

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RURAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

October 6, 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 (RTTC) at its regular meeting held on October 6, 2021, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the July 14, 2021, RTTC meeting minutes as presented.
2. Recommended retroactive approval of the submission of the two TSMO applications.
3. Recommended approval of the Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan 30-day public comment period.
4. Retained Brandon Carson as Chair and Vince Greenland as Vice-Chair of the RTTC for the 2022 term.

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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
- Justin Evans, Fulton County Planning Commission
- Brad Zearfoss, Somerset County Planning Commission
- Stu Neff, Warriors Mark Township
- Tom Glessner, Berlin Borough
- Karl King, Rails to Trails of Central PA
- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office
- Vince Greenland, PennDOT District 9-0
- Brandon Carson, SAP&DC
- Brandon Peters, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9-0
- Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC
- Zachary Lee, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- July 14, 2021 RTTC Meeting Minutes
- Southern Alleghenies RPO FY 21-24 TIP Adjustments
- Draft 2023 Program Development Schedule
- TASA Project Summaries
- FY 23-24 TSMO Applications
- RTTC/RTCC Membership Lists
- Federal Transportation Legislative Prioritized Project List

II. Review and Approval of the July 14, 2021 RTTC Meeting Minutes

Brandon Carson welcomed the committee to the meeting and Brandon Peters conducted roll call. He asked Justin Evans from Fulton County Planning Commission to introduce himself to the group as it was his first in-person meeting. Brandon then asked the committee to review the July 14, 2021, meeting minutes included in the meeting packet.

With no further discussion, Stu Neff made a motion to approve the July 14, 2021, RTTC meeting minutes as presented. Donald Schwartz seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. 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 no amendments requiring approval.

IV. 2023-2026 TIP Status Update

Anne reviewed the 2023-2026 TIP update. Using the current financial guidance, District 9 has been reviewing the current TIP to come up with a plan to complete the current projects and see what will be left over for new projects. PennDOT will be contacting Brandon and the County Planners to discuss the projects prior to the December meeting. They will then put together the Draft FY 2023-2026 TIP, which will be presented for approval at that meeting.

Brandon reviewed the Draft 2023 Program Development Schedule with the committee.

Vince noted that with the retirement of David Lybarger, Anne Stich has been promoted to Planning and Programming Manager.

V. Transportation Alternative Set-Asides Item

Brandon Peters informed the committee there were six applications submitted in the RPO region. RPO staff met with the applicants following submission of the pre-applications and full applications will now be submitted. The RPO will review the applications and the applicants will give a brief presentation at the December combined RTTC & RTCC meeting. Projects will be ranked and scored and the RPO's recommendations will be sent to Central Office. Information on the projects will be sent to the committees in advance of the December meeting. Brandon reviewed the projects and scoring criteria with the committee.

VI. Transportation Systems & Maintenance Operations (TSMO) Application

Brandon Peters noted that at the last meeting the committee adopted the regional ROP. Two applications have since been submitted for TSMO funding. Brandon reviewed the

projects with the committee answering any questions they had. He did note that this funding requires a 50% match and there is only \$5M available statewide.

With no further discussion, Frank Hampton made a motion to recommend retroactive approval of the application submission to the RTCC. Justin Evans seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Zachary Lee and Brandon Peters reviewed the final Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan update with the committee noting the recent changes. The biggest change from the previous plans is the inclusion of the project criteria and annual selection of Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects to be included in the plan. They reviewed the schedule for the submission and selection of projects to be included in the yearly project update. This timeline can be updated as necessary to meet funding deadlines.

With no further discussion, Frank Hampton made a motion to recommend that the Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan be released for a 30-day public comment period. Vince Greenland seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

VIII. 2042 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Matthew Bjorkman reviewed the results of the public survey for the 2042 Long Range Transportation Plan update with the committee answering any questions they had. There was some discussion about the functionality of PublicInput.com and if the RPO wanted to renew the subscription.

IX. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Brandon Peters reviewed the timeline for the draft UPWP with the committee. The UPWP was rewritten last year so very minimal changes are expected. FHWA is required to have the document for a 30-day review 45 days prior to its adoption. PennDOT also gets a 30-day approval period. Brandon plans to adopt the UPWP at the December 16th combined RTTC and RTCC meeting. Following the October 20th RTCC meeting the draft UPWP will be submitted to PennDOT for review. It will then be submitted to the FHWA by November 1st.

X. 2022 RTTC Committee Selections

Brandon Carson reviewed the composition of the RTTC with the committee. He noted that there is currently a vacancy in the Somerset County At-Large Representative. He discussed the importance of having even distribution among the counties for voting purposes. Staff has two recommendations for the Somerset County Commissioners to fill the position: Lindsay Pyle, Somerset County Trails and Recreation Director; and Steven Spochart, Somerset County Redevelopment Authority Executive Director. The Modal

representatives are two-year terms and do not expire this year. Brandon will get the recommendations to the Somerset County Commissioners and hopes to have the position filled for the December meeting.

Brandon also informed the committee that it is time to select a Chair and Vice-Chair for the 2022 calendar year. Currently Brandon Carson is the Chair and Vince Greenland is the Vice-Chair. He opened the floor for nominations.

Frank Hampton made a motion to retain Brandon Carson as Chair and Vince Greenland as Vice-Chair for the 2022 term. Stu Neff seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

XI. Other Business

Federal Transportation Legislation – RPO Priorities

In an email on August 24th from Deputy Secretary Larry Shifflet, the RPO was asked to provide its top priority projects should additional funding come available through federal transportation legislative efforts. RPO Staff met with PennDOT to come up with a project list that met the required criteria. The RTCC ranked the projects, and a prioritized list was provided back to the Deputy Secretary on September 7th. He reviewed the list of projects with the committee answering any questions they had. Anne Stich recommended the projects also be included in the LRTP illustrative list as well.

Other Business

Stu Neff commended that recently they have had some complaints about lane confusion during paving and construction projects possible causing accidents. He gave the project locations to Vince. Vince was not aware of any serious accidents at the locations. On Rt. 453 from the Warriors Mark Township line to the bridge over the Little Juniata River and Norfolk Southern heading toward Tyrone Forge there continues to be a problem with rock falling. Vince noted that PennDOT did conduct a study in that area but he will notify a technical engineer to go out and take a look.

XII. Adjournment

Brandon Peters made a motion to adjourn at 11:00 AM.

<p><u>NOTE:</u> The next meeting of the RTTC is scheduled for December 16, 2021, at the SAP&DC beginning at 12:30 PM.</p>
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ACTION ITEMS

Action Items	By Whom	Due Date
Contact RPO staff and the County Planners to discuss the 2023-2026 TIP projects.	PennDOT District 9	Prior to the December meeting
Send information on the Transportation Alternative Set-Asides projects to the RTTC and RTCC committee members.	Brandon Peters	In advance of the December meeting.
Submit the draft UPWP to PennDOT for review.	Brandon Peters	Following the October 20 th RTCC meeting
Submit the draft UPWP to FHWA for review.	Brandon Peters	By November 1st
Send the two recommendations to fill the Somerset County At-Large Representative on the RTTC to the Somerset County Commissioners.	Brandon Carson	Following the meeting
Add the projects from the Federal Transportation Legislative Prioritized Project List to the 2042 Long Range Transportation Plan Project List.	Brandon Peters	No date given
Notify a technical engineer to take a look at an area where rocks are falling on Rt. 453 from the Warriors Mark Township line to the bridge over the Little Juniata River and Norfolk Southern heading toward Tyrone Forge.	Vince Greenland	No date given