

# Full Commission Meeting

February 26, 2024

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 December 11, 2023 Meeting
- Agenda Item 3: Public Comment

# Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update

*Dom D'Andrea, Director of Transportation Planning*

Agenda Item: 4



# 2025-2028 TIP SCHEDULE

## Fall 2023 (through end of this year)

- TIP Workgroup meetings (20) and project selection for Draft 2025-2028 TIP-Completed
- TA, CMAQ, and CRP Projects selected via competitive application processes-Completed
- First round PPP and Public Meetings for feedback-Completed

## Winter 2023/2024

- Pre-Draft TIP completed and forwarded to PennDOT Central Office for review-Completed-  
PennDOT review ongoing

## Spring 2024

- PennDOT review; AQ Conformity & EJ Analysis; document preparations-Started
- Smart Transportation Program solicitation -Application period open
- 30 Day Public Comment Period-including 11 public meetings (May 9-June 7) and Comment/Response documentation -Meetings being scheduled
- 2025-2028 TIP adoption at June, 2024 Commission meeting

# Smart Transportation for Livable Communities (STLC) Program

SPC Administered Program  
Federal Funding (STU)

*Type:* Reimbursement

*Match:* 20% non-federal (per project phase requested)

*Available Funding:* \$3 million/year, region-wide. Projects selected by competitive application process every 2 years. Planning studies and design proposal requests may not exceed \$250,000. Construction proposals may not exceed \$1,000,000, including construction inspection.

*Other:* Mixing of federal and state transportation funds, with differing matching requirements, within same project phase is *highly discouraged*



# Smart Transportation for Livable Communities (STLC) Program

## SPC Administered Program Federal Funding (STU)

**Eligible Sponsors:** SPC member county governments and the City of Pittsburgh may submit one project each, PennDOT Districts 10, 11, and 12 may submit one project per county in their district

**Eligible Activities:** Planning studies, preliminary engineering, final design, and construction (plus inspection)

### **Eligible Project Categories:**

- Bicycle/Pedestrian Improvements
- Corridor Management/Congestion Reduction
- Intermodal/Transit Oriented Development
- Planning and Redevelopment
- Road/Intersection/Network Improvements
- Streetscapes/Traffic Calming
- Electric Vehicle Charging Stations



# Smart Transportation for Livable Communities (STLC) Program

## 2024 Application Evaluation:

- SPC staff will evaluate projects using five STLC Transportation Themes:
  - Linking transportation investment and land use planning
  - Supporting Community Goals
  - Multimodal approach
  - Safety
  - Sustainability
- Other factors
  - Consistency with goals in our Long Range Plan
  - Partnering/collaboration on application
  - Environmental Justice
  - Funding/Project readiness

# Smart Transportation for Livable Communities (STLC) Program

Program Process Timeline for the 2025-2028 TIP	
February 15, 2024	February TTC Mtg; Application period opens
March 4, 2024	Pre-qualification applications due to SPC
March 8, 2024	Sponsors notified if candidate projects meet requirements and are invited to submit final application
April 8, 2024	Final application period closes
April 8, 2024 – May 3, 2024	Project evaluation and selection process
May 9, 2024	TTC endorses project list
June 24, 2024	SPC TIP Adoption





# Questions?



# Strategic Initiatives & Policy Report

*DJ Ryan, Director of Strategic Initiatives & Policy*

Agenda Item: 5



# Adoption of Resolution 1-24 Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)

*DJ Ryan, Director of Strategic Initiatives & Policy*

Agenda Item: 6



# Adoption of Resolution 2-24 SPC's Support of the WATERWAYS Act

*DJ Ryan, Director of Strategic Initiatives & Policy*

Agenda Item: 7



# Questions?



# Build Back Better Regional Challenge Update

*Jenn Lasser, Director of Workforce & Economic  
Development*

Agenda Item: 8



# Individual Grants Under BBB

1. SME Robotics Adoption (Catalyst Connection)
2. Robotics Manufacturing Hub (ARM)
3. Expanded Pathways to New Economy Careers (SPC)
4. Applied Robotics Startup Factory (Innovation Works)
5. Expanded Pathways to Entrepreneurship (Innovate PGH)

Regional Job Creation, Training, Equity, Entrepreneurship, Business Support, Cluster Growth all significant areas of focus.

# Expanded Pathways to New Economy Careers

## GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- Expand training & placement opportunities
  - Certificate, Apprenticeships, Advanced Degrees
- Build a vibrant & robust robotics ecosystem
  - Conduct outreach, build partnerships – goal of rooted businesses
- Clear pathways and wrap-around services for students & workers
  - Understand and remove barriers to employment
- Be responsive to needs of regional businesses
  - Establish training needs and talent strategies and deliver.
- Establish Regional Training Hubs
  - Serve business & workers – Train & Retain!



# Build Back Better – Project 3 - Year 1 Update

## Partners & Performance

- RECO/Team
  - Data Collection & Analytics
  - **Success Story** – Communications Strategy Meetings, Tool Kit & Website/Dashboard
- Workforce
  - Work Based Training has started at WDB
  - WDB Committee formed & meets regularly
  - **Success Story:** Alignment of training policies across all WDBs
- Education
  - New co-horts and classes
  - Industry Committees being formed
  - **Success Story** – IUP Robotics Camp – summer 2023
  - **Success Story** – CMU Skills Training Projects

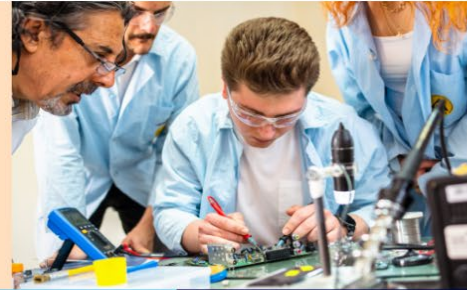
# Build Back Better – Project 3 - Year 1 Update

- Labor (UMWCC)
  - Hiring completed
  - Recruitment & training of trainees has started
- Industry Intermediaries (BotsIQ)
  - Started the Robotics pilot class
  - Now in Brick & Mortar location
- Industry Eco-System Builders (PRN)
  - New hire
  - Outreach being conducted
  - Survey work with regional employers
  - **Success Story:** Discovery Day (2023)

# A brighter future with opportunity for all



We're transforming  
our region through a  
robust robotics and  
autonomy cluster.



# Metrics & Performance

- 7,300+ attend robotics events
- 1,000+ students started robotics & tech based training
- 30+ started work based training
- 10+ coal impacted started training
- 50+ enrolled into pre-apprenticeship
- Supportive services provided (gas cards etc.)
- Mitigation teams formed (removing barriers to employment)
- Data tracking – rural, urban, demographic and equity
- Still lots of work to accomplish over remaining grant

# Challenges/Solutions – Year 1

- New classes have smaller turnouts
  - Expected Increase in the semesters/months following
- Staff turnover across sub-awards
  - Consistency in forms, processes and reporting
  - Frequent check-ins
- Competing priorities – new grants
  - Opportunities for partnership
  - Look for alignment vs opposition
- Perceived Limited opportunities under “robotics”
  - Expanded training to robotics adjacent careers – better communication of what robotics is to the community
- Reporting Standardization not always conducive to project size
  - Working to determine best practices for larger scale projects

# Robotics Day - PRN

- November 16<sup>th</sup> 2024
- 3700+ attendees
- Featured over 130+ organizations
- 900 students & 77 teachers from swpa schools
- Robotics Talent Acquisition & Retention Workshop (50+ in attendance)
- Humans behind the Robots Programming
  - Highlighted training programs, partners and opportunities





# Questions?





# IWG Rapid Response Team Update

*Jenn Lasser, Director of Workforce & Economic  
Development & Faith Collins, Community Capacity  
Coordinator*

Agenda Item: 9





# **Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Pennsylvania Rapid Response Team**



## Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities

- The Biden Administration established the Interagency Working Group (IWG) of federal agencies to facilitate economic revitalization in coal, oil and gas, and power plant communities and to support displaced workers.
- The IWG is co-chaired by the Director of the National Economic Council (NEC), the National Climate Advisor (CPO), Senior Advisor in Office of Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation (OCEII)
- The IWG is administered by the Secretary of Energy.



# Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities

## *Establishment of Pennsylvania Rapid Response Team led by US Environmental Protection Agency Region 3*

- Provide assistance to communities to address economic revitalization, worker needs, and related issues
- Connect communities to the Federal agency with funding to address opportunities for economic revitalization
- Make connections with state and local leadership
- Hold meetings with community members and stakeholders

# IWG Working Meetings - Timeline

- August 2023: EPA reaches out to Energy Communities in Pennsylvania; five of six are located in Southwestern Pennsylvania
- August 2023 – RRT concept presented to SPC Board
- September 4, 2023: Scheduling of virtual listening sessions
- Pennsylvania Energy Community Virtual Listening Sessions scheduled and held:
  - September 18, 2023: Washington County
  - September 19, 2023: Greene County
  - September 21, 2023: Beaver County
  - September 22, 2023: Armstrong County
  - Indiana met individually with IWG partners
- October 20, 2023: IWG Culmination Event – Westmoreland County Community College



# SPC as the Regional Convener

Natural fit for outreach and stakeholder engagement

- LDD, EDD and MPO
- Deep ties to the region through planning activities CEDS, LRTP, TIP
- 50+ member Commission/Board (County Commissioners, State, Transit etc)
- Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance (EDOs & Small Business)
- Community Capacity Program
  - Local Government, Education, Non-Profits etc.
  - Requests for funding show regional needs

# Key Take-Aways from September

- Overall needs:
  - Capacity building to apply for federal grant opportunities
  - Planning grants for feasibility studies, blight studies, housing needs
  - Funding for blight, broadband, water, infrastructure, housing, business attraction, workforce attraction and retaining population are needed
  - More conversations are needed
- Things to Note
  - Planning Directors & EDOs did an amazing job presenting
  - First time grant applicants and limited support
  - Low unemployment rates are not indicative of success
  - Separation of ideas vs projects (shovel ready – application ready)

# Next Steps...

- SPC to begin assisting the IWG RRT with working with Armstrong, Beaver, Greene, Indiana and Washington to plan individual events
  - Additional counties and discussions to be added
  - Goal is to help host an in-person event Late Spring – Early Summer
  - Invite Strategic Partners, Non-Profits, Local Government, Education etc. in attendance
- March 7<sup>th</sup> 2024 @ 1pm Virtual Kick-Off
  - Discuss planning efforts
  - Learn more about what IWG is doing and how they can help
  - Establish partnerships
  - Link to be provided this week



# Questions?



# Briefing on Resolutions 3-24 and 4-24

*Dusty Elias Kirk, Partner at Reed Smith*

Agenda Item: 10



# Report of Nominating Committee & Action on Resolution 3-24 to Elect an Executive Committee & Resolution 4-24 to Elect Officers of the Commission for years 24/25

*Lynn Heckman, Chair of the Nominating Committee*

Agenda Item: 11



# Reminder – Next Meeting

*April 22, 2024*

Agenda Item: 12



# Adjourn

Agenda Item: 13

