



## Who is responsible for approving and prioritizing road projects in Pennsylvania?

Road projects in Pennsylvania, including Route 228, are approved and prioritized by two government entities, neither of which is the Pennsylvania legislature.

The two entities that approve and prioritize road projects are:

- The **State Transportation Commission (STC)**
- The **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)** for the region of the state where the road project is located

### **The State Transportation Commission**

The **STC** is comprised of 15 members:

- Ten members are appointed by the Governor
- The Governor's Secretary of Transportation serves as Chairman of the Commission
- The remaining four members are the Transportation Committee Chairmen of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and the Senate

The **STC** is responsible for developing the Commonwealth's 12-year transportation program.

### **The Metropolitan Planning Organization**

MPOs were created by federal law and they interface with the **STC** to prioritize and direct federal and state tax dollars for transportation projects.

The **Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC)** is the **MPO** responsible for 10 counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania, including Butler County.

The SPC's web site states that it is comprised of over 60 members, including:

- Five members from each of the 10 counties
- Five members from the City of Pittsburgh
- Seven members from the Governor's branch of our state government
- Five members from the federal government
- Two members from the Port Authority of Allegheny County
- One member from the Transit Operators Committee

Their web site states that the *"SPC is responsible for planning and prioritizing the use of all state and federal transportation funds allocated to the region. The Commission has the authority and responsibility to make decisions affecting the 10-county region."*

The **Butler County Commissioners** typically serve as three of our county's five members on the SPC. They are also responsible for appointing the remaining members and **are the only elected officials in Butler County who have a vote in the process to prioritize transportation projects, including Route 228.**

***Please see the reverse side for my presented testimony at a recent STC hearing.***