

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
SPC Offices – Terminal Building & and Cisco WebEx Meeting  
October 23, 2023  
4 p.m.

The one hundred and sixty-fourth meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission was called to order by Chairman, Leslie Osche.

Members: Darin Alviano, Jennifer Beer, Mike Belding, Brad Berlin, Brian Burick, Douglas Chew, Amber Davis, Pat Fabian, Rich Fitzgerald, Kim Geyer, Sheila Gombita, Mark Gordon, Kelly Gray, Bob Griffin, Aadil Grinwala, Lynn Heckman, Sherene Hess, Mark Hillard, Charles Jones, Fred Junko, Bill Kovach, Brian Leach, Bob Lesnick, Dave Lohr, Bob Macey, Larry Maggi, Jack Manning, Jeff Marshall, Betsy McClure, Don Myers, Leslie Osche, Mavis Rainey, Nick Sherman, Larry Shifflet, John Timney, Vince Vicites, Jason Zang, and Blair Zimmerman

Others: Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County Department of Economic Development; Kyle Chintalapalli, Mayor Gainey's Office; Lisa Frank, Mayor Gainey's Office; Rich Cleveland, Greene County; and Dusty Kirk, Reed Smith LLP.

Staff: Bel Ayele, Dan Bernazzoli, Mary Brangan, Kirk Brethauer, Faith Collins, Ronda Craig, Dom D'Andrea, Linda Duffy, Lillie Gabreski, Ryan Gordon, Zach Hollingshad, Chuck Imbrogno, Tom Klevan, Jenn Lasser, Nick Mannone, Caitlin O'Connor, DJ Ryan, Mason Secreti, Russell Singer, Josh Spano, Ailisa Sobien, Cathy Tulley, Vincent Valdes, and Andy Waple.

1. Chairman Osche called to order the October 23, 2023 meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission.
  - a. Quorum – There being a quorum present the meeting proceeded.
  - b. Any Conflict of Interest Declaration on Action Items – None
2. Action on Minutes of the August 28, 2023 Meeting.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the August 28<sup>th</sup> meeting by Commissioner Fitzgerald which was seconded by Commissioner Fabian. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

3. Public Comment – None.
4. Update on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPMG)—Andy Waple

**Program Overview:**

- Planning grants to develop broad, flexible, regional climate pollution reduction strategies (\$250M)
- Competitive grants to implement broad, flexible, strategies developed in planning stage that could be implemented by a range of eligible entities (\$4.6B)

**Regional Climate Plan Status Update:**

- RFP for consultant support issued on 8/30/23, proposals due on 10/02/23 (6 proposals received)
- Two teams shortlisted for interviews (10/26) by selection committee (SPC, Allegheny Co. Health Dept., Lawrence and Westmoreland Counties)
- Work to commence in early November
- Steering Committee and Regional Advisory Committee Kick-off meetings to be scheduled for late November/early December
- Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) due to EPA on March 1, 2024

Mr. Waple stated that Greene, Indiana and Lawrence outside of MSA but contiguous jurisdictions.

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) released on September 20, 2023 - **\$4.3B in funding available**
- Applications due April 1, 2024
- Potential project sponsors are required to coordinate with entity leading climate pollution reduction planning process
- Projects, program and policies to be included in the PCAP
- SPC to engage potential project sponsors during planning process
- SPC to hold project sponsor workshop(s) in early January, 2024

**Program Objectives:**

- Implement ambitious, actionable emissions reduction measures that will achieve significant, cumulative greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions by 2030 and beyond
- Achieve substantial community benefits (such as reduction of criteria and hazardous air pollutants), particularly in low-income and disadvantaged communities
- Complement other funding sources to maximize these GHG reductions and community benefits
- Pursue innovative policies and programs that are replicable and can be “scaled up” across multiple jurisdictions
- Eligible applicants include: states, local governments, local air pollution control agencies, regional planning commissions or a coalition of eligible applicants
- Applications can include GHG reductions from the following sectors: Electric Power, Transportation, Industry, Residential & Commercial Buildings, Waste and Materials Management, Agriculture/ Natural and Working Lands
- Applications may include multiple measures across one or more of the above sectors. A new, stand-alone GHG reduction measure that will be implemented solely through CPRG funding
- An expansion of a GHG reduction measure that is already being implemented, where the expansion of the measure will be funded through CPRG funding
- A new GHG reduction measure for which the applicant has already secured partial funding and needs additional funding from the CPRG program to secure the total funding needed to fully implement the measure
- Funds will be available across five funding tiers. Applications will be evaluated and selected for award on a tier-by-tier basis.

**Evaluation Criteria Categories:**

- Overall Project Summary and Approach (45 possible points)
  - Impact of GHG Reduction Measures (60 possible points)
  - Environmental Results – Outputs, Outcomes, and Performance Measures (30 possible points)
  - Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities (35 possible points)
  - Job Quality (5 possible points)
  - Programmatic Capability and Past Performance (30 possible points)
  - Budget and Timely Expenditure of Grant Funds (45 possible points)
- Total Possible Points: 250

5. Update on the United Planning Work Program (UPWP)—Dom D’Andrea

UPWP – July 2024 – June 2025

**Overview:**

- 1-year contract between PennDOT and SPC
- Focused yet Flexible
- 8 Functional Program Areas:
  - Plans and Programs
  - Regional Transit
  - Transportation Demand Management
  - Regional Freight Planning
  - Operations & Safety
  - Data & Modeling
  - Strategic Initiatives/Environment

- Outreach & Coordination

**Highlight Priorities and Initiatives:**

- Implementation of SPC Organizational Assessment
- Regional Collaboration and Coordination
- Securing Federal Discretionary Funding for High Priority Infrastructure Projects
- Connectivity Improvement Program Implementation
- *SmartMoves Connections – A Regional Vision for Public Transit Implementation*
- Local Government Assistance

**Plans & Programs:**

- 2025-2028 TIP updates
- Resiliency Planning
- Innovative Finance and Project Delivery
- Local Government Funding and Technical Assistance

**Transit Planning:**

- *SmartMoves Connections* Implementation
- Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan

**Regional Freight Planning:**

Regional Freight Plan Update  
Inland Waterways

**Transportation Demand Mgt.:**

- Travel Demand Management (TDM) Program Expansion, Outreach and Coordination
- Coordination of activities with Transportation Management Associations
- Active Transportation Plan Update
- Complete Streets policy initiatives

**Operations & Safety**

- Regional Traffic Signal Program
- Road Safety Audits & Corridor Operations Plans
- Traffic Incident Management Program
- Congestion Management Program
- ITS Strategic Planning

**Data & Modeling**

- Travel Demand & Accessibility and Economic Modeling
- Air Quality Modeling
- Continue Big Data Utilization and Sharing
- Performance Metric Tracking Dashboard Enhancements
- Census Data

**Strategic Initiatives/Environment**

Environmental Justice  
Electric Vehicle initiatives/outreach and funding  
Climate Action Plan

**Outreach & Coordination/Support Activities**

- Communications and Outreach Strategic Plan
- Public Participation Plan
- Limited English Proficiency Plan Update (Demographics)
- Continued Website Enhancements
  - Interactive Mapping
  - Resource Centers

Mr. D'Andrea then turned to Ms. Craig to update the Commission on the public meeting for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Ms. Craig spoke on the dates below:

- Oct 26, Indiana County, In-Person, 3-5pm @ CareerLink Building 300 Indian Springs Rd, Indiana
- Oct 30, Greene County, In-Person, 11-1pm @ Greene County Fairgrounds, 107 Fairgrounds Rd, Waynesburg
- Nov 1, Allegheny County, In-Person, 3:30-5pm @ Allegheny County Courthouse, County Stat Conference Room-2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 436 Grant Street, Pittsburgh
- Nov 2, Westmoreland County, In-Person, 2-4pm @ Westmoreland County Courthouse, Commissioners Meeting Room, 2 N Main St, Greensburg
- Nov 9, Fayette County, In-Person, 5:30-7:30pm @ 2 W Main Street, (Formerly the Gallatin Bank Building), Uniontown
- Nov 13, Beaver County, In-Person, 12:30-2:30pm @ Beaver County Courthouse, Commissioner Meeting Room 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Suite 201, 810 3<sup>rd</sup> St, Beaver
- Nov 21, Washington County, In-Person, 3-5pm @ Washington County Courthouse, Square Building, Public Meeting Room Suite 103/104, 100 Beau St, Washington
- Nov 29, City of Pittsburgh, Virtual, 5-7pm, WebEx
- Dec 1, Lawrence County, In-Person, 11:30-1pm, @ Gallo's Italian Villa, 2420 Wilmington Rd, New Castle
- Dec 6, Butler County, In-Person, 6-8pm @ Middlesex Twp. Municipal Building, 135 Brownhill Rd, Valencia
- Dec 8, Armstrong County, In-Person, 3-5pm @ Butler Community College at Armstrong (BC3), 1100 4<sup>t</sup> Avenue, Ford City
- Comment or Questions? Ask Ronda! 724-762-2569 or [rcraig@spcregion.org](mailto:rcraig@spcregion.org)

6. Update: Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization Activities—Jenn Lasser

Ms. Lasser updated the Commission members on the Coal and Power Plan Communities and Economic Revitalization Activities. Ms Lasser's overview of the IWG Coal Communities event held on Friday October 20th at Westmoreland County Community College. Event was very successful with one on one opportunities for conversations with federal and state agencies such as EPA, DOE, DOI, EDA, DCED and more. Event was kicked off with opening by Senator Casey, Governor Shapiro, ARC Federal Co-Chair Gayle Manchin and Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm. Throughout the day there were presentations and breakout Sessions with SPC presenting on regional resources and opportunities to connect. Additional meetings and events to follow. Great opportunity for counties to have direct conversations about needs with federal officials.

7. Message from the Executive Director – Vincent Valdes  
Next Meeting Date – **December 11, 2023**

Mr. Valdes stated that PennDOT will be hosting the EV Community Conversation Event on November 8<sup>th</sup> at SPC Offices. The Event starts a 6:00 p.m. and all are welcome to attend.

The next Commission meeting will be December 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Valdes remarked that unfortunately I will not be in attendance for this meeting.

8. Adjourn – 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vincent Vicites, Secretary-Treasurer