

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

May 29, 2019

10:00 AM

SAP&DC Conference Room

Altoona, PA

ACTION SUMMARY

The following are the major actions taken by the Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee (RTTC) at its regular meeting held on May 29, 2019, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the February 20, 2019, RTCC meeting minutes as presented.
2. Approved the adoption of the Pennsylvania Performance Based Planning and Programming written provisions that were cooperatively developed and agreed-upon by PennDOT and the RPO.

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MEETING MINUTES

I. Welcome

The following members were present at the meeting:

- Donald Schwartz, Bedford County Planning Commission
- Commissioner Rodney McCray, Fulton County (via telephone)
- Commissioner Jeff Thomas, Huntingdon County (via telephone)
- Tom Prestash, PennDOT
- Steve Howsare, SAP&DC
- Brandon Peters, SAP&DC
- Brad Zearfoss, Somerset County Planning Commission (via telephone)

Others in attendance included:

- Jesper Nielsen, Croyle-Nielsen Therapeutic
- Robert Reitman, Huntingdon County Business & Industry (via telephone)
- Dave Lybarger, PennDOT District 9-0
- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9-0
- Katie Harker, PennDOT District 9-0
- Matt Bjorkman, SAP&DC
- Zachary Lee, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- February 20, 2019 RTCC Meeting Minutes
- Performance-Based Planning and Programing Requirements Letter and Guidance
- FY 2019-2022 SA RPO TIP Adjustments
- Breezewood Truck Study Scope of Work
- Jackson Township ARC LAR Approval Letter

Handouts included:

- McNally Bridge PowerPoint Presentation

II. Review and Approval of the February 20, 2019 RTCC Meeting Minutes

Tom Prestash welcomed the committee to the meeting and Brandon Peters conducted roll call. Tom asked the committee to review the February 20, 2019, RTCC meeting minutes included in the meeting packet.

With no further discussion, Steve Howsare made a motion to approve the February 20, 2019, RTCC meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Jeff Thomas seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. McNally Bridge Discussion

Tom introduced Jesper Nielsen, Co-owner and CEO of Croyle-Nielsen Therapeutic Assoc., Inc. He informed the committee that the McNally Bridge is located where Rt. 219 crosses the Stonycreek River on the Somerset/Cambria County line. The 192 ft. bridge has become a magnet for suicides with an average of one death per year. In 2017 there were two deaths. He added that suicides cost the economy approximately \$1.287 million per year. Mr. Nielsen is appealing to the Cambria MPO and the Southern Alleghenies RPO for TIP funding to erect fencing on the bridge to prevent the suicides. Communities that have erected barriers have found them largely effective in stopping or dramatically reducing suicide deaths from the bridges; and it has not increased suicides at nearby bridges.

PennDOT added that the cost to add the barrier to the bridge would be approximately \$840,000. There would also be increased maintenance and snow removal costs as the same methods could no longer be used. PennDOT explained the TIP process to Mr. Nielson noting that even if the RPO decides to move forward in adding the project to the FY 2021-2024 TIP, it would be three to five years before construction could begin. They recommended DCED Mutli-Modal funding, which is currently accepting applications. The turn around time would be quicker and DCED can waive match for municipal applicants who qualify if they ask. Applications are due July 31, 2019.

IV. Performance Based Planning & Programming

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. He then asked for a motion to approve adoption of the PBPP requirements.

With no further discussion, Don Schwartz made a motion to approve the Pennsylvania Performance Based Planning and Programming written provisions that were cooperatively developed and agreed-upon by PennDOT and the RPO. Commissioner Jeff Thomas seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

V. FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program Update

Tom Prestash noted that there is a statewide planning partners meeting being held on June 11th and the financial guidance is expected to be presented there. He warned the committee that everyone's allocations will be less than in previous years as more funding will be directed to the Interstate System. He then turned it over to Anne Stich who noted that the county priority meetings were held in April and the PennDOT Connects outreach also wrapped up by the end of April. This time around there was close to a 90% response rate as opposed to 75% on the last TIP. PennDOT feels this is due to the outreach that was conducted helping the municipalities understand the process better. Anne added that the online system is new this time and allows everyone to view the information. May 31st is the deadline for input in the system. PennDOT will then move on to the visioning field views. Katie Harker with PennDOT District 9-0 will be putting together the itinerary.

VI. FY 2019-2021 TIP Modifications and Amendments

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

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 noting that this designation qualifies them to apply for federal funding.

Breezewood Freight Safety Study

Tom Prestash noted that as previously discussed, there has been a complex issue in Breezewood concerning trucks that are not aware of the restrictions on Rt. 30 and looking for somewhere to turn around, causing accidents and property damage. The PennDOT consultant was given the notice to proceed and has defined the study area. The stakeholders have met, and the consultant is beginning to distribute surveys to try and determine the cause of the issue. The study will also address if constructing a truck turn around makes sense in this case. PennDOT is looking into whether Rt. 30 still meets the criteria to have a restriction as well. Once determined, they will get back to this group. Brandon Peters added that SAP&DC staff put up traffic counters in the area of the study and will provide the raw data to the engineering firm doing the study. He reviewed the results of the data with the committee. Don Schwartz, Bedford County, reminded the committee that once the trail opens, the traffic will increase significantly. Brandon Peters said he would send the data to Anne Stich.

Shanksville Borough

Brandon Peters and Brandon Carson met with Borough staff to discuss a streetscape project and were also shown the condition of the roads. Brandon Peters reviewed the pictures of

the damage with the committee. A lot of the issues are located outside of travel path so are not caught by the IRI evaluations. There is some major damage in some of the parking areas. The Borough streets rank 89th in the county by IRI evaluations. Staff talked to the County Manager and he is going out to do some patching. PennDOT will look at the Borough roads as part of the TIP update.

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. There are no leading candidates for access road funding for this year. He would like to see more applications from the four rural counties.

Other Business

There was no other business to report.

VIII. Adjournment

Steve Howsare made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:11 AM.

<p><u>NOTE:</u> The next meeting of the RTCC is scheduled for August 14, 2019, at the SAP&DC beginning at 10:00 AM.</p>
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ACTION ITEMS

Date Issued	Action Items	By Whom	Due Date
May 29, 2019	Update the committee on the status of Rt. 30 and the results of the Breezewood Freight Safety Study.	PennDOT	As the information becomes available
May 29, 2019	Provide the traffic count data collected in the area of the Breezewood Freight Safety Study to Anne Stich at PennDOT.	Brandon Peters	Following the meeting
May 29, 2019	Look at Shanksville Borough's roads as part of the TIP update.	PennDOT	During the TIP update