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SPC Approves Nearly \$3.5 Million for Transportation Alternatives Projects

Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities, Streetscape Enhancements and Trail Improvements Slated to Advance

Pittsburgh—The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) has approved \$3.488 million in project funding through the federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). The projects approved for funding advance the region's adopted long range plan, *Mapping the Future: The Southwestern PA Plan*, and its Regional Vision of promoting transportation and land use that support and enhance the regional economy and the communities within it. "The key to establishing an accessible, well connected network of bicycle and pedestrian facilities is building off of existing infrastructure and providing improved regional connections," said Charles W. Anderson, SPC Chairman and Westmoreland County Commissioner. "A continuous, consistent transportation system is safer and more attractive to all of its users. I appreciate the efforts of the local project sponsors and the Commission as they continue to promote transportation alternatives, which are essential for creating more livable communities and growing the region's economy."

The TAP projects reflect a well-rounded investment for the region. The nine projects approved by SPC include the creation of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, conversion of abandoned railway corridors to multi-use trails, and various enhancements for safe and secure multimodal and intermodal networks, all designed to protect and enhance public health, sustainability and the environment. The assortment of projects varies from creating new connections and reinvesting in existing assets; differs in both size and scope; improves access to public transportation facilities; and,

advances the goals and planning initiatives established by the local communities and their county partners.

“With assistance from the SPC Transportation Alternatives Program, the City of Pittsburgh can continue the enactment of its Complete Streets policy,” said City of Pittsburgh Mayor William Peduto. “TAP, along with the city’s ongoing analysis of our street’s infrastructure and the education, enforcement, and other important initiatives we have enacted to make our streets safer, is a critical element for Pittsburgh to be a city where safe and reliable mobility choices are accessible to all neighborhoods.”

Fellow SPC members echoed the Chairman’s enthusiasm for delivering local projects through SPC’s TAP:

"The collaboration at the local level has played a significant role in bringing the New Castle Multimodal Regional Riverwalk project to fruition," noted Lawrence County Commissioner Steve Craig. "The TAP award is a result of years of coordination among the City of New Castle, Lawrence County and its Planning Department, PennDOT, the New Castle Transportation Authority, and many more private and public partners."

"TAP affords municipalities in Butler County and the rest of the Southwestern Pennsylvania region the ability to make critical community investments that are consistent with the region's adopted long range plan, and promote safety, system reliability, congestion reduction, and environmental sustainability within their individual communities," said Butler County Commissioner Leslie Osche. "These important projects were identified as priorities by our citizens."

The awarded projects include:

- **Butler-Freeport Community Trail Improvements; Summit, Jefferson, and Winfield Townships, Butler County:** The Butler-Freeport Community Trail, opened in 1989, is a rail-to-trail that preserves the route of Butler County’s first railroad (Western Pennsylvania Railroad, 1871), which connected the City of Butler to the Allegheny River port of Freeport.

Serving as the corridor of the diverse Buffalo Creek Watershed, the trail has seen extensive use over the decades. The TAP project will repave portions of the trail, nearly 4.4 miles, and construct drainage improvements to maintain the life of this essential regional asset.

- **Etna Riverfront Park and Trail Project; Etna Borough, Allegheny County:** This project is a key component to advancing further development of the Three Rivers Heritage Trail along the Allegheny River, part of the proposed Erie to Pittsburgh Trail and the Harrisburg to Pittsburgh Mainline Canal Greenway. The project will construct a riverfront park and trail access point on a former brownfield site now owned by the Borough of Etna. TAP funding will be used to create a flyover access ramp to the site – the initial phase of the Etna Riverfront Park and Trail Project development and a necessary component for the future park and trail connections.
- **Homewood Pedestrian, Student, & Transit Connectivity Project; City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County:** Builds upon community priorities and the Urban Redevelopment Authority's Homewood Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Study of 2015, which examined possible infrastructure improvements to initiate TOD in the neighborhood. The project improves existing and creates new multimodal connections and facilities near the East Busway Homewood station, Faison Elementary School, and regional employment and education centers. It will improve safety and accessibility for transit users with the construction of new transit shelters, street furniture, and lighting elements. Various locations nearby will receive traffic calming measures; new, repaired, and widened sidewalks; and, the installation of crosswalks, sharrows and other complete streets components.
- **New Castle Multimodal Regional Riverwalk Project; City of New Castle, Lawrence County:** The City of New Castle will implement the 2nd phase of the multi-phase Multimodal Regional Riverwalk project, creating a pedestrian and bicycle friendly environment that is well connected to existing infrastructure, new access points, and the central business district. The scope of work for the TAP project includes the construction of

a continuous system of safe and secure multimodal connections through new sidewalks and curbs, crosswalks, ADA accessible ramps, public transportation stops and kiosks, bicycle racks, electrical upgrades, designated bicycle lanes, and gutters and driveway aprons per ADA standards. These improvements will make the downtown more universally accessible; provide a safe separation between pedestrian walk areas, bicycle lanes, and vehicular street traffic; and, build upon the Multimodal Regional Riverwalk's 1st phase, implemented with funding assistance from SPC's Livability through Smart Transportation Program. This initial phase creates a pedestrian and bicycle friendly environment along N. Croton Avenue and North Street Bridge – completing a missing link between the county's Neshannock trail system to downtown New Castle.

- **Rowan Road Pedestrian Improvements; Cranberry Township, Butler County:** Derived from Cranberry Township's "Bicyclists and Pedestrian Connection Plan", the project will construct crosswalks, streetscape additions, street trees, nearly 1,400 linear feet of new sidewalks, and a pedestrian pocket along Rowan Road. The project will make safe and meaningful connections between residential and educational facilities in Cranberry's Fox Run neighborhood.
- **S. Braddock Avenue Pedestrian Improvements; Edgewood and Swissvale Boroughs; Allegheny County:** S. Braddock Avenue, jointly owned by Swissvale and Edgewood Boroughs, will undergo a variety of improvements. The boroughs will work cooperatively to construct differentiated crosswalk markings, electronic speed minder signs, and new pedestrian signals to create a safer and more efficient corridor for every mode of transportation. These improvements will also increase safety for pedestrian and bicycle traffic and access to public transportation, community activity centers, and businesses within the vital community corridor.
- **South Side Flats Neighborhood Street; City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County:** This project entails the development of a new 1.5 mile west-east bicycle and pedestrian route from the 10th Street Bridge to the Hot Metal Bridge, permitting pedestrians and bicyclists safe access to the South

Side Business District and the many cultural and recreation amenities within this bustling city neighborhood. Using a Complete Corridor approach, the project will build a new bicycle and pedestrian path under the Birmingham Bridge; employ a toolbox of traffic calming measures; and, install new design elements, signage, lighting, and landscaping to transform low-volume South Side streets into a safer environment for all modes of transportation.

- **University Boulevard Sidewalk Enhancements; Moon Township, Allegheny County:** Recognized as a necessary community improvement for the residents and businesses of Moon Township and students of Robert Morris University (RMU), the project will construct nearly 1,300 linear feet of sidewalk along University Boulevard. The sidewalks will increase connections between the existing facilities of the RMU campus and nearby shopping plazas and commercial districts, creating a safer environment for drivers and pedestrians alike.
- **Wynn and Clara Tredway Trail Extension; Township of Allegheny, Westmoreland County:** The Wynn and Clara Tredway Trail will be extended an additional 1.5 miles, continuing the Tredway Trail north along the Allegheny River to the Freeport Bridge. The land, which was historically used as a railroad line, will now be converted into a multi-use greenway trail providing public recreation uses for pedestrians and bicyclists alike. Allegheny Township purchased the future site of the 1.5 mile extension in 2011 and has recently acquired the third and final segment, advancing from the Freeport Bridge to the Kiski River.

SPC's Transportation Alternatives Program provides funding for programs and projects including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities; infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility; community improvement activities; environmental mitigation; recreational trail program projects; and, safe routes to school projects.

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The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) is the region's forum for collaboration, planning and public decision-making. As the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the ten-county region including the City of Pittsburgh and the counties of

Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Washington, and Westmoreland, SPC is responsible for planning and prioritizing the use of all state and federal transportation funds allocated to the region. As the Local Development District (LDD) and Economic Development District for Southwestern Pennsylvania (as designated by the U.S. Appalachian Regional Commission and the U.S. Department of Commerce), SPC establishes regional economic development priorities and provides a wide range of public services to the region.