

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**RURAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AND RURAL
TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

December 8, 2017

1:00 PM

SAP&DC Conference Room

Altoona, PA

ACTION SUMMARY

The following are the major actions taken by the Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee (RTCC) at the combined meeting with the Rural Transportation Technical Committee (RTTC) held on December 8, 2017, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the November 2, 2017, meeting minutes as presented.
2. Approved the use of the Statewide Safety Performance Measures by the RPO.
3. Approved bundling the Truck Brake Check Info Pull Off and Truck Speed Warning/ITS Signage Project and the Pleasantville Mountain Shoulder Widening Project and submitting the combined project for the available safety funding.
4. Approved that Mr. Colussy abstain from scoring the Pennsylvania Avenue Wall Project in Mt. Union.
5. Approved submitting the top three RPO priority projects for the statewide 2018 Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program as 1. Fulton County Medical Center Sidewalk Extension Project, 2. Huntingdon & Broadtop Trail Extension Project, and 3. Pennsylvania Avenue Wall Project.
6. Approved sending a letter to Congressman Shuster voicing the committee's dissatisfaction of the moving of the selection of the regions projects for Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program funding from the RPO to a statewide program.

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MEETING MINUTES

I. Welcome

The following RTCC members were present at the meeting:

- Commissioner Paul Crooks, Bedford County
- Commissioner Rodney McCray, Fulton County
- Commissioner Jeff Thomas, Huntingdon County
- Commissioner John Vatauvuk, Somerset County
- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office via telephone
- Tom Prestash, PennDOT District 9
- Steve Howsare, SAP&DC
- Brandon Carson, SAP&DC

The following RTTC members were present at the meeting:

- Rachel Papuga for 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
- Robert Reitman, HCB&I
- Brad Zearfoss, Somerset County Planning Commission
- Karl King, Rails to Trails of Central PA
- Vince Greenland, PennDOT District 9
- Brandon Peters, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- Mike Sherman, FHWA
- Dave Lybarger, PennDOT District 9
- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9
- Chris Hall, PennDOT District 9
- Lindsay Pyle, SAP&DC

- Justin Ruggles, SAP&DC
- Joseph Saxfield, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- 2018 RTCC and RTTC Meeting Schedule
- November 2, 2018 RTTC and RTCC Combined Meeting Minutes and Action Items
- Letter from the State listing the Performance Measures for HSIP
- SAP&DC RPO Policies and Procedures
- Rural Transportation Technical Committee Membership List
- Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee Membership List
- 2018 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program Statewide Criteria
- 2018 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program Project Summaries

II. Review and Approval of the November 2, 2017 Meeting Minutes and Action Items

Tom Prestash welcomed the committee to the meeting and Brandon Carson conducted roll call. Tom asked the committee to review the November 2, 2017, RTTC/RTCC meeting minutes included in the meeting packet.

With no further discussion, Frank Hampton made a motion to approve the November 2, 2017, meeting minutes as presented. Brandon Carson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Action Items

The first action item was for Frank to provide a status update of the freight corridor list submissions. Frank responded that he has not received that yet but will forward the information to Brandon to forward to this committee as soon as he does.

The next action item was to forward the letter listing the State Performance Measures to the committee members as soon as it is received. This was completed.

The last two action items were to present projects for the remaining \$2,049,000 in safety funding to the committee and to review the Rural Transportation Technical Committee structure. These items will be covered at this meeting.

III. Review of Safety Performance Measures

Brandon Peters reminded the committee that at the last meeting they approved using the statewide safety performance measures contingent on the committee's agreement with the letter when received. The statewide safety performance measures letter has now been received by the RPO and forwarded to the committee. At this time, the committee was asked to reaffirm that approval.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Jeff Thomas made a motion to approve the use of the Statewide Safety Performance Measures by the RPO. Commissioner Rodney McCray seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. Highway Safety Projects

Tom Prestash updated the committee that after reviewing the TIP, PennDOT had just under \$2.1 Million in Safety funding to program. He thanked the RTTC for coming together yesterday on such short notice to review the potential projects and make a recommendation to the RTCC. Vince Greenland then gave a presentation on the safety projects and reviewed the criteria for the funding. The funding is data driven with the most significant factors being fatalities and serious injuries. He explained that there is now a new guideline that uses a formula to determine the cost analysis and determine the benefit cost ratio. Another requirement is that crash data and fatalities must exist in the last five years. The projects on the safety list also need to have a constructible solution or improvement. The projects selected by the RPO will need to go through an approval process with FHWA as well as PennDOT Central Office. He reviewed some of the safety projects currently programmed to show the type of projects that are eligible. He then reviewed the top 20 candidate projects for funding. This list is based on a statewide high crash list consisting of the top 5% of crashes across the state and the list of top 25 RPO crash sites. PennDOT then looks for projects with possible engineering solutions that would have the largest impact to determine the list of top 20 projects in the RPO. He reviewed the list of top 20 projects in the RPO with the committee answering any questions they had. He provided the cost and crash data for each candidate project. Projects with a cost greater than the funding available will not be considered for funding.

Vince informed the committee that the RTTC recommended bundling two projects on Route 56 as they are in close proximity to each other, the Truck Brake Check Info Pull Off and Truck Speed Warning/ITS Signage Project and the Pleasantville Mountain Shoulder Widening Project, as this would create a cost savings and possibly stay within the funding available.

With no further discussion, Brandon Carson made a motion to approve bundling the Truck Brake Check Info Pull Off and Truck Speed Warning/ITS Signage Project and the Pleasantville Mountain Shoulder Widening Project and submitting the combined project for the available safety funding. Commissioner John Vatauk seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

V. Other Business

Committee structure review.

In the past, there has been some discussion about additional membership in the RTTC. Some of the recommendations have been adding the Chair of the Huntingdon County Active Transportation Committee as an additional non-motorized representative and adding an aviation representative so we have a representative from aviation, rail, and freight rather than just two out of three. It was also suggested that a representative from

one township and one borough be added for two-year terms rotating counties every term for more local perspective. No decision is required at this meeting; just wanted to inform the committee of the recommendations made so that membership can be voted on at the next meeting.

PPP & UPWP

Brandon Peters informed the committee that he is currently updating the Southern Alleghenies Public Participation Plan and the UPWP and hopes to have a draft for the committee at the next meeting.

VI. Transportation Alternatives Set-Asides Project Presentations

Tom informed the committee that scoring sheets have been provided so that both committees can score and make notes during the presentations. After all the presentation are completed, the floor will be opened for discussion followed by scoring the projects using the Decision Lens Software. A prioritized project list will be put together by the software and the committee can discuss the results. Following that discussion, recommendations will be made by the RTCC. The final prioritization of the projects is the decision of the RTCC and not necessarily the highest scoring project.

Brandon Peters reviewed the criteria and scoring with the committee. Brandon Carson reminded the committees that those who sit on both committees score and/or vote only once. The chair of the RTCC only votes in the event of a tie.

Brandon Carson added that Mark Colussy was directly involved in the development of the Pennsylvania Avenue Wall Project in Mt. Union. Mr. Carson made a motion that Mr. Colussy abstain from scoring the Pennsylvania Avenue Wall Project in Mt. Union. There was some concern that this could affect the scoring of that project. Casey Markey, from PennDOT, who works with the Decision Lens software, assured the committee that it will not affect the outcome as the software averages the scores. With no further discussion, Commissioner Paul Crooks seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Each applicant was given ten minutes for their presentation and then five minutes for questions. The following applicants gave a presentation on their projects and answered any questions the committee had:

- Berlin Revitalization Project: Phase II
- Pennsylvania Avenue Wall Project
- Fulton County Medical Center Sidewalk Extension Project
- Huntingdon & Broadtop Trail Extension Project
- Bedford Heritage Trail Extension Project

The committee logged on to the Decision Lens software using their devices and prepared to score the projects. Brandon Carson and Brandon Peters conducted a brief discussion on the projects presented answering any questions the committee had. They reviewed how to score using the Decision Lens software and each voting member entered their scores. Mr. Peters generated a prioritized list using the software for the committee to discuss. He

reminded the committee that all projects are still being submitted to the state for funding, the RPO is just providing input on the projects.

The scores ranked the projects as follows:

1. Fulton County Medical Center Sidewalk Extension Project
2. Huntingdon & Broadtop Trail Extension Project
3. Berlin Revitalization Project: Phase II
4. Pennsylvania Avenue Wall Project
5. Bedford Heritage Trail Extension Project

Commissioner Jeff Thomas and Mark Colussy voiced their surprise at the ranking of the Pennsylvania Avenue Wall Project and explained the importance of the project to the community.

After some discussion, Commissioner Jeff Thomas made a motion to move the Pennsylvania Avenue Wall Project to the top priority project. There was no second to the motion. The motion did not carry.

After much discussion, Steve Howsare made a motion to submit the top three RPO priority projects for the statewide 2018 Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program as 1. Fulton County Medical Center Sidewalk Extension Project, 2. Huntingdon & Broadtop Trail Extension Project, and 3. Pennsylvania Avenue Wall Project. Commissioner Rodney McCray seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was some discussion among the committee members about the loss of control and flexibility MAP 21 has taken away from the RPO on these projects. The competition for funding is statewide and the RPO can only provide input and hope to have any of its projects funded.

With no further discussion, Steve Howsare made a motion to submit a letter to Congressman Shuster voicing the committee's dissatisfaction of the moving of the selection of the regions projects for Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program funding from the RPO to a statewide program. Commissioner Jeff Thomas seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. Adjournment

Commissioner John Vatauvuk made a motion to adjourn at 4:35 PM.

<p>NOTE: The next meeting of the RTTC is scheduled for February 7, 2018, at the SAP&DC beginning at 9:00 AM. The next meeting of the RTCC is scheduled for February 14, 2018, at the SAP&DC beginning at 10:00 AM.</p>

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ACTION ITEMS

Date Issued	Action Items	By Whom	Due Date
December 8, 2017	Draft a letter to Congressman Shuster voicing the committee's dissatisfaction of the moving of the selection of the regions projects for Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program funding from the RPO to a statewide program.	RTCC	No date given