

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

February 22, 2017

10:00 AM

SAP&DC Conference Call

Altoona, PA

ACTION SUMMARY

The following are the major actions taken by the Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee (RTCC) at its regular meeting held on February 22, 2017, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the November 30, 2016, meeting minutes as amended.
2. Approved the submission of the recommended list of additions to the NHS to Central Office as presented.

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MEETING MINUTES

I. Welcome

The following members were present at the meeting:

- Commissioner Rodney McCray, Fulton County
- Commissioner Jeffrey Thomas, Huntingdon County
- Commissioner John Vatauk, Somerset County
- Larry Shifflet, PennDOT Central Office
- Vince Greenland, PennDOT District 9-0
- Steve Howsare, SAP&DC
- Brandon Carson, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office
- Dave Lybarger, PennDOT District 9-0
- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9-0
- Brandon Peters, SAP&DC
- Justin Ruggles, SAP&DC
- Joe Saxfield, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- 2017 RTCC Meeting Schedule
- RTTC and RTCC Committee Lists
- November 30, 2016 RTCC Meeting Minutes
- Southern Alleghenies RPO Annual Average Daily Traffic Counts 2017 Map
- Southern Alleghenies RPO Annual Average Daily Traffic Count Change 2005-2017 Map
- SAP&DC RPO Area Poor Highway Surface Data
- SAP&DC Region: International Roughness Index Ratings for Road Surfaces Map and Individual Maps for each RPO County
- Draft LRTP 2042 Development Schedule
- NHS/Functional Class Response from PennDOT Central Office

- Southern Alleghenies RPOFY 2017-2020 TIP Adjustments
- PennDOT MTF and TAP Awards
- Fulton County Medical Center Access Improvements Summary

II. Review and Approval of the November 30, 2016 RTCC Meeting and the December 15, 2016 Conference Call Meeting Minutes and Action Items

Commissioner Vatauvuk welcomed the committee to the meeting and Brandon Carson conducted roll call. He asked the committee to review the November 30, 2016, RTCC meeting minutes included in the meeting packet. These minutes also included the December 15, 2016, Conference Call. There was one change to the minutes; on page nine where it refers to I-70, it should be I 76.

With no further discussion, Steve Howsare made a motion to approve the November 30, 2016, meeting minutes as amended. Larry Shifflet seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Brandon Peters reviewed the action items with the committee. Most of the action items concerned the Critical Freight Corridors and all action items were completed. Staff and Commissioner Vatauvuk reached out to Maryland to see if they were submitting their portion of Route 219 to be designated as a Critical Freight Corridor. The submissions are not due until later this year and no decisions have been made at this point. Commissioner Vatauvuk intends to continue to encourage Maryland to include their portion. He has also been in communication with Congressman Shuster's office concerning the possibility of earmarks with the new administration; Route 219 would be a perfect project for an earmark.

Brandon Carson added that the Critical Freight Corridors information was submitted by Brandon Peters in December. One additional route was added in January. If any other changes are needed, an amendment can still be submitted.

III. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update

On February 9, 2017, staff met with representatives from PennDOT District 9 and FHWA to discuss the LRTP process. Following the meeting milestones were developed; a copy of which is included in the meeting packet. Staff put together a few maps to display a snap shot of the region. Brandon Peters reviewed the maps with the committee. There was a question about the data used for the for a map depicting the average daily traffic count change from 2005 – 2017. Staff agreed to check the data. Vince Greenland added that along with the bridge risk assessment PennDOT also has a spreadsheet showing traffic on routes to bridges and this data is used to assist in prioritizing the projects.

Brandon reviewed the milestones with the committee noting that it is a draft and subject to change. He will be sending out a poll in a few days to coordinate a date for the first meeting/conference call in March to begin the process. The public listening sessions will

also be announced in March. There was some discussion about using PennDOT traffic signs to advertise outreach meetings. This has been done in other areas and has helped to increase attendance. Brandon will let PennDOT know as soon as they have the dates for the meetings and they will check with the county maintenance offices to see what is available. An online survey will also be used to collect public input. Brandon thanked PennDOT for their time and guidance in assisting the RPO get this process started.

Frank Hampton added that when preparing the mailings for the Tribal Contacts in the Environmental Justice portion of the LRTP to prepare a separate list showing anywhere a project proposes to break ground outside of the existing right of way in addition to the regular packet.

IV. National Highway System – Functional Classification

Anne Stich referred the committee to the NHS/Functional Class Response from PennDOT Central Office table included in the meeting packet. Through MAP 21, anything that was designated with a functional classification of principal arterial was automatically added to the national highway system (NHS). PennDOT looked at the functional classification of District 9's highways for areas that didn't make sense or areas where data has changed. PennDOT has made two submissions to Central Office. After the first submission, Central Office responded with comments; revisions were made, and it was officially submitted again on letterhead. Anne reviewed the recommendations with the committee. There were two recommended additions to the functional classification of principal arterial. The first is a section of State Route 30 between Route 220 and I-70 in Bedford County. The remainder of State Route 30 is classified a principal arterial; this is the only section that is not. Central Office agreed this should be added. The second recommendation was PA 453 in Huntingdon County from Tyrone to Water Street, which goes back and forth between Huntingdon and Blair Counties. Blair MPO is also submitting PA 453 on their request. Central Office requested additional information, the information was submitted, and they agreed to the change. These two recommendations total 40.6 segment miles to be added to the functional classification of principal arterial.

Central Office also sent a list of roadways that were added to the NHS with the end of MAP 21 that they would like District 9 to review to see if they should be on the NHS. Anne reviewed the list of recommendations with the committee.

The last two recommendations concerned Husband Road in Somerset County, which was classified as a minor collector and was recommended be added as a major collector. A portion of the road is a federal aid route and a portion is non-federal aid route. The portion of the road from the Turnpike to Somerset is classified as a minor collector and Central Office is recommending the entire road be classified as major collector.

There was some discussion among the committee members as to how the classification affects the funding and project rankings. PennDOT responded that it does not affect the amount of funding but does affect the flexibility of the funding. It also affects the ranking, making it higher priority on the NHS routes. After much discussion, the committee decided not to remove any of the recommendations from the NHS at this time,

but rather to collect data on the recommendations before making any decisions. There is no deadline for submissions giving the counties time to review this at the county level as well.

With no further discussion, Steven Howsare made a motion to submit the recommended list of additions to the NHS to Central Office as presented. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

V. 2019-2022 TIP Update

Brandon Carson noted that it is time to begin the FY 2019-2022 TIP Update process. The counties are currently soliciting for new projects. All feedback is due by June 30, 2017, so that meetings can be scheduled with PennDOT District 9-0. Brandon Peters discussed the procedural guidance with the committee and reviewed the draft 2019 Program Development Schedule. Larry Shifflet added that the Financial Guidance Workgroup has met four times and they expect most items to remain at status quo, although nothing has been finalized at this time. There have been discussions about the need for additional funding for the interstate system as the majority is in dire need of repair. Vince Greenland added that District 9 was fortunate enough to receive \$27 M in funding for repairs on I-99 from 17th Street to Grazerville. The project begins construction this year.

VI. FY 2017-2020 TIP Modifications and Amendments

David Lybarger reviewed the modifications with the committee answering any questions they had. They were all administrative actions; there were no amendments requiring approval.

VII. PennDOT Connects Update

Vince gave an overview of the PennDOT Connects formal process. This process ensures that PennDOT is engaged with the planning partners to create better projects. The program is a two-tier process. The first tier focuses on the 2017 TIP. PennDOT has been contacting municipalities about the projects and conducting interviews with the planning partners. They also schedule face to face meetings where requested. After the initial meeting, PennDOT and the County Planners conduct an environmental scoping field view. After the project design has begun, PennDOT will again meet with the municipality to review the status of the project design.

The second tier includes the 2019 TIP update and new projects. The idea is to meet with the planning partners during the development of the TIP to be sure their comments and ideas are addressed in the initial design of the projects. He reviewed the initial correspondence PennDOT sends out in advance of the meetings to familiarize everyone with the projects. Visioning sessions will be held in the region and surveys will be sent out. PennDOT and the County Planners will conduct the environmental scoping field views this summer. County specific meetings will be scheduled with each county to

discuss their projects and the interests expressed by the municipalities. The entire process will be documented for permanent record. After the meetings are held and input is gathered, the process will be coordinated with the MPOs and RPO.

Frank Hampton added that PennDOT District 9-0 is leading the way with this program. They are way out in the lead and are definitely setting the pace. Vince said they are blessed with very good staff. Larry added that District 9 will be first to sit down and discuss their projects with the executives at Central Office. What they learn from District 9 will affect what is rolled out statewide.

VIII. Other Business

Grant Program Update

Brandon Peters informed the committee that the FY 2017-2018 Multimodal Transportation Fund applications were due by December 16, 2016, and awards are expected soon. There was one award in our region from the last round; the Borough of Seven Springs received \$1,351,767 to support a transportation plan to improve Waterwheel Drive, while adding a new secondary road to minimize traffic congestion and connect alternative modes of transportation.

The Transportation Alternative Program Awards were also granted recently and Somerset Borough received \$428,928 to replace sidewalk sections within the historic “Uptown District” of Somerset Borough. The next round is expected in the spring.

Brandon also informed the committee that an ARC Local Access Road (LAR) application for the Fulton County Medical Center (FCMC) Access Road was submitted the end of January and was well received. A project summary was included in the meeting packet. This project has a total cost of \$1,162,000 with \$800,000 in ARC funding. The application is currently under review and a decision is expected sometime this summer. This project will not only construct a road around the east end of the medical center where a new facility is planned, but will also open up the remaining 90-acre campus for future development for senior living, which is limited in Fulton County. Brandon Carson thanked his staff and PennDOT for their work on these access road applications. PennDOT meets with SAP&DC staff and works out a budget and possible issues early on and that is the key to a good application.

If anyone has additional projects in mind now is the time to contact SAP&DC and begin the process.

IX. Adjournment

Commissioner Jeffrey Thomas made a motion to adjourn at 11:45 AM. Steve Howsare seconded the motion.

<p>NOTE: The next meeting of the RTCC is scheduled for May 3, 2017, at PennDOT District 9-0 in Hollidaysburg beginning at 9:00 AM.</p>

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RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

February 22, 2017

ACTION ITEMS

Date Issued	Action Items	By Whom	Due Date
February 22, 2017	Send out a poll to coordinate a date for the first meeting/conference call to begin the LRTP process.	Brandon Peters	No Date Given
February 22, 2017	Let PennDOT know as soon as the dates for the outreach meetings are set so they can check with the county maintenance offices to see what PennDOT traffic signs are available to advertise the outreach meetings.	Brandon Peters	No Date Given