

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RURAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

May 3, 2017

9:00 AM

PennDOT District 9-0

Hollidaysburg, PA

ACTION SUMMARY

The following are the major actions taken by the Rural Transportation Technical Committee (RTTC) at its regular meeting held on May 3, 2017 at PennDOT District 9-0 in Hollidaysburg, PA.

1. Approved the February 8, 2017 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
- Brad Zearfoss, Somerset County Planning Commission
- Mary K. Seville, Fulton County Planning Commission
- Mark Colussy, Huntingdon County Planning Commission
- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office
- Jeff Eisaman, CLI Transport/Sheetz
- Karl King, Rails to Trails of Central PA
- Jim Pruss, PennDOT District 9-0
- Brandon Carson, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- Matt Smoker, FHWA
- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9-0
- Alice Hammond, PennDOT District 9-0
- Brandon Peters, SAP&DC
- Lindsay Pyle, SAP&DC
- Justin Ruggles, SAP&DC
- Joseph Saxfield, SAP&DC
- Karen Wilwol, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- February 8, 2017 RTTC Meeting Minutes
- 2019 Program Development Schedule
- PennDOT Connects April and May Calendars
- LRTP 2042 Development Schedule
- LRTP Listening Sessions Public Notice
- 2013-2037 LRTP Section 5 Vision, Goals, and Objectives, and Section 7 Performance Measures
- Stakeholders Lists
- Southern Alleghenies RPO TIP Adjustments

II. Review and Approval of the February 8, 2017 RTTC Meeting Minutes and Action Items

Brandon Carson welcomed the committee to the meeting and conducted roll call. He asked the committee to review the February 8, 2017, RTTC meeting minutes included in the meeting packet. The action items were all completed except for the second one, send out poll to select next conference call date. Rather than have another conference call the committee will be having break-out sessions at this meeting to discuss stakeholders lists; Vision, Goals, and Objectives; and performance measures. Karl King sent out the 2012 Feasibility Study to connect the Six to Ten Trail to the Lower Trail on February 10th. If anyone who was interested in this did not receive it, please let us know.

With no further discussion, Frank Hampton made a motion to approve the February 8, 2017, meeting minutes as presented. Brad Zearfoss seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. 2019-2022 TIP Update

Brandon Peters noted that he and Brandon Carson attended the Spring Planning Partners Meeting where they discussed the 2019-2022 TIP Update. A copy of the draft Program Development Schedule was included in the meeting packet. Brandon reviewed some of the highlights from the schedule. He noted that the dates for the Local Bridge Subcommittee conference calls have not yet been determined. PennDOT recommended the Local Bridge Subcommittee meetings be held sooner rather than later so that all the PennDOT Connects forms can be completed by the end of June in advance of going out to begin the visioning process. This will guarantee that the municipalities can participate and provide input on the projects, and that their input can be incorporated into the projects early on. The committee reviewed the draft schedule making changes where needed. There was some discussion about “spike” funding, which is tentatively expected to be announced in July of this year.

PennDOT noted that with the new outreach system, they will need the county priorities earlier than in the past moving forward. In the future, new projects need to be submitted by June 30th. Since most counties do not have their county priority lists ready, PennDOT recommended beginning with the projects from last years’ county priority lists that were not added to the 2017-2020 TIP and then adding anything the county feels is more important to that list moving forward. A few of the counties already had some information on possible projects for their counties, but the lists had not yet been prioritized. Anyone with this information was instructed to forward it to Brandon Peters. Brandon Carson requested the County Planners let them know by the end of the month if they have projects they know are going to be high priority to their county that are not on the previous lists. This will allow PennDOT to cover those projects with the municipalities during the visioning process. It was decided that PennDOT staff would meet with each of the County Planners the end of June to discuss the project list for their county. PennDOT expects to have the first draft of the 2019-2022 TIP at the October RPO Meeting. As an action item, the committee would like to discuss the future two-year timeline for TIP development.

Brandon Peters reviewed the calendar of PennDOT Connects meetings with the committee noting that it would be good to see the County Planners at the meetings.

IV. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update

Brandon Peters reviewed the schedule of upcoming Listening Sessions for the LRTP update with the committee. One meeting will be held in each of the four rural counties. A public notice was run in each of the four county newspapers on May 1, 2017. Social media was also used to promote the Listening Sessions.

One of the most important parts of the public input process is the survey. The survey is almost complete and will be distributed the same week as the Public Listening Sessions. Please let Brandon Peters know if there is anything you would like added to the survey. The online survey will be available for 30 days. Invitations to take the survey will be sent out to the stakeholders. Information on the Public Listening Sessions will also be included. The County Planners were concerned that not all of the stakeholders have emails so many will be left out of the survey. They believe a mailing would have a better outcome. The County Planners agreed to send letters out to their respective municipalities this week. Brandon Peters agreed to send the public notice that was placed in the newspaper for them to copy for their mailing.

The committee then broke into three groups for the breakout sessions. SAP&DC staff took Section 5 – Vision, Goals, and Objectives, and Section 7 – Performance Measures, from the 2013-2037 LRTP update, made a few changes and condensed them. The third station is the list of stakeholders. They asked the committee to spend 15 minutes at each station and provide input. A member of SAP&DC staff was at each table to answer questions. They asked the committee to mark changes and additions as they saw fit. Frank Hampton added that when working on goals, objectives, and performance measures be SMART – specific, measurable, achievable, reasonable, time sensitive/based.

Following the breakout sessions Brandon added that Justin Ruggles and Joe Saxfield from SAP&DC will incorporate the input from today’s sessions and send the final documents out to the committee members for review before the Listening Sessions.

Here are the prescribed changes:

Section 5. Vision, Goals, and Objectives

Vision

Provide a safe, efficient, and sustainable multi-modal transportation system that fosters economic and community development and meets the needs of the region through innovation.

Goal: ~~Continue the Foster a strong commitment~~ to maintenance of the existing transportation system.

Objectives:

- Identify a Regional Core Transportation Network to more strategically direct transportation investments in the interest of the overall system.
- Develop regional asset management goals and performance measures.

Goal: Develop a ~~modern~~ reliable and sustainable transportation network, which links the region with the nation's markets and provides regional access for industrial, commercial, educational, and recreational growth areas to support the economic vitality of the region.

Objectives:

- Identify regional growth and investment areas.
- ~~Update~~ Continue the decision-making process to include considerations for industrial, commercial, education, and recreational benefits and impacts.
- Continue to support ~~safety and operations and planned~~ expansion improvements at the local ~~public use airports~~ multimodal transportation facilities in the region.

Goal: Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.

Objectives:

- Identify high crash locations and implement improvements to help reduce serious injury crashes and fatalities.
- Include safety goals and criteria in the region's performance measures and decision-making process.
- Encourage the incorporation of sidewalks, bike lanes, and wider shoulders where appropriate into planned transportation improvements.
- Provide training and assistance to local governments regarding potential access management techniques.
- ~~Work with the Department of Transportation to modify HOP requirements along arterial highways in the region.~~

Goal: Improve quality of life and equity of access through enhanced ~~inter and intra city~~ community access via public transportation, including passenger rail, bus, transit, and human services transportation.

Objectives:

- ~~Implement Coordinated Transit-Human Service Plan and bolster regional connectivity.~~
- Encourage the coordination of local transit or human services efforts to streamline the process of requesting transportation assistance.
- Work with transit and human services providers to identify areas with high or increasing concentrations of low income, elderly, or disabled populations that are underserved by public transportation.
- ~~Continue support for~~ Support expanded passenger rail service between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg by promoting additional Amtrak train routes.

Goal: Ensure the safety, efficiency, and usability of the freight system for effective movement of goods.

Objectives:

- Work with the freight industry to identify shipping and freight needs as well as critical rural and urban freight corridors.
- ~~Identify~~ Leverage potential funding sources for safety improvements at grade crossings.

- Work with companies that ship goods via rail freight to identify shipping and freight needs as well as areas where mobility improvements are needed.
- Assist companies in finding and applying for federal and state funding for rail freight improvements including construction and rehabilitation.

Goal: ~~Continue planning Plan~~ for bicycle and pedestrian initiatives.

Objectives:

- ~~Continue to~~ Implement the recommended Action Plan from the Southern Alleghenies Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.
- ~~Continue to~~ Implement recommendations from the Southern Alleghenies Greenways and Open Space Network Plan.
- Coordinate with the Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Department of Community and Economic Development, and Department of Transportation on bicycle and pedestrian projects in the region.
- ~~Continue to~~ Encourage communities to apply for Transportation Alternatives Set-Asides, Community Development Block Grants, Act 13 Funds, Multimodal Transportation Funds and Mini-Grants for streetscape improvements in community centers.

Goal: Inform and educate the public, stakeholders, and elected officials on key regional transportation initiatives.

Objectives:

- Review and update the Southern Alleghenies RPO Public Participation Plan and Environmental Justice procedures on a regular basis to ensure that the public has the opportunity to serve an active role in the transportation planning process.
- ~~Continue to create~~ Promote social media and electronic communication posts regarding transportation news and initiatives that are pertinent to the Southern Alleghenies Region.
- Attend local municipal elected official's conventions and PennDOT's annual meetings, including PennDOT Connects meetings, to discuss the transportation planning and project solicitation process.

Goal: Maximize the benefits of transportation investments in the region.

Objectives:

- Develop project prioritization criteria that helps to ensure that transportation funds are being invested wisely.
- Identify innovative funding sources and opportunities to leverage transportation investments.
- ~~Work with the Department of Transportation to~~ Improve the project delivery process to help expedite project development and reduce costs by working with the Department of Transportation.
- ~~Continue to work with the Department of Transportation~~ Provide training and technical assistance to local municipalities through the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) to help ensure that liquid fuels funds are being used efficiently.
- Support statewide initiatives related to transportation funding and modernization strategies, including recommendations identified in the Governor's Transportation Funding Advisory Commission's Report.

- ~~Develop model subdivision and land development ordinances or language that contain access management techniques or requirements and encourage municipalities to adopt or incorporate these requirements.~~
- Assist municipalities with the incorporation of access management techniques by adoption of stand-alone ordinances or revisions to sub-division and land development ordinance (SALDO.)
- ~~Identify current and future growth areas in the region and encourage the adoption of access management requirements in these areas.~~
- Promote benefits of municipal maintenance agreements to ensure the maximum investment in local projects.

The Southern Alleghenies RPO has identified the following performance measures to track the progress and effectiveness of its transportation planning program.

Category	Performance Measures
Maintenance/Preservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number/deck area of structurally deficient bridges • Percentage of poor IRI of roadway mileage • Percentage of funds devoted to system preservation • Use PennDOT dashboard or share point to annually track performance and incorporate that data into TIP and LRTP plans • Understand that IRI is volume based
Economic Vitality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployment rate • Estimate of new jobs created <p>Track ARC funding and how it ties into economic development Re-write performance measures Track smaller economic improvements in an existing project Incorporate regional businesses into the planning process</p>
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of fatalities or major injury crashes • Number of roadway safety projects completed • Use public outreaches to identify near miss locations • Possibly use traffic counters to study high speed areas • Track safety features in existing projects.
Environmental/Land Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of municipal access management ordinances • Number of Greenways-related projects implemented • Make access management a specific county wide task • Track greenway related projects • Track mini-grants projects • Add stormwater and flooding concerns into our measurables • Track parcels tied to green permits in the RPO
Accessibility and Mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public transportation on-demand ridership • Passenger Rail ridership

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track which programs gets the most ridership • Track program fleet size • Identify public transit gaps • Study Amtrak stations comparable to this region
Bicycle and Pedestrian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Enhancement Projects • Locate Trail Gaps • Track future trail projects • Track Bike/Ped fatalities • Look into potentially buying Bike/Ped counters • Educate municipalities on maintenance agreements
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of outreach activities conducted • RPO Newsletter open rate
Maximize Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of project let dates on or before projected date

V. FY 2017-2020 TIP Modification and Amendments

Anne Stich reviewed the TIP Modifications with the committee answering any questions they had. There were no amendments requiring approval.

VI. Adjournment

NOTE: The next meeting of the RTCC is scheduled for August 2, 2017, at PennDOT District 9-0 in Hollidaysburg beginning at 9:00 AM.

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ACTION ITEMS

Date Issued	Action Items	By Whom	Due Date
May 3, 2017	Forward potential 2019-2022 TIP projects to Brandon Peters.	County Planners	Following the meeting
May 3, 2017	Discuss the future two-year timeline for TIP development.	RTTC	August 2, 2017 meeting
May 3, 2017	Send the public notice advertising the Public Listening Sessions to the County Planners	Brandon Peters	Following the meeting
May 3, 2017	Send out mailings to advertise the Public Listening Sessions and Survey to their county's municipalities.	County Planners	May 5, 2017
May 3, 2017	Incorporate the input from the breakout sessions and send the final documents out to the RTTC members for review.	Justin Ruggles & Joe Saxfield	Before Listening Sessions