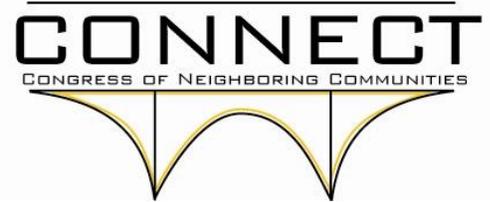


CONNECT Infrastructure and Utilities Working Group

Thursday | November 5, 2020 | 1PM

Via Zoom



Municipal Attendees: Patricia DeMarco, Forest Hills; Mark Sampogna, Green Tree; Nickole Nesby, Duquesne; Darla Cravotta, Allegheny County; Ernest Rajakone, Pittsburgh

Other Attendees: Annie Quinn, 3 Rivers Wet Weather; Adam Kidane, ALCOSAN; Megan Guy, Pittsburgh Water Collaboratory; Jessie Gorby, Peoples Gas; Rob Arnold, HRG; Stephanie Lewis, People's Gas; Noah Tulsy, Sidewalk Infrastructure Partners; Rebecca Hunter, Sidewalk Infrastructure Partners; Cher Taylor, Electrification Coalition

CONNECT/GSPIA Staff: Lydia Morin, Tess De Jong, Eric Raabe, Sarah Downing

Recording: https://pitt.zoom.us/rec/share/ZqY51FI245ETIRXeUGT-uDU3KLWP9zoaql_uLOX4mdeDuUoKI-Pzhjxy3IIV48jD.bfuzCxA8YOTd2Tc9

Welcome

- We will record today's meeting due to low attendance because of poor election week timing

Introduction to CONNECT for new faces

Introductions around the Zoom room

Introduction to the Infrastructure & Utilities Working Group

- Stormwater, Coordinate PA, climate action planning – are you interested in co-leading this working group?
- Define what “exploring” means from our July 2019 Visioning Session – it means we are beginning to talk about a new topic to the CONNECT network. We are currently exploring electrification of vehicles and 5g/community broadband access. How do those investments happen?

Coordinate PA Update

- Most projects being entered are from major utility companies (which is a good sign that Coordinate PA is a good business practice) but we need more projects entered by CONNECT

Overview of Green Infrastructure Network; Ohio River Basin Alliance; and State Water Plan

- [View the PowerPoint here;](#)
- aquinn@3rww.org
- The different levels of involvement and policy – federal and regional
- There are two elected persons to represent PA on the ORBA Steering Committee

- The goal is to bring rivers back to a restored state to be fishable, swimmable, drinkable, be used for tourism and recreation, and for transport and commerce.
- We want to advocate on behalf of municipalities to protect vulnerable communities and infrastructure
- Action items: read the [strategic plan](#), join a working group, share ORBA with your network
- At the same time the federal level is planning for this region, the state is planning for the Ohio River too
- We can present our needs to PADEP secretary, then to the Governor. This is our chance to have water concerns heard at statewide level
- I (Annie), Mary Ellen Ramage, and Erin Kepple-Adams from SPC are representatives of this local region
- It would be great to see CONNECT members at the January 2021 public meeting
- Regional updates: ALCOSAN initiatives, multi-municipal trunk sewers, 3RWW as facilitator, your municipal solicitors will be in a meeting about this next week
- Local updates: Green Infrastructure Network. Bridge the gap between university experts and the greater community. There is an impact when local decisions are made with expert research.

Community Broadband Overview

- [See the PowerPoint here](#)
- CONNECT heard about Sidewalk Infrastructure Partners (SIP) through Wilkinsburg Mayor Marita Garrett and we know other municipalities are interested in hearing more about this topic
- We're looking at this topic from a municipal-first perspective. So far, fiber infrastructure has been utilities-first. How do we share the infrastructure network?
- Wireless broadband is not a luxury, it's not a convenience just for some, it's really the basis of education and healthcare. Connectivity is a necessity. The divide is growing. No one would get a house without water or electricity. We should consider reliable broadband to be just as important to how we live our lives
- Most "small cells" are in public rights of way. We can help municipalities leverage their public assets to ensure ubiquitous 5g connectivity as basic utility. Sidewalk Infrastructure Partners wants to help municipalities problem solve and help you serve all your constituents.
- The model is there is a "neutral host" of wireless networks while the vertical infrastructure is in the public rights of way. SIP also partners with private companies. CoFi finances and builds small cell buildout throughout the municipality with universal connectivity. Then once every area is covered, CoFi's tech partners "slice" private networks to share the infrastructure and tailor the slices to specific uses – such as private healthcare, homes, industries, or municipal uses.

- This model uses limited resources and space efficiently; there is less infrastructure redundancy
- Comment in the chat: read [Reimagining Appalachia's broadband white paper](#)

Electric Vehicles Purchasing Collaborative

- Electrification Coalition deploys electric vehicles of mass scale all over the country. Almost 4,000 electric vehicles projected with 2,000 procured to date, including school buses
- We work with Climate Mayors' cities but also with any city and state universities. 200 public entities across the country have joined
- Variety of vehicle options and charging station vendors, and are flexible to make it work for the municipality
- We have been prioritizing policy work in PA recently
- We work with many partners but mostly municipalities
- We're working with state leaders to drive all sectors of the Electric Vehicle market – like infrastructure, rate design, consumer incentives, and reducing the costs and barriers to obtaining fleets, and help reduce administrative/training time
- We provide best practices, connect you to public agencies, help with tech support and provide case studies
- www.driveevfleets.org
- Contact Cher Taylor: ctaylor@electrificationcoalition.org
Contact Alissa burger: aburger@electrificationcoalition.org

Regional Climate Action Plan Discussion

- We have pretty much all the data except for solid waste! We have aggregate data for CONNECT but it's also available for each municipality
- Thanks to Duquesne, Peoples, Colombia, it was quick- thank you!! Partnerships with utilities are really critical
- We need to think better about smaller water authorities (that serve one municipality)
- Right now, this data collection process is just set up as a one-time thing, but it should be an annual thing to keep data coming in more regularly. We've been in conversation with the Western PA Regional Data Center about them holding data.
- We have CONNECT's Clearpath account from DEP – so now we can enter data in and see total emissions, and how data stacks up next to Pittsburgh. And to the county environmental impact report (environmental justice index) which ranks on environmental need – it's a culmination of many criteria that spits out 1 score. That will come out soon
- CONNECT is attracting a lot of support and partnership for thinking about CAP regionally, we will be having meetings with partners throughout the next few weeks, email lydiamorin@pitt.edu if you would like to participate.

- Come see Eric and his team's full presentation at the GSPIA CONNECT Capstone Presentations 11/30 10am-noon. [Learn more here.](#) The recording will be available afterwards.