

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**RURAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**August 2, 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 August 2, 2017, at PennDOT District 9-0 in Hollidaysburg, PA.

1. Approved the May 3, 2017, meeting minutes as presented.
2. Recommended approval of the addition of six local bridge projects in Bedford County totaling \$1,313,924; one project in Fulton County totaling \$791,000; two local bridges in Huntingdon County totaling \$1,075,214; and Business 219 in Somerset County receiving the remaining \$1,906,000 as presented and listed in these minutes to the FY 2019 TIP.

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**RURAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**August 2, 2017**

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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
- Mary K. Seville, Fulton County Planning Commission
- Mark Colussey, Huntingdon County Planning Commission
- Brad Zearfoss, Somerset County Planning Commission
- Karl King, Rails to Trails
- Robert Reitman, HCB&I
- Joshua Miller, SCEDC
- Dean Roberts, PennDOT Central Office
- Tom Prestash, PennDOT District 9-0
- Brandon Carson, SAP&DC
- Brandon Peters, SAP&DC via telephone

Others in attendance included:

- Jim Pruss, PennDOT District 9-0
- David Lybarger, PennDOT District 9-0
- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9-0
- Justin Ruggles, SAP&DC
- Joseph Saxfield, SAP&DC
- Karen Wilwil, SAP&DC
- Ed Cernic Sr., STIC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- May 3, 2017 RTTC Meeting Minutes
- STC 2017 TYP Survey Results
- 2019 Program Development Schedule
- Southern Alleghenies LRTP Survey Results
- Southern Alleghenies RPO TIP Adjustments
- Earmarks Available for Repurposing

## **II. Review and Approval of the May 3, 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 May 3, 2017, meeting minutes included in the packet.

With no further discussion, Mark Colussy made a motion to approve the May 3, 2017, meeting minutes as presented. Rick Suder seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **III. STC Survey Results Review**

Brandon introduced the Honorable Ed Cernic Sr. from the State Transportation Commission (STC) who came to speak with the committee about their recent outreach on the 12-year plan. He said he is really here to listen, see what our concerns are, and take them back to Harrisburg. Tom added that Mr. Cernic is very good at taking our concerns back to Harrisburg. He is our direct line to the secretary of transportation and has been able to assist in bring additional dollars to our area in the past.

## **IV. 2019-2022 TIP Update**

Brandon Peters noted that he last discussed the FY 2019 – 2022 TIP update in early July and a few things have changed since then. A few meeting dates have been moved and the bridge subcommittee meeting has been scheduled. There is a meeting today after the RTTC meeting with PennDOT to discuss the County Priority Projects. On August 8, 2017, a Local Bridge Subcommittee conference call will be conducted. Typically, a second Local Bridge Subcommittee meeting is held, although Brandon is not sure if that will be necessary. He also noted that on November 2, 2017, a combined meeting of the RTTC and RTCC will be held at PennDOT District 9-0. PennDOT hopes to have a draft FY 2019-2022 TIP for the meeting.

### PennDOT Connects

David Lybarger informed the committee that 257 projects have been identified as potential new projects District wide, including Blair and Cambria Counties. They have completed the PennDOT Connects meetings, provided the results of those meetings for comment, and incorporated those comments. There are 75 projects District wide that PennDOT was not able to set up meetings for due to a lack of response from the municipality. There were five in Bedford County, five in Fulton County, nine in Huntingdon County, and six in Somerset County. They first tried to contact them by telephone and then followed up with an email that included the scope of work for the project. This was done on two occasions and these dates have been documented. The next step will be to send out a certified letter that they have made two attempts to set up a meeting. One more attempt will be made before the form will be considered closed. The

County Planners asked for a list of the municipalities that are not responding. PennDOT provided a list of the municipalities to each County Planner. There was some discussion about what the issue could be. The County Planners will contact the municipalities and let them know that this is something they need to do.

Brandon Carson added that Brandon Peters and Anne Stich will be doing outreach at the RPO Township Officials Association Conventions on PennDOT Connects to help the municipalities of the RPO have a better understanding of the process. It may be beneficial to have the County Planners attend as well if they are available.

Dave added that the next step is the visioning process. PennDOT will visit the project sites to get a thorough understanding of the project allowing them to prepare more accurate cost estimates. They will be finishing the visioning process in September and expect to have the Draft FY 2019-2022 TIP in early November.

Dean Roberts added that the TIP Schedule in the packet lists July 28, 2017, for spike decisions. He wanted to let the committee know that they are still working through those and that will not happen until the end of August.

Mark Colussy added that PennDOT is doing an excellent job sending out the information from the PennDOT Connects meetings. He asked if they will be doing that with the visioning process as well. Dave responded that he can do that. Anne told them how to find additional information on the website as well.

## **V. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update**

Brandon Peters reviewed the survey results for the LRTP update with the committee. They really wanted to do a thorough job on outreach to address the concerns of the public. There were 275 responses to the survey from all over the region. He reviewed a few highlights from the survey with the committee. He noted that they received some good project suggestions and a few will be added to the project list. An alarming amount of responses said that there was no public transit in the region. The Coordinated Transit Meeting was held last week and they discussed the perception that there is no public transit. The group responded that there is no fixed route public transportation, but that does not mean that there is no public transportation. There are a lot of shared ride services and medical transport. One of the goals of the transit plan moving forward is to educate the regional stakeholders on public transit.

Brandon Peters reviewed a table on available and projected yearly revenue for FY 2017-2042. For FY 2019 they used the TIP funding. For FY 2019 – 2022 they used the financial guidance. The remaining time must be estimated. On the last update, a 4% growth rate was used. Using 4% here produced a very unrealistic total for the final years. Brandon decided to use a 0% growth rate for a more realistic number and asked if the committee had any input on that. Robert Reitman suggested looking at the state-wide projections; maybe use 0.5% or 0.25%. It was also suggested to reach out to other LDDs

to see what they are using. There needs to be a justification to whatever % is used. SAP&DC is comfortable holding at 0% and reevaluating next update. Brandon noted that the last APD funding designation was much higher due to the Route 219 construction project.

The FY 2019-2022 TIP and the Twelve-Year Plan (TYP) will provide the project list for the LRTP. The remainder of the project list will come from the projects on the county priority lists that do not make it onto the FY 2019 – 2022 TIP and the quality projects identified in the survey. The LRTP will be presented for adoption at the November 2, 2017, combined RTTC and RTCC meeting. It is due to FHWA by November 29, 2017. Brandon Carson complemented Brandon Peters on his work on the project.

## **VI. FY 2017-2020 TIP Modifications and Amendments**

Dave Lybarger informed the committee that the handouts provided at the meeting replace the TIP Adjustments included in the meeting packet. The projects listed on the first page are a cash flow and do not require approval from the committee. The next two pages show the repurposing of earmarks from the last fiscal year. PennDOT worked with Congressman Shuster's office and identified a series of projects that could utilize the funding made available through that process. These actions do require a vote as they are new projects being added to the TIP. Tom Prestash gave some background on the process. There was approximately \$5 Million remaining in unused earmarks. Congress passed legislation that earmarks would have to be returned if not used and the Governor wanted to take back earmarks that are not being used. Since the earmarks came from Congressman Shuster, he had input on what projects they would be used for now. Something the Congressman frequently hears from the municipalities is that there is never enough funding for local bridges. PennDOT will do the design work on the bridges selected providing a significant savings for the Counties. With that in mind, the following projects were selected. Six projects totaling \$1,313,924 were identified in Bedford County: Barnes Road Bridge, Grasser Road over Raystown Branch of the Juniata River, Moss Road over Piney Creek, Rose Road over Shawnee Creek, Street Road over Flinstone Creek and Reed Road over Barefoot Run. Lincoln Way East to Franklin County Line in Fulton County at a cost of \$791,000. Matthews Bridge Road over Aughwick Creek and Walnut Grove Road Bridge in Huntingdon County totaling \$1,075,214. And Business 219 – US 219 to US 219 (resurfacing on the existing Rt. 219 slated for the next TIP) in Somerset County totaling \$1,906,000. Tom reviewed the projects with the committee answering any questions they had.

With no further discussion, Dean Roberts made a motion to recommend approval of the addition of six local bridge projects in Bedford County totaling \$1,313,924; one project in Fulton County totaling \$791,000; two local bridges in Huntingdon County totaling \$1,075,214; and Business 219 in Somerset County receiving the remaining \$1,906,000 as presented and listed above to the FY 2019 TIP. Robert Reitman seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **VII. Other Business**

Justin Ruggles informed the committee the Dirt and Gravel Road Program is coming up in November for interested municipalities. It is a two-day course being offered by Penn State in State College. Typically, the course costs \$395 but right now it is free for participating municipalities. This course qualifies municipalities for Dirt and Gravel Road Grants. More information is available on their website.

Justin also informed the committee that he has been certified to teach a flagger training course and certify flaggers. Flaggers taking this course would be certified for three years. This course is being offered free to municipalities. Only 25 municipal employees per course are being accepted and the classes have been filling up fast. The next one is August 22, 2017, at the SAP&DC office. For municipalities with a larger group of employees taking the training, the training can be conducted at the municipality.

Brandon Carson added that Justin and Joe have been doing traffic counts on some local roads. SAP&DC has been partnering with Blair County MPO on a project for some county owned bridges and roads. SAP&DC is also looking into purchasing counters for bicycle and pedestrian trails to be able to get counts for those trying to extend trails. Unfortunately, the equipment is very costly. Roy Gothie, the State Bike Ped Coordinator, suggested that PennDOT may have some equipment that SAP&DC could borrow. Brandon Peters was checking into this but has not received a response. If they don't hear back soon, SAP&DC plans to go ahead and make the purchase. Dean this has been popping up more and more at RPOs across the state. John Ward with DVRPC purchased counters and at the Unified Planning Work Program Task Force meeting offered up all of the information they have to any of the MPOs and RPOs across the state. Dean recommended contacting him first and see what he has. He also recommended contacting Trish Meak from Center Region RPO. She is also working with the statewide Bicycle Pedestrian Plan to see what the statewide position is on counters. Dean added that he can provide contact information for John Ward and Trish Meak if Brandon needs it. He will also try and contact Roy Gothie to see about the PennDOT counters.

Karl King added that Rails to Trails of Central PA purchased four infrared counters from a company called TrafX a few years ago for use on the Lower Trail. They received a grant from Explore Altoona to cover most of cost. He added that other than one incident of vandalism the cameras have worked well. Adjustments can be made to account for people riding together and passing twice in the same day; also, it takes a full second for the counter to reset so it will not accurately count a group. Overall, they have found the data very useful. They leave the counters up year-round and check them monthly. They download the data from the counters and transfer it to their laptop and it automatically generates reports. Brandon asked if he would be willing to share some of his reports to give staff an idea of what that vendors product is like. Karl said he can.

Donald Schwartz added that on September 23, 2017, they are holding an Open House for the Pike to Bike Trail Project at the Western Trail Head. There will be food and entertainment and tours will also be offered. There will also be tours of the Race Hill Tunnel where a consultant will be setting up some lighting demonstrations. The Open House will be 10 AM – 4 PM.

Mark Colussy asked for an update on the Retroreflectivity Project. Justin replied that the project has been completed and the report sent to Harrisburg. Unfortunately, there is just no funding available for it. When attending the Local Government Safety Seminar they discussed HSIP funding and it sounded like a good fit. When they inquired about using the funds for the program the response they got was simply no. Brandon said they would like a little more clarification on that if possible. He asked Dean if he could reach out and see if he can get a little more information. Dean asked Justin to send the information to him and he will reach out.

Mary K. Seville asked about the earmark for the JLG turning lane that is being repurposed. Dave replied that it was just rescinded this year and the recommendation from Central Office is once again to find a project that can use the funding in the allotted time line and free up funds on the TIP. It is not part of the earmarks repurposed today.

Tom gave an update on the train derailment overnight in Bedford County. Route 96 is closed and traffic is being detoured. There was liquid asphalt involved and there is a house fire. This is going to take a while to clean up.

Tom added that each of the planners were given a list of municipalities with projects including a list of those who are unresponsive. Any feedback provided will be appreciated. He also acknowledged SAP&DC for taking on the LRTP update internally rather than hiring a consultant. This was a \$150,000 savings for the RPO. To pay a consultant they would have had to cut other services.

Robert Reitman added that Huntingdon County has been looking for contacts in the event of an emergency situation. PennDOT has list of incident command; who takes control in an emergency. He will get that out to the committee members.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

Ed Cernic made a motion to adjourn at 10:30 AM.

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| <p><b>NOTE:</b> The next meeting of the RTTC is scheduled for November 2, 2017, at PennDOT District 9-0 in Hollidaysburg beginning at 11:00 AM.</p> |
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RURAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
August 2, 2017**

**ACTION ITEMS**

| <b>Date Issued</b> | <b>Action Items</b>   | <b>By Whom</b> | <b>Due Date</b>                 |
|--------------------|---|----------------|---------------------------------|
| August 2, 2017     | Send information from the PennDOT visioning process to the County Planners.   | David Lybarger | Following visioning site visits |
| August 2, 2017     | Reach out to other LDDs to see what percentage growth rate they used in their last LRTP update.   | Brandon Peters | No Date Given                   |
| August 2, 2017     | Contact John Ward with DVRPC and see what data he has from the RPO region that he is willing to share from his bicycle pedestrian counts.<br>Contact Trish Meak from Center Region RPO who is working with the statewide Bicycle Pedestrian Plan to see what the statewide position is on counters. | Brandon Peters | No Date Given                   |
| August 2, 2017     | Contact Roy Gothie to see if the PennDOT bicycle pedestrian counters can be used by the RPO.  | Dean Roberts   | No Date Given                   |
| August 2, 2017     | Share a few reports from the data from the four infrared counters Rails to Trails of Central PA purchased from a company called Trafx for use on the Lower Trail to give staff an idea of what that vendors product is like.  | Karl King      | No Date Given                   |
| August 2, 2017     | Inquire as to why the HSIP funding is not eligible to fund a Retroreflectivity Program. Dean asked Justin to send the information to him and he will reach out.   | Dean Roberts   | No Date Given                   |