

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RURAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

February 8, 2017

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 February 8, 2017, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the November 9, 2016, RTTC meeting minutes 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
- Karl King, Rails to Trails of Central Pennsylvania
- Jeff Eisaman, CLI Transport
- Mary K. Seville, Fulton County Planning Commission
- Julie Dovey, Fulton County Family Partnership
- Mark Colussy, Huntingdon County Planning Commission
- Robert Reitman, HCB&I
- Brad Zearfoss, Somerset County Planning Commission
- Vince Greenland, PennDOT District 9-0
- Brandon Peters, SAP&DC
- Brandon Carson, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- Dave Lybarger, PennDOT
- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9-0
- Nick McCombie, PennDOT District 9-0
- Nate Hoover, PennDOT District 9-0
- Justin Ruggles, SAP&DC
- Joe Saxfield, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- RTTC Membership List
- RTTC 2017 Meeting Schedule
- November 9, 2016 RTTC Meeting Minutes
- Draft LRTP 2042 Development Schedule
- NHS/Functional Class Response from PennDOT Central Office

- Southern Alleghenies RPO TIP Adjustments
- Southern Alleghenies Coordinated Transit-Human Services Plan Implementation Matrix
- Southern Alleghenies Region Trail Gap Maps
- FY 16/17 PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund and TAP Awards
- Fulton County Medical Center Campus Access Improvements Project Summary

II. Welcome and Roll Call

Brandon Carson welcomed the committee to the meeting and introduced the new members. Jeff Eisman from CLI Transport, the trucking side of Sheetz, will be the new freight representative and Robert Reitman, the new Executive Director of HCB&I, is the new Huntingdon County appointed representative. The new members gave the committee a brief background of their experience. Brandon also introduced Joe Saxfield, SAP&DC's new Regional Planner, who will be taking Katie Kinka's place on the committee. Katie has accepted a position at Cambria County. He also added that Kathy Dimpsey of FHWA has retired and the new representative will be Matt Smoker.

In place of roll call, Brandon Carson asked that the committee members go around the room and introduce themselves for the benefit of the new members. He then reviewed the changes to the meeting schedule. The February meeting remained the same but the last three dates and two of the locations have changed. Due to a recent conflict, the October meeting may change again.

III. Review and Approval of the November 9, 2016 RTTC Meeting Minutes and Action Items

Brandon Carson asked the committee to review the November 9, 2016, meeting minutes included in the packet. The action items from that meeting were related to the Critical Rural Freight Corridors submission. Brandon Peters submitted the Southern Alleghenies RPO recommended designation to PennDOT Central Office on December 23, 2016. This is a fluid process and one change has already been made to the submission.

With no further discussion, Vince Greenland made a motion to approve the November 9, 2016, meeting minutes as presented. Mary K. Seville seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. FY 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. Vince Greenland gave an introduction to the TIP for the new members in attendance noting that it is a four-year plan updated every two years. It runs on the Federal fiscal year, October 1st through September 30th.

Each county looks to their municipalities/transportation agencies for potential project ideas to begin the process. Vince offered to go over the current TIP with the new members following the meeting if they would like.

Rick Suder, Bedford County, gave a description of the process they use to solicit projects. A mailing is sent out in January containing a memo listing the transportation goals from the County Comprehensive Plan and the Southern Alleghenies RPO LRTP. Also included is a two-page guide of the process, the Level One form required for all new projects, a map of TIP projects in the region, a list of past projects submitted that were not funded, and the Local Bridge Assessment Update from PennDOT. Bedford County asked any protentional projects be submitted by April 14th. Vince added to keep in mind that the Local Bridge Assessment only contains bridges to be replaced; those just needing repairs are not going to be on that list. The other County Planners requested the Local Bridge Assessment be sent to them as well. Vince agreed to have Ralph send it out following the meeting. Last year the TIP Update began late due to the lack of financial guidance. This year the RPO hopes to begin by the end of June. Brad Zearfoss added that Somerset County follows a very similar format and requests their projects be submitted back to them in May. Huntingdon County plans to begin discussions at the next County Planning Meeting. Fulton County plans to send packets out in March and request them back in May.

Bedford County added that they were contacted by a local engineering firm about bundling several bridge projects. The list of projects contained both county and municipal bridges. He asked PennDOT if that was possible. They responded that it is but reminded them that PennDOT can do the design in-house on these composite bridges at a significant cost savings to the county/municipality.

V. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update

Brandon Peters began by noting that hiring a consultant to complete the LRTP update was considered but was determined to be too costly, so the update will be done in-house. Brandon met with Anne Stich, Dave Lybarger, Frank Hampton, and Matt Smoker on February 2, 2017, for some initial guidance and to discuss the first steps in developing the plan. Brandon reviewed the draft milestones with the committee, a copy of which was included in packet. A potential steering committee was considered, but it was decided to make the RTTC the steering committee rather than holding additional meetings. The first steering committee meeting will be in March and can be a conference call if necessary. Brandon will send out a poll to see when the best time to have the March Conference Call/Meeting would be. Following that meeting the public meetings can be announced. It was noted that Erie County uses PennDOT road signs to advertise meetings and boost attendance. Social media could be used as well. The listening sessions would be held in April, project lists completed in May, public comment period in September, and public comment on the final draft LRTP at the October RTTC meeting. The final draft would then be presented at the September PennDOT Agency Coordination Meeting and then

approved by the RTCC at its November meeting before being submitted to FHWA for approval on November 29, 2017.

Brandon Peters reviewed the maps put together by Justin Ruggles and Joe Saxfield depicting the Annual Average Daily Traffic (ADT), the IRI, which is a measure of how bumpy a road is, and Crash Data. The County Planners requested more data on the ADT map breaking it down farther than the three categories used on the map. The committee also requested more information on the data for these maps adding past years of data to now. Brandon reviewed the crash data map with the committee. The map was based on individual crashes rather than clusters. Anne added that the RPO should have access to the crash data they use, which is based on clusters. She will look into getting them access. PennDOT looks at clusters of crashes to see what is causing the crashes and if there is a way to address those issues. Vince added that the HSIP funding is safety related and in most cases, requires a major injury.

VI. NHS Functional Classification Item

David Lybarger informed the committee that they have 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 Stich gave some background on the process. Through MAP 21, anything that was designated with a functional classification of principal arterial was automatically added to national highway system (NHS). The NHS now has its own funding available in addition to the regular program funds. 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 presented their recommendations at the local meetings and received responses back by the end of last year. 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. 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, which was included in the meeting packet, 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.

The next steps are up to the RPO. The committee had no comments at this time. Brandon Carson asked PennDOT their opinion. They said they were a little hesitant as pushing could cause another loss. There will be no submission until the RTTC/RTCC decide how they would like to proceed.

Vince Greenland introduced Nick McCombie and Nate Hoover, two trainees who were in attendance today.

VII. FY 2017-2020 TIP Modifications and Amendments

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

VIII. PennDOT Connects Update

Vince gave an overview of the PennDOT Connects formal process. This process ensures that PennDOT is engaged with the planning partners on their projects. The program is a two-tier process. The first tier focuses on the 2017 TIP, which includes 206 projects in 147 municipalities. PennDOT has been contacting municipalities about the projects and conducting interviews with the planning partners. They also schedule face to face meetings where requested. 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 design of the projects. Visioning sessions will be held in the region and surveys will be sent out. 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. The process is currently 39% complete.

The next step is a summary meeting this spring with the planning partners to discuss project status, concerns, and what follow up items need to occur. There will also be a 2019 TIP review of potential projects in April where PennDOT will be setting up project visioning and programming. County Planners will be invited to the field views in their counties. The County Planners requested some type of flyer or form on the program they could send out with their project request packets as another face of the program.

IX. Other Business

Coordinated transit plan implementation.

A Coordinated Transit Plan meeting was held in early January to discuss the implementation matrix from the plan. The matrix was divided into short term and long term action items and the committee will now begin focusing on the short-term list. Brandon Peters reviewed the short-term section of the matrix. The committee plans to meet again in early April and will begin with the education, information, and communication action items.

Active Transportation Committees

One of the action items that came out of the recently updated Bicycle Pedestrian Plan was the formation of active transportation committees. Huntingdon County has begun to put its committee together and they expect to begin meeting in two months. They are looking at a 16-member committee with several organizations as well as at large members. The committee will coordinate with the County Planning Commission and the Economic Infrastructure Committee. SAP&DC will participate as an ex-officio member as well. Somerset County has not yet decided if they will form a separate committee or use an existing committee to fill the role. Fulton County will add this to the regular Planning Commission meetings. There has been no movement on the committee in Bedford County.

Justin made maps identifying gaps in the trails system in the Southern Alleghenies Region. He reviewed the maps with the committee. There was some discussion about the Six to Ten Trail in Blair County. Karl King added that a feasibility study was completed in 2012 to connect the trail to the Lower Trail. It was found to be feasible. Karl agreed to share the study with the committee.

Grant Program Update

Lindsay Pyle gave a quick update on Round 3 of the Southern Alleghenies Mini-Grants Program. This funding is for projects that support the Southern Alleghenies Greenways and Open Space Network Plan. Guidelines are the same as the previous rounds except that this round has no ATV funding. Applications are due March 31, 2017. The maximum award is \$50,000 and projects require a 50/50 match. Those projects awarded the maximum amount will be eligible for a 25/75 match.

Brandon Peters informed the committee that the FY 2017-2018 Multimodal Transportation Fund applications were due by December 16, 2016. There was one award in our region; 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 should open up this fall.

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 touted as the best project in the state this round. The ARC local access road funding focuses on access improvements to business parks, medical facilities, or anything that can create or retain jobs and leverage public investment. 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.

PennDOT asked the committee members if there is anything regarding outreach they would like to see included or done differently. The meetings have been scheduled for April. Not all of the County Planners had the outreach meeting dates and asked that information be distributed. Brandon Peters agreed to send the information to the committee members.

X. Adjournment

Bob Reitman made a motion to adjourn at 11:00 AM. Vince Greenland seconded the motion.

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

Date Issued	Action Items	By Whom	Due Date
February 8, 2017	Send Local Bridge Assessment Update to the Fulton, Huntingdon, and Somerset County Planners.	PennDOT	Following the Meeting
February 8, 2017	Send out poll to select date of next conference call/meeting for the LRTP update.	Brandon Peters	No date given
February 8, 2017	Provide SAP&DC staff access to crash data from PennDOT.	Anne Stich	No date given
February 8, 2017	Send a PennDOT Connects form/flyer to the County Planners.	PennDOT	Following the meeting
February 8, 2017	Provide additional data on traffic and crash maps provided for the LRTP update.	SAP&DC Staff	No date given
February 8, 2017	Share 2012 Feasibility Study to connect the Six to Ten Trail to the Lower Trail with the committee.	Karl King	No date given
February 8, 2017	Send PennDOT Outreach Meeting dates to the County Planners.	Brandon Peters	Following the Meeting