

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RURAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

May 8, 2019

9:00 AM

SAP&DC Conference Room

Altoona, PA

ACTION SUMMARY

The following are the major actions taken by the Rural Transportation Technical Committee (RTTC) at its regular meeting held on May 8, 2019, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the February 18, 2019, RTTC Meeting Minutes as amended.
2. Recommended approval of the adoption of the Performance Based Planning & Programming (PBPP) requirements as presented.

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MEETING MINUTES

I. Welcome

The following members were present at the meeting:

- Donald Schwartz, Bedford County Planning Commission
- Rick Suder, Bedford County Planning Commission
- David Thomas, Broad Top Township
- Mary K. Seville, Fulton County Planning Commission
- Julia Dovey, Fulton County Family Partnership
- Mark Colussy, Huntingdon County Planning Commission
- Robert Reitman, Huntingdon County Business & Industry via telephone
- Stew Neff, Warriors Mark Township
- Brad Zearfoss, Somerset County Planning Commission
- Tom Glessner, Berlin Borough
- Ron Rabena, Huntingdon County Rail Authority
- Mike Villeneuve, Tableland Services, Somerset County
- Jeff Eisaman, CLI Transport/Sheetz
- Karl King, Rails to Trails of Central PA
- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office via telephone
- Vince Greenland, PennDOT District 9-0
- Brandon Carson, SAP&DC
- Brandon Peters, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- Commissioner Barry Dallara, Bedford County
- Mike Sherman, FHWA
- David Lybarger, PennDOT District 9-0
- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9-0
- Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC
- Zachary Lee, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- February 13, 2019 RTTC Meeting Minutes
- Performance Based Planning & Programming (PBPP) Letter and Requirements
- SA RPO FY 19-22 TIP Adjustments
- CRFC Refined Final Listings
- John P. Vatauvuk Resolution
- MATP Brokerage Statement
- ARC Jackson Township Business Park Access Award Letter

II. Review and Approval of the February 18, 2019 RTTC Meeting Minutes

Brandon Carson welcomed the committee to the meeting and conducted roll call. He introduced SAP&DC new staff members Matthew Bjorkman, Transportation Specialist, and Zachary Lee, Regional Planner, to the committee. He also introduced the newly appointed municipal representatives: Dave Thomas, Broad Top Township, Bedford County; Stew Neff, Warrior's Mark Township, Huntingdon County; and Tom Glessner, Berlin Borough, Somerset County. Gary Decker of Licking Creek Township, Fulton County, is also a municipal representative but was unable to attend today's meeting. The committee also has a new Rail Representative, Ronald Rabena of Huntingdon County Rail Authority.

He asked the committee to review the February 18, 2019, meeting minutes included in the meeting packet. A correction was noted on the action summary on the first page. Brandon Peters reviewed the action items noting that they were all completed. He wasn't sure about the letter of support for the Multi-Modal application to add sidewalks at the Fulton County Medical Center from Senator Ward's office, but he will follow up on that.

With no further discussion, Vince Greenland made a motion to approve the February 18, 2019, RTTC Meeting Minutes as amended. Jeff Eisaman seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. Performance Based Planning & Programming (PBPP) Requirement

Brandon Peters informed the committee that as in the past, the RPO is being asked to agree to abide by the PBPP requirements. This is just an extension of the past agreements. The committee is being asked to make a recommendation to the RTCC adopt the PBPP requirements as in the past.

With no further discussion, Frank Hampton made a motion to recommend approval to adopt the Performance Based Planning & Programming (PBPP) requirements as presented. Stu Neff seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. FY 2019-2024 Transportation Improvement Program Update

Anne Stich gave an update on the FY 2019-2024 TIP Schedule. On April 30, 2019, the County meetings were held to discuss their priorities. Following that meeting, the PennDOT Connects Kick-Off Meeting was held. All information is now available online. She asked that the County Planners and RPO review the information for their regions and provide comment by May 31, 2019. There have been some issues with the website. PennDOT is working on this and Anne asked that if anyone has issues with connects system, they let her know.

Brandon Carson gave some background on the PennDOT Connects system for the new members. Mark Colussy complemented PennDOT District 9-0 on the good job they do on PennDOT Connects. He had two specific requests: the first was could they consider using the same process on the long-range plan development; the second was for the RPO. He requested that on a future RTTC meeting agenda, the committee discuss what the county expectations are on reaching out to the municipalities to get what was previously called the Tier One information. Brandon Carson responded that this can be added to the next meeting agenda.

V. FY 2019-2021 TIP Modifications and Amendments

Dave reviewed the TIP modifications and amendments with the committee answering any questions they had. There were no amendments requiring approval.

Brandon Peters also reviewed the threshold limits with the new members and explained how this was determined and that it can be changed by a vote of the RTCC.

VI. Coordinating Vanpools

Robert Reitman, HCB&I, informed the committee that when Amtran showed interest in adding a State College route, they saw the opportunity to look at a Huntingdon to Altoona vanpool as well. The suggested route would run from Mount Union to Alexandra to Altoona and could provide a savings of \$6,000 per year for riders. There is still a lot of data gathering to do but this seems like it could be a successful effort.

Brandon Peters discussed the things you need to have a successful vanpool. If there is a need and would be users, the RPO could take that to Amtran. The plan is to talk to them and see if that is a possibility.

Enterprise has a similar vanpool idea they are looking to expand in the region. It is similar to CATACOMMUTE where the users buy the van and it is tailored to a smaller group of individuals. This might work if there is not a large usership. Robert Reitman will begin looking for interest in the program. Data from two years ago showed that there were 2,000

commuters per day going back and forth from Huntingdon to Altoona. Brandon Carson agreed to send the contact information for the Enterprise Vanpool Program to Robert.

Mark Colussy added that college students in Huntingdon take a Greyhound bus to Lewisburg to get the train station as there is no regular bus service in Huntingdon. Robert added they do have a vanpool from Oneida Fire Hall to State College right now. It is being run by CATA. They have been very active for years trying to put together a State College to Huntingdon route. Brandon Carson added that the RPO will support in any way they can.

VII. Other Business

Critical Rural Freight Corridor Submission

Brandon Peters informed the committee that the RPO was notified by PennDOT that FHWA accepted the PA submission of critical freight corridors. Not everything submitted was approved but the RPO received 62+ miles of designation. He reviewed the approvals with the committee.

There was a question about the status of the NHS functional classification submission. This is stalled as the RPO did not want to remove any of the recommendations to be able to add the new submissions. With the expansion of the NHS system, selections have become more critical. One of the requirements is national significance, not just regional significance. The feeling is that some of the functional classifications no longer qualify. The committee requested the dialog be reopened to see if anything can be worked out. Frank added that North Central Pennsylvania Planning & Development Commission was successful in their application and he recommended Brandon reach out to Amy there and see if anything they did that can help the RPO. Frank noted that North Central also took the initiative to remove some that no longer qualified. The bottom line is the RPO will have to give something up to move forward with the submission. Brandon will contact Amy and discuss what he finds with PennDOT. The RTTC will discuss again at its next meeting.

Commissioner John P. Vatauk Resolution

Brandon Carson noted that as previously discussed, the RTCC adopted a resolution supporting the renaming of the new section of Route 219 after Commissioner John P. Vatauk. After discussing this with some of the legislators, it has been discovered that this is not an easy thing to do. The highway has already been named the 911 National Memorial Highway. Someone suggested naming a bridge in his honor rather than a section of roadway. There is a large bridge on that section. Brandon said they will continue to pursue both options. Commissioner Vatauk devoted a lot of time and effort to Route 219.

Medical Assistance Transportation

Brandon Peters reminded the committee that at the last meeting they discussed pulling together a statement on Medical Assistance Transportation and the brokerage modal. He presented the statement to the committee for their review. The RPO plans to submit the MATP Brokerage Statement to the regional legislators, PA House, and PA Senate. Julie

Dovey added that it should reference Senate Bill 390, which is currently sitting in appropriations at the Senate to postpones this process. The House is committed to pushing the brokerage model through and fixing the problems later. The change to the brokerage model would not take effect until FY 2020-2021.

Breezewood Freight Safety Study

Brandon Carson informed the committee that the PennDOT consultant was given the notice to proceed. The study is being paid for with \$50,000 in funding from the FY 18/20 UPWP. The timeframe for the study is later this fall/winter with the final report toward the end of the year. The study will show what is causing the issue, how often it is occurring, and how much of a safety issue it is. There was some discussion about removing the truck restrictions on the Fulton end of Route 30 due to the improvements that were done there. PennDOT will look at it and get back to them. PennDOT noted that if restrictions are lifted, they may need to do additional work on the curves due to the loads the trucks would be carrying. The committee will discuss again after they see what the data looks like.

Jackson Township ARC LAR Award

Brandon Peters informed the committee that \$980,200 in ARC local access road funding has been awarded to Jackson Township. This will open up 66 acres of a business park with 4 developable lots and the potential to create 200 jobs. If anyone knows of projects for this funding, let Brandon know. SAP&DC staff can write the grant application working closely with the municipality and stakeholders. Brandon Carson reviewed the kind of projects eligible for this funding noting that there is no match for required. It is 100% federal dollars. He would love to see more applications from the four rural counties.

DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund

Brandon Peters reminded the committee that the DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund is accepting applications until July 31, 2019. This funding has a 30/70 split for match, but they have been waving match for municipalities when they ask. This is a highly political program so notify your representatives when submitting an application.

VIII. Adjournment

Mark Colussy made a motion to adjourn at 10:45 AM.

<p><u>NOTE:</u> The next meeting of the RTTC is scheduled for July 31, 2019, at the SAP&DC beginning at 9:00 AM.</p>

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May 8, 2019**

ACTION ITEMS

Date Issued	Action Items	By Whom	Due Date
May 8, 2019	Follow up on the letter of support for the Multi-Modal application to add sidewalks at the Fulton County Medical Center from Senator Ward's office.	Brandon Carson, SAP&DC	No Date Given
May 8, 2019	Add a discussion the county's municipal outreach to get what was previously called the Tier One information to the next meeting agenda.	Brandon Peters, SAP&DC	Before Next Meeting
May 8, 2019	Send the contact information for Enterprise Vanpool Program to Robert Reitman at HCB&I.	Brandon Carson, SAP&DC	Following the Meeting
May 8, 2019	Reach out to Amy at North Central Pennsylvania Planning & Development Commission to see if there is anything that they did when submitting their NHS functional classification application that might help the RPO. Share the information with PennDOT and discuss with the committee at the next meeting.	Brandon Carson, SAP&DC	Following the Meeting
May 8, 2019	Continue to pursue naming the new section of Route 219 or a bridge in the new section of 219 in honor of Commissioner John P. Vataavuk.	Brandon Carson, SAP&DC	No Date Given
May 8, 2019	Submit the MATP Brokerage Statement written by the RPO to the regional legislators, PA House, and PA Senate.	The RPO	No Date Given
May 8, 2019	Look into the possibility of removing the truck restrictions on the Fulton end of Route 30 due to the improvements that were done there.	PennDOT District 9-0	No Date Given