

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RURAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

July 14, 2021

9:00 AM

**SAP&DC Conference Room & Zoom
Altoona, PA**

ACTION SUMMARY

The following are the major actions taken by the Rural Transportation Technical Committee (RTTC) at its regular meeting held on July 14, 2021, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the April 21, 2021, meeting minutes as presented.
2. Approved the updated ROP as presented.
3. Approved the addition of the construction phase of the PA 601 from Ranch Lane to PA 985 project as presented.
4. Reaffirmed the e-memo vote adding the PA 913 from PA 26 to the Huntingdon County Line to the FY 22/23 TIP as presented.
5. Approved the addition of federal funding to the HBF AA Replace Six Busses Project.

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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 PA
- Stew Neff, Warriors Mark Township, Huntingdon County
- Brad Zearfoss, Somerset County Planning Commission
- Michael Villeneuve, Somerset County Transportation
- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office
- Vince Greenland, Vice Chair, PennDOT District 9-0
- Brandon Carson, Chair, SAP&DC
- Brandon Peters, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- Commissioner Gerald Walker, Somerset County
- Adam Smith, Jacobs/PennDOT Consultant
- David Lybarger, PennDOT District 9-0
- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9
- Chris Hull, PennDOT District 9-0
- Jessica Urbas, PennDOT District 9-0
- Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC
- Zachary Lee, SAP&DC
- Janice Streightiff, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- April 21, 2021 RTTC Meeting Minutes
- Southern Alleghenies RPO FY 2021-2024 TIP Adjustments
- Southern Alleghenies 2021 Highway and Bridge TIP Fiscal Constraint Table
- Regional Operations Plan (ROP) Central RTMC Region
- PennDOT's 2021 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program Guidance and Procedures

II. Review and Approval of the April 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Brandon Carson welcomed the committee to the meeting and Brandon Peters conducted roll call. He welcomed Commissioner Gerald Walker and Adam Smith, a consultant with Jacobs working on updating PennDOT's Regional Operations Plan. He asked that the committee review the April 21, 2021, meeting minutes included in the meeting packet.

With no further discussion, Karl made a motion to approve the April 21, 2021, meeting minutes as presented. Donald Schwartz seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. Regional Operations Plan

PennDOT has been working on updating its Regional Operations Plan (ROP) over the last few months. PennDOT District 9-0's plan is included in the central region's ROP, which also includes the areas to the north. Adam Smith from Jacobs, who is working on the ROP update with PennDOT, is attending today to review the plan with the committee. This committee will be asked to recommend approval of the updated ROP to the RTCC. Adam began by noting that he has been working with PennDOT across the state on updating the regional operations plans. He gave some background on the plan noting it was all about TSMO. They determined what the needs are throughout the region and prepared a prioritized list of projects to address congestion needs. They also determined the status of the existing ROP projects and identified emerging trends. He reviewed the update with the committee answering any questions they had. They identified 16 new ROP projects, including three within the Southern Alleghenies Region. He reviewed the three projects:

1. I-70 Curve Warning – to install dynamic curve warning systems to reduce speed related crashes in curves at key locations along I-70 between exits 151 and 153 in East Providence Township.
2. I-70 ITS Gaps – to install CCTV cameras and DMS at key locations along the I-70 corridor and improve traveler information and situational awareness.
3. Pleasantville ITS – to install Type A DMS westbound on PA-56 prior to the PA-96 intersection.

The updated document will be posted to PennDOT's website. They are looking for the planning partners to adopt the updated ROP and include the projects in the LRTP and TIP. The 2018 update is available on the TSMO website. This update will be posted there soon.

With no further discussion, Stu Neff made a motion to recommend approval of the updated ROP as presented. Karl King second the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. US 219 Project Update

Brandon introduced Vince Greenland who informed the committee that David Lybarger will be retiring from PennDOT District 9-0 next Friday. Dave has been a tremendous asset to PennDOT and a good manager. He has mentored many new employees and has had an impact on several careers. Dave has certainly made a difference and will be greatly missed.

Vince gave the committee an update on the US 219 project noting that the project is now moving forward from Meyersdale to I-68. PennDOT worked with Maryland to do a PEL Study, which enabled Maryland to move forward with their part of the project. Vince reviewed a map showing how the project will progress. Stanteck has been selected as the consultant and has been given notice to proceed. They are out of Harrisburg and are very familiar with the project area. Maryland participated in the selection of the consultant, and a preliminary agreement is in place with Maryland on the coordination of the project. Pennsylvania will be the lead on the project. Moving forward, the public involvement phase of the project will begin later this year. PennDOT will also be bringing a management consultant on board to assist Nicki Donahoe, PennDOT's project manager. They have shortlisted three firms and hope to have someone under contract by early September.

ADHS Completion Legislation

Brandon Peters informed the committee he has been working with other stakeholders, including the Greater Cumberland Committee, to advance legislation to finish the ADHS. Somerset County has hired a couple of consultants to work on the project as well. Recently the Finish the ADHS Act was introduced by Senators Manchin (D-WV), Portman (R-OH), and Casey (D-PA), who all have an interest in finishing the Rt. 219 Corridor. They were joined by Representatives Trone (D-MD) and Palmer (R-AL). The results of the bill would be \$102 M for Maryland and \$140M for Pennsylvania over the next five years. The funds would be 100% federal and only eligible for ADHS projects, including Corridor N. Other projects in the state would not be limited by this bill, the funds are in addition to amounts Maryland and Pennsylvania area already set to receive.

Frank Hampton added that he just received a note yesterday that the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development's current bill contains \$51.2M for Appalachian development as compared to last year's \$100M. This bill is currently working its way through committee.

V. U.S. 522 Study Update

Vince noted that this was identified by Huntingdon County as a priority to provide better access along the corridor. It is an important north/south corridor for the region connecting US 22 with the PA Turnpike and I-70. The study boundaries are from the PA Turnpike to the PA 35/641 intersection in Shade Gap. This includes both Huntingdon and Fulton

Counties. The purpose of the Study is to provide a priority-based selection of projects for the TIP moving forward. SPK is the prime consultant and has a team of sub-consultants including French Engineering and Skelly and Loy. A stakeholders meeting was held on June 9, 2021. PennDOT is collecting trail counts on Standing Stone Trail and the East Broad Top Trail to understand what the generators are, any additional development that may occur, and how that will impact traffic. The anticipated schedule includes a lot of field work through the summer and PennDOT also plans to conduct a safety audit through the corridor. Another stakeholders meeting is scheduled for September and the Final Report is expected by the end of the year. This study will also be used for future programming. Stu Neff informed Vince that in the Three Springs area there has been discussion of developing a large campground. He told Vince to contact Linda Greenland from Clay Township for more information.

VI. FY 2021-2024 TIP Modifications and Amendments

Anne Stich reviewed the FY 2021-2024 TIP modifications with the committee answering any questions they had. There were two amendments requiring approval today. The first was to add the construction phase of the PA 601 from Ranch Lane to PA 985 project in Somerset County. This was added with Federal STP funds from the SA Bridge and Highway Reserve Line Item. Construction is scheduled in FY 22.

With no further discussion, Frank Hampton made a motion to recommend approval of the addition of the construction phase of the PA 601 from Ranch Lane to PA 985 project as presented. Mike Villeneuve seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The second was to reaffirm the e-memo to add the PA 913 from PA 26 to the Huntingdon County Line project to the FY 22/23 TIP. Funding came from the SR 3007 Black Valley Road Slide project, which was removed from the TIP due to the project being completed with Maintenance funds. The SA Bridge and Highway Reserve Line Item was used to move the funds.

With no further discussion, Stu Neff made a motion to reaffirm the e-memo vote adding the PA 913 from PA 26 to the Huntingdon County Line to the FY 22/23 TIP as presented. Rick Suder seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

2021 Transit TIP

Brandon Peters informed the committee the Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton Area Agency on Aging is replacing six busses. This is already on the FY 2021 TIP, but they are reducing the amount of State funds and adding the 5310 funding, which is federal funding. They are also adding \$100,000 to the project. The addition of federal funds requires approval.

With no further discussion, Mike Villeneuve made a motion to recommend approval of the addition of federal funding to the HBFAA Replace Six Busses Project. Stu Neff seconded the project. The project was approved unanimously.

VII. 2021 Southern Alleghenies Plan Updates

2023 TIP

Brandon Peters showed the financial guidance for the FY 2021 TIP, which was the base allocation two years ago totaling \$134,433,000. He then reviewed the FY 2023 TIP draft guidance totaling \$134,284,000. There was a few thousand-dollar decrease, but funds have remained basically the same. This is just a draft and is subject to change. Brandon sits on the General Procedural Guidance Committee and noted that there were a few changes to the procedures but nothing noticeable. Meetings will be held in the near future to discuss the LRTP and TIP and also discuss the county illustrative lists. Both SAP&DC and PennDOT will attend the meetings. Brandon and Matt will go to the county locations for the meetings but will provide a virtual option to those who cannot attend.

LRTP

Matthew Bjorkman noted that he is moving forward scheduling the meetings Brandon discussed. The survey for the LRTP public input is out and he has had 40 responses to date. Flyers were mailed out to the four counties municipalities and libraires. The information was also marketed to the stakeholder list. If anyone wants materials to pass along contact Matt. Brandon will send the information for the survey to the RTTC and RTCC committees later today. The tentative closing date for public input is August 20, 2021, but it can remain open a little longer if necessary.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Zachary Lee informed the committee that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan survey on publicinput.com started June 1, 2021. He worked with the SAP&DC Marketing and Communication Specialist to get a press release out as well as advertising on Twitter and Facebook. Flyers were sent to the municipalities and libraries in the RPO, and email blasts were sent as well. He showed a report on the results of the survey to date, noting that the survey closes tomorrow. He reviewed the results with the committee answering any questions they had. Brandon added that staff will send out a reminder to take the survey today as it closes tomorrow. The survey can be left open a little longer if needed. Zack will begin coordinating the next steering committee meeting to discuss the results.

Stu Neff noted that Clear Water Conservancy and DCNR acquired a 1,300-acre tract of land in Warriors Mark Township in Huntingdon County extending into Centre County. Their plans are to lease 100 acres for an environmental site that would include hunting land and trails. With this being close to State College increased traffic is expected.

Donald Schwartz added that on the old Pike to Bike Tunnels, the Bedford Fulton Joint Recreation Authority has authorized a project that includes milling one of the westbound lanes. The project is expected to be done this year. They are also repairing some storm grates. No work is being done in the tunnels. Once there is a passable lane, they expect increased traffic there as well.

VIII. Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Program

Brandon Peters informed the committee that another round of Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) funding is open. This is a good opportunity for the RPO. In the 2018 round of TASA funding, several projects from the RPO were awarded. He reviewed the guidance and procedures with the committee noting that applications are due October 15th. Project sponsors must meet with PennDOT and the RPO staff. This is a reimbursement program and only construction and education activities are eligible. Awards range from \$50,000 to \$1M with \$18M available statewide. The project selection committee meets in January 2022.

With the last round, the project sponsors came in and presented their projects and the RPO ranked them. The RPO had a robust review system and made sure that the PennDOT reviewers knew that. The #2 and #3 ranked projects did receive funding. Brandon noted he would like to see the RPO do this again. The committee agreed that they should. Frank Hampton will check with PennDOT and see if they still have access to Decision Lens for the review process. Because of approval of the Draft FY 2023-2026 TIP, an additional meeting will need to be scheduled in December. Brandon will add the approval of the rankings of the TASA projects to this to the December meeting.

Brandon also noted that they received word from Congressman Joyce today that none of the RPO's Community Funding Program earmarks were approved.

Brandon Carson thanked David Lybarger for his efforts over the years; they were very much appreciated. He wished him the best in his retirement.

IX. Adjournment

Stu Neff made a motion to adjourn at 10:47 AM.

<p><u>NOTE:</u> The next meeting of the RTTC is scheduled for October 6, 2021, at the SAP&DC beginning at 9:00 AM.</p>

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ACTION ITEMS

Action Items	By Whom	Due Date
Schedule a December RTTC/RTCC meeting for approval of the Draft FY 2023-2026 TIP and add the review and rankings of the TASA projects to the agenda	Brandon Peters	No date given