

January 22, 2007

Dr. Jim Hassinger
President & CEO
Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
425 Sixth Avenue, Suite 2500
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1852

RE: Comment: Regarding PA Turnpike Commission amendment to the 2035 Transportation and Development Plan for Southwestern Pennsylvania and to the 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program.

Dear Dr. Hassinger,

On behalf of Sustainable Pittsburgh I am writing to provide comment regarding the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission's proposed amendment to the 2035 Transportation and Development Plan (The Plan) for Southwestern Pennsylvania and to the 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program.

Consistent with Sustainable Pittsburgh's support of the focused growth practicalities of The Plan and in step with our input relative to development of the same, we urge SPC to take the time necessary to rigorously and transparently employ project evaluation criteria to assess local and regional impacts (including environmental justice) of the Turnpike Commission's amendment proposals (and all amendments and TIP proposals from any source for that matter) per and as aligned with the excellent goals and objectives articulated in The Plan.

The remarkable level of effort and civic engagement invested in creating The Plan deserves to be complemented with a robust project evaluation and prioritization process to ensure that infrastructure programming and funding decisions are in step with the spirit and intent of The Plan.

Such actions by SPC will ensure The Plan comes to fruition in meeting the will of the thousands of citizens and community leaders who exercised their voices in the extensive public engagement process. This will also serve to put our region on a path to sustainable growth and development.

Please feel free to contact me if additional information would be helpful. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for the on-going collaboration in the interest of the region.

Sincerely,

Court Gould
Executive Director