling $3.25M

- **Events**
  - SPC APEX Accelerator/HACP: Doing Business with Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh
  - SPC APEX Accelerator: Introduction to Government Contracting
  - SPC APEX ACCELERATOR/Pittsburgh Regional Transit: Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Overview –
  - Allegheny County DEI Open House – 2023
  - Govology Training

Community Economic Technical Assistance

- **Keystone Opportunity Zones (KOZ)**
  - Inquiries – 6
  - Applications - 4
  - Business Served – 1
  - Business Improved – 1

- **Applications submitted – 2**
  - SW PA PREP
  - SW PA Engage

- **Reports submitted – 4**
  - EDA GPRA Data Collection: ED-917 for EDA Cares Partner Planning
  - ED-916: Semiannual Program Outputs Questionnaire – EDA Planning
  - ED-918: Annual Capacity Outcomes Questionnaire – EDA Planning
  - ARC RLF Final Report PA-7752-B and PA-7752-B-R1

- **Letters of Support - 4**

Grant Technical Assistance: ARC/EDA

ARC Technical Assistance

- Provided Technical Assistance to – 18 Projects (Area Development/POWER/ARISE)

- ARISE still open (multi-state projects)

- Area Development – Rolling Deadline

- Local Access Road – Closed*

EDA Technical Assistance –

- Economic Adjustment Assistance & Public Works Grants – **Open!**

- Re-Compete – Closed (October 5)

- Tech Hubs – Closed (August)

Spotlight – Community Capacity Program

- Prior to March 2023: Jenn Lasser handling all DCED, ARC, ARPA, and EDA grant technical assistance for economic development funding

- Record amounts of funding in ARC and EDA – SPC at capacity for Econ. Dev. assistance

- SPC applied for a 2 year DCED/ARC grant application in December 2023 to provided funding for the ability to hire ARC grant technical assistance representatives, known as the "Community Capacity Program"

- Faith Collins promoted to Community Capacity Coordinator in March 2023

- Faith works with regional applicants on ARC Area Development, ARC INSPIRE, ARC POWER, ARC ARISE.

- **Faith has more than tripled the amount of assistance we could provide applicants**

Community Capacity – ARC Related Impact to the Region

57 eligible applicants assisted

A record 16 regional pre-applications submitted to DCED for ARC Area Development for August request

Requested $12,028,397.30 ARC for regional projects totaling $24,743,934.55

Added responsibilities: EDA, CEDS, BBBRC, KOZ, IMPLAN

- Community Capacity role has assisted with, hosted or will host several ARC-related conferences:
  - POWER conference: March 2023
  - ARISE conference: August 2023
  - INSPIRE conference: October 2023

- In addition to submitting pre-applications, the Community Capacity Program also includes:
  - 100+ hours of one-on-one counseling with grant applicants
  - 54 hours of training
  - 82 hours of outreach

Applicant Comments:

Glad we were able to meet the deadline and couldn't have done it without your help.

Thanks Faith! You and Jenn have been incredible!

A note of thanks to Faith and Jenn on the narrative language that was "excellent"

Thank you for everything, this would not [have] happened without all your hard work. We can't thank you enough

Faith Collins and Jenn Lasser at SPC have been great advisors to me, and Faith has met with every ARISE applicant (and included me) to walk through any questions they have.

Questions?

State Budget Briefing

October 23, 2023

STATE BUDGET STATUS

PA General Assembly session update

- *The Senate and House returned to session in mid-September but not during the same weeks. There has been little progress in completing the remaining 2023-2024 state budget related legislation: the various code bills to permit budget line items to be spent including the fiscal, administrative, school and tax codes, the higher education non preferred legislation bills for Pitt, Penn State, Temple and Lincoln and various other budget issues.*

- *On August 3, 2023 Governor Shapiro signed HB 611 however State Budget Secretary Uri Monson told legislative leaders in August that he would not release roughly $1.1 billion for a number of programs without additional legislation being approved by state lawmakers.*

- *On August 30, the Senate returned to session to consider a few pieces of legislation including two Fiscal Code bills which must be enacted to allow previous approved state budget appropriations to be allocated: HB 1300 and SB 757.*

- HB 1300 and SB 757 were sent to the PA House and the House adopted significant changes to HB 1300 as well as approved a Tax Code (HB 1219), Public School Code (HB 27) and a supplemental appropriations bill (HB 1456).

The Tax Reform Code Bill includes the following provisions:

- Combined Reporting: Implements combined reporting for the Corporate Net Income Tax (CNIT) by requiring a corporation that is a member of a unitary business consisting of two or more corporations pursuant to a "water's-edge basis" to file a combined annual report to the Department of Revenue beginning in tax year 2025. Effective for tax years beginning after December 31, 2024

- CNIT Rate Reduction: Reduces the CNIT rate to 4.99% based on the following schedule: - 7.99% for tax year 2023 - 6.99% for tax year 2024 - 5.99% for tax year 2025 - 4.99% for tax year 2026.

- Expansion of Net Operating Loss (NOL): Increases the NOL deduction for corporate taxpayers from the current 40% of taxable income to 80% of taxable income using the following schedule: - 50% of taxable income for tax year 2024 - 60% of taxable income for tax year 2025 - 70% of taxable income for tax year 2026 - 80% of taxable income for tax year 2027

- Qualified Manufacturing Innovation and Reinvestment Deduction: Lowers the minimum private capital investment from $60 million to $50 million and establishes new project completion requirements based on the total private capital investment of the project. The bill also allows taxpayers with at least $50 million in private capital investment for a project entitled to a 25% deduction, where they can deduct up to 5% a year over the succeeding 10 years and creates a tax incentive for taxpayers to commit to more than two concurrent projects. Effective for tax years beginning after December 31, 2023

Tax Reform Code

Included in the Tax Code bill approved by the House was a provision increasing the transfers made to the Public Transportation Trust Fund from Sales and Use tax Revenue from 4.4% to 6.4% beginning in FY 2025-2025. It is estimated that an additional $311 million will be transfer to this account based on projected SUT collections (of this amount Pittsburgh Regional Transit would receive $60 million).

Fiscal Code

Included in the Fiscal Code legislation was language relate to transportation and infrastructure which should be noted:

- Electric Low-Speed Scooter Pilot Program requires the City of Pittsburgh to adopt an ordinance and executive order authorizing the program by December 31, 2023. An executive order by the City of Pittsburgh may be issued to authorize the use of electric low-speed scooters under a micro-mobility project, for use within the city boundaries. This article does not prevent PennDOT, on state highways, or local police, on city streets, from exercising their powers.

- Updates language surrounding the Keystone Opportunity Zone/Keystone Opportunity Expansion Zone/Keystone Opportunity Improvement Zone Act.

- Extends the existing multimodal local match waiver through 2024. The statute originally requires a 30% local match.

Two other infrastructure related programs should be noted:

DCED Multimodal Grant Program

The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development accepted applications through July 31 to fund transportation improvement projects under the Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF). Eligible applicants include municipalities, council of governments, business/non-profit organizations, economic development organizations, public transportation agencies, public airports, airport authorities, and ports and rail entities. Funds may be used for the development, rehabilitation and enhancement of transportation assets to existing communities, streetscape, lighting, sidewalk enhancement, pedestrian safety, connectivity of transportation assets and transit-oriented development. The current plan is for the Commonwealth Financing Authority to consider these applications and possibly make awards at their November 21 meeting.

PennDOT Multimodal Grant Program

On September 25 PennDOT began accepting applications for the next round of funding for grants under the Multimodal Transportation Fund. Applications are due by 4PM on November 10, 2023. PennDOT expects to announce grant recipients next year for funding that will be available in July 2024.

Governor Shapiro's Economic Development Proposal

Governor Josh Shapiro, Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Secretary Rick Siger, and Chief Transformation Officer Ben Kirshner, (newly created)Office of Transformation and Opportunity, announced the creation of the Commonwealth's first comprehensive economic development strategy. Governor Shapiro and his Administration have been working to grow and reignite Pennsylvania's economy. The strategy will be an assessment of the Commonwealth's areas of strength and an analysis of barriers to growth, concrete goals and initiatives to guide policymaking and future investment decisions.

The economic development strategy will articulate plans to address some of the following key elements:

- Simplifying the landscape of available programs and incentives available through DCED and growing a smaller set of essential tools that will be the most useful;
- Streamlining the process for businesses relocating or expanding in Pennsylvania, including through the work of the newly created Office of Transformation and Opportunity;
- Addressing the lack of "shovel ready" sites to attract new business to the Commonwealth and retain existing companies that require space to expand and grow;
- Doubling down on areas of strength in high-growth sectors like life sciences, agribusiness, manufacturing, technology and robotics, and energy, and providing targeted and focused support to these vital industries;
- Encouraging the creation, growth, and sustainability of small businesses in Pennsylvania;
- Supporting strong communities for businesses and workers through revitalizing and addressing the challenges facing Pennsylvania's downtowns, Main Streets, and Elm Streets; and much more.

The Shapiro Administration began holding listening sessions with business and economic development leaders in every region of Pennsylvania during the creation of the strategy.

Potential Transportation Related Legislation on the State Legislative Agenda

Distracted Driving/Cell Phone Legislation

Transportation Design Build Legislation

Local Bridge Trust Fund Creation

P3 Funding Options for Counties

Thank you

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Buchanan
Ingersoll &
Rooney PC

Questions?

Message

Vince Valdes, Executive Director

Agenda Item: 11

Questions?

Move into Executive Session

Note: There is one loan that needs reviewed/voted upon

Action Item: Resolutions 17-23
Sandzimier, Shoemaker & Company, PC/A3G Real Estate Holdings, LLC

Jenn Lasser, Director of Economic & Workforce Development

Agenda Item: 12

Questions?

Other SPC Business

Commissioner Leslie Osche

Agenda Item: 13

Planning Ahead

☑ The traditional *Annual Meeting of the Members* will now take place in January or February 2024 because of the election/counties' need to reorganize. A specific date is TBD (if in January, there will be a date selected; if in February, it can be held at the same time as the already scheduled Commission meetings).

☑ Next Meeting Date: December 11, 2023

Adjourn

Agenda Item: 14

SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
SPC
CORPORATION