

**SSOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**RURAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**December 4, 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 December 4, 2019, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the July 31, 2019, RTTC meeting minutes as amended.
2. Recommended the SAP&DC Board of Directors award the contract for the Corridor N (U.S. Route 219) Completion Analysis & Study to Metro Analytics.
3. Recommended approval of the FY 2021-224 Draft TIP as presented.
4. Recommend submitting a letter to PennDOT adopting the State Safety Performance Targets.
5. Recommended moving forward with the application for TSMO funding for the retrofits and new device as presented.
6. Approved retaining Brandon Carson as Chair and Vince Greenland as Vice-Chair of the RTTC for 2020.

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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
- Mary K. Seville, Fulton County Planning Commission
- Julia Dovey, Fulton County Family Partnership
- Mark Colussy, Huntingdon County Planning Commission
- Brad Zearfoss, Somerset County Planning Commission
- Stew Neff, Warriors Mark Township, Huntingdon County
- Ron Rabena, Huntingdon County Rail Authority
- Karl King, Rails to Trails of Central PA
- Mike Villeneuve, Somerset County Transportation System
- Jeff Eisaman, CLI Transport
- Frank Hampton, Jr., PennDOT Central Office
- Vince Greenland, PennDOT District 9-0
- Brandon Carson, SAP&DC
- Brandon Peters, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- Steve Howsare, SAP&DC
- Commissioner Barry Dallara, Bedford County
- Commissioner Gerald Walker, Somerset County
- Michele Ivory, Senator July Ward's Office
- David Lybarger, PennDOT District 9-0
- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9-0
- Tony Tanzi, PennDOT District 9-0
- Matt Bjorkman, SAP&DC
- Janice Streightiff, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- July 31, 2019 RTTC Meeting Minutes
- FY 2019-2022 SA RPO TIP Adjustments
- Safety Performance Targets Recommendation and Letter
- TSMO Capital Funding Information Sheet
- FY 2020 Meeting Schedule

## **II. Review and Approval of the July 31, 2019 RTTC Meeting Minutes**

Brandon Carson welcomed the committee and Brandon Peters conducted roll call. He asked the committee to review the July 31, 2019, meeting minutes included in the packet. Rick Suder noted that on the Breezewood Freight Safety Study Update it stated that Commissioner Dallara requested someone talk to the owners of Judy's Motel. The hotel is a Quality Inn, Judy was the owners name. The change was noted. Brandon Carson reviewed the action items noting that all were completed.

With no further discussion, Frank Hampton made a motion to approve the July 31, 2019, RTTC meeting minutes as amended. Vince Greenland seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **III. Corridor N (U.S. Route 219) Completion Analysis & Study**

Brandon Carson informed the committee that recently an RFP for the Corridor N (U.S. Route 219) Completion Analysis & Study was released. Two consultants responded to the RFP, EDR Group and Metro Analytics, and both proposals were quality responses. There is \$75,000 available for the study. Both consultants gave a 20-minute presentation with 10 minutes for questions. After some discussion, the committee scored the proposals and the scores were tallied.

With no further discussion, Mark Colussy made a motion to recommend to the SAP&DC Board of Directors that Metro Analytics be awarded the contract for the Corridor N (U.S. Route 219) Completion Analysis & Study. Ron Rabena seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

It was noted that there was a discrepancy of \$5,000 in the addition of the total cost in the proposal. Brandon Carson will discuss the discrepancy with Metro Analytics and see if we can get the additional analysis mentioned in the end of the proposal with that \$5,000.

## **IV. FY 2019-2022 TIP Modifications and Amendments**

David Lybarger reviewed the FY 2019-2022 TIP modifications with the committee answering any questions they had. There were no amendments requiring approval.

## **V. FY 2021-2024 Draft TIP**

The process began last year with outreach, and currently there is a Draft FY 2021-2024 TIP in place. Vince Greenland reviewed the basics for the new members who were not familiar with the process and explained how to read the TIP spreadsheets. He complimented Anne Stich and David Lybarger, the counties, and SAP&DC staff on the tremendous job working together through this process. He noted that carryovers are the first priority. New projects used the Transportation Asset Management plan to assure the right dollars are being spent at the right time. All new candidate projects go through the PennDOT Connects process.

There is a shift in how projects are selected with this TIP. Rather than of focusing on poor infrastructure, it will now be based on the lowest life cycle cost instead. This will begin around the third year of the TIP. There is also an increase in funding for the interstate system, creating a reduction in funds available for new projects. The overall statistics for the RPO's assets are still pretty good, but there is an overall reduction in funds. There is \$134 million available, \$92 million for carryover projects and \$42 million for new projects. Of the projects on the FY 2021-2024 Draft TIP, 61% are roadway projects and 39% are bridges.

The FY 2021-2024 Draft TIP is scheduled to be approved by the RTCC at its December 18, 2019, meeting. At the end of the year, the FY 2021-2024 Draft TIP will be sent to the Program Center and then to FHWA for final approval. The FY 2021-224 Draft TIP would then take affect October 1, 2020.

Vince then reviewed the FY 2021-2024 Draft TIP with the committee answering any questions they had.

With no further discussion, Mark Colussy made a motion to recommend approval of the FY 2021-224 Draft TIP as presented. Mary K. Seville seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **VI. Safety Performance Targets**

Brandon Peters noted that the Safety Performance Targets have been discussed several times in the past. They are performance-based planning requirements to help manage projects. The RPO needs to either adopt its own targets or adopt the state targets.

With no further discussion, Karl King made a motion to recommend submitting a letter to PennDOT adopting the State Safety Performance Targets. Ron Rabena seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **VII. Breezewood Freight Safety Study Update**

Brandon noted that Vince touched on this with the FY 2021-2024 Draft TIP review. The stakeholders meeting was held in late September and was very well attended. French Engineering did a thorough analysis. PennDOT is currently reviewing the draft document and hopes to give an abbreviated presentation to the RTCC. They can also give the presentation at the next RTCC meeting as well if the committee would like. Mark Colussy requested it be an action item.

Michele Ivory noted that the problem had subsided for a while, but she received a call about a month ago stating that there has been a drastic increase in truck turn arounds lately. There was some discussion about possible causes including the installation of rip-rap and PennDOT said they will look into it. PennDOT also noted that they are not receiving any surveys on the issues as requested. Please have truckers with these issues fill out survey and submit it to PennDOT.

## **VIII. Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) Capital Funding Initiative**

Tony Tanza gave a presentation on the TSMO Capital Funding Initiative. Grants are available again this year. The mission of TSMO is to move people and goods from Point A to Point B as efficiently, safely, and reliably as possible. The application period will be open from November 1<sup>st</sup> through December 13<sup>th</sup>. There is \$5 Million in Federal STP Funding available and both MPOs and RPOs are eligible to apply. He reviewed the project eligibility requirements including replacement of antiquated permanent dynamic message signs (DMS) and implementation of new ITS devices. PennDOT District 9 has 16 antiquated DMS sites in need of retrofits. Eight of those are located in the RPO. He reviewed the site locations with the committee. The project cost would be \$320,000 - \$160,000 in TSMO funding and \$160,000 from the TIP. He also reviewed a list of possible new devices if there is enough funding available.

With no further discussion, Mark Colussy made a motion to recommend moving forward with the application for TSMO funding for the retrofits and new devices as presented. Frank seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **IX. 2020-2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Brandon Peters reviewed the Draft 2020-2022 UPWP with the committee. He gave a presentation with some basic information about the UPWP process. Previous UPWPs encompassed everything the RPO could accomplish; beginning with the 2020-2022 UPWP, the document will include only what the RPO will accomplish. Previously the UPWP consisted of eight tasks, this UPWP has been condensed into four tasks. He reviewed the four tasks detailing what would be included in each. It will not contain less

work but rather be a more streamlined process. He asked they let him know if there is anything not listed that they feel should be included.

He reviewed the funding breakdown and the development schedule. This draft will be submitted to PennDOT today for their review and then forwarded to FHWA for a 45-day review and approval. Once approval is received, the RTCC will conduct a memo vote to approve and move forward. The new UPWP will go into effect July 1, 2020.

## **X. Other Business**

### Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

This being the last meeting of the calendar year, a Chair and Vice-Chair need to be elected for 2020. Currently Brandon Carson is the Chair and Vince Greenland is the Vice-Chair.

With no further discussion, Mark Colussy made a motion to retain Brandon Carson as the Chair and Vince Greenland as the Vice-Chair of the RTCC. Frank seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Brandon also noted that the Huntingdon County At-Large Representative position on the committee is vacant and will need to be appointed by the Huntingdon County Commissioners.

### 2020 RTCC Meeting Schedule

The 2020 draft meeting schedule for the RTCC was included in packet. Some changes have been made since the last meeting. Brandon presented the new meeting schedule noting the changes. Everyone agreed to the meeting dates.

### Other Business

The day before Thanksgiving, the Governor signed Act 102, which renamed several bridges including three in Somerset County. The Buffalo Creek Bridge on Route 219 was renamed the John Vatauk Memorial Bridge in honor of Commissioner John Vatauk who passed away while still in office in January of this year; the bridge over Flaugherty Creek in Meyersdale Borough will be designated the Harry Beal Bridge, in honor of Harry Beale, who was the first Navy Seal; and the Walters Mill Road Bridge on Route 219 was renamed the Mark J. Baserman Memorial Bridge in honor of Mark Basserman who was killed on duty as a correctional officer at the State Correctional Institution at Somerset on February 26, 2018.

PennDOT has a new Secretary of Transportation. Her name is Yassmin Gramian. She was formerly the chief operating officer at PennDOT and replaces Leslie Richards who is leaving to become SEPTA's General Manager.

Commissioner Barry Dallara requested PennDOT provide an update at the RTCC meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup> on what is being done about the gas tax continuing to decline. Brandon asked Michele Ivory if there has been any discussion at the State Senate about this. She

said there have been discussions, but Judy Ward is not on the Transportation Committee and has not been a part of them. Michele will look into it and provide an update at the next meeting.

Mark Colussy asked if anyone had heard anything about Secretary Chao's ROUTES Initiative to boost rural transportation infrastructure? He wondered if this would provide additional funding for rural areas. Brandon responded that it is to make the rural areas more aware of the funding that is out there and how to apply but it doesn't provide additional funds.

## **XI. Adjournment**

Mark Colussy made a motion to adjourn at 12:03 PM.

**NOTE:** The next meeting of the RTTC is scheduled for February 5, 2020, at PennDOT District 9 beginning at 9 AM.

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RURAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
December 4, 2019**

**ACTION ITEMS**

<b>Date Issued</b>	<b>Action Items</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
December 4, 2019	Give a brief presentation on the Breezewood Freight Safety Study.	PennDOT	At the next RTTC Meeting
December 4, 2019	Look into possible causes of the recent increased truck turnarounds in Breezewood.	PennDOT	No Date Given
December 4, 2019	Provide an update on what is being done about the gas tax continuing to decline.	PennDOT and Michele Ivory	At the December 18 <sup>th</sup> RTCC meeting