

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

August 23, 2017

10:00 AM

PennDOT District 9-0

Hollidaysburg, PA

ACTION SUMMARY

The following are the major actions taken by the Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee (RTCC) at its regular meeting held on August 23, 2017, at PennDOT District 9-0 in Hollidaysburg, PA.

1. Approved the May 24, 2017, meeting minutes as presented.
2. Approved the eight recommended local bridge project priorities from the Local Bridge Subcommittee as presented.
3. Approved 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.

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MEETING MINUTES

I. Welcome

The following members were present at the meeting:

- Commissioner Barry Dallara, Bedford County
- Commissioner Rodney McCray, Fulton County
- Commissioner Jeff Thomas, Huntingdon County
- Commissioner John Vatauvuk, Somerset County
- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office
- Tom Prestash, PennDOT District 9-0 via Skype
- Steve Howsare, SAP&DC
- Brandon Carson, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- Jeff Eisaman, CLI Transport
- Jim Pruss, PennDOT District 9-0
- David Lybarger, PennDOT District 9-0
- Brandon Peters, SAP&DC
- Justin Ruggles, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- May 24, 2017 RTCC Meeting Minutes
- 2019 Program Development Schedule
- Local Bridge List
- Available and Projected Yearly Revenue 2017-2042
- Southern Alleghenies LRTP Survey Results
- Southern Alleghenies RPO TIP Adjustments
- Earmarks Available for Repurposing

II. Review and Approval of the May 24, 2017 RTCC Meeting Minutes and Action Items

Tom Prestash welcomed the committee to the meeting and Brandon Carson conducted roll call. He asked the committee to review the May 24, 2017, RTCC meeting minutes included in the packet.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Rodney McCray made a motion to approve the May 24, 2017, meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Barry Dallara seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. 2019-2022 TIP Update

Brandon Peters reviewed the changes to the 2019-2022 TIP Development Schedule. Not much has changed since it was last presented to the committee. The spike funding is still expected to be announced in August, although there is no exact date for that. November 2, 2017, will be a combined meeting of the RTTC and RTCC at PennDOT District 9-0 in Hollidaysburg. Expectations are to have the draft Highway and Bridge TIP for that meeting.

The Local Bridge Subcommittee recommended eight priorities to the RTTC for the anticipated \$16,000,000 in FY 2019-2024 funding for these structures. This amount has not been finalized yet and could change. He reviewed the priorities with the committee answering any questions they had. An e-memo vote was sent out to the RTTC and was recommended 9-0. Once approved, it becomes part of the FY 2019-2022 TIP update.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Barry Dallara made a motion to approve the eight recommended priorities from the Local Bridge Subcommittee as presented. Commissioner John Vatauk seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dave Lybarger informed the committee that the PennDOT Connects interviews have been completed. There were 75 projects classified unresponsive over the six-county PennDOT District 9-0 region. A list of unresponsive municipalities was provided to the County Planners at the RTTC meeting to allow them to reach out to the municipalities and explain the connects process, stressing the importance of the process in adding projects to the TIP. The final step will be sending certified letters documenting the attempts to contact to the municipalities. If there is no response, the form will be closed.

IV. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update

Brandon Peters reviewed the available and projected yearly revenue for FY 2017-2042. The RPO plans to use the TYP as the basis of the fiscally constrained project list. The remaining funds will be placed in the Bridge and Highway Reserve Line Items, also part of the fiscally constrained list. Any projects received through outreach would become part of the illustrative list. The projected revenue for FY 2017-2018 came from the current TIP. The discretionary funds, spike funds, APB, local and other also come from FY 2017. For FY 2019-2022, the financial guidance from the FY 2019 TIP was used to

come up with the base amounts. For the base amounts of FY 2023-2042 an average of the first six years was used as the base amount. On the last LRTP there was a 4% growth rate added every year. On this update, a 0% growth rate was used to reflect the current climate.

He then reviewed the survey highlights with the committee noting that 275 responses were received from all over the Southern Alleghenies Region including Blair and Cambria Counties. A list of potential illustrative list projects for the LRTP came from the survey. There were 13 mentions of completing Rt. 219 from Meyersdale to the Maryland border and one for the entire Rt. 219 corridor. A very interesting comment was the lack of transit in region; many saying transit doesn't exist. They are either referring to fixed route transit or are not aware of what is available. In answer to this, the Coordinated Transit Plan Committee (that meets quarterly) is in the process of creating links to all transit services by county on the SAP&DC website. They are also hoping to conduct a feasibility study in some of the smaller boroughs to determine where there might be the possibility of establishing a fixed route in the region.

V. FY 2017 – 2020 TIP Modifications and Amendments

Tom Prestash reminded the committee that there was a redistribution of unused earmarks totaling \$5,860,371. PennDOT worked with Congressman Shuster's office and identified a series of projects that could utilize the funding made available through that process. The projects selected had to be ready for construction next year. Engineering for the projects was done in house by PennDOT District 9-0 to save funding for construction. Because the earmarks were designated by Congressman Shuster, the projects needed to be within the boundaries of his districts.

Tom reviewed the projects with the committee answering any questions they had. 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 was selected at a cost of \$791,000. Matthews Bridge Road over Aughwick Creek and Walnut Grove Road Bridge in Huntingdon County was selected 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 was selected totaling \$1,906,000. The RTTC reviewed these projects and did recommend approval. He added that he realizes there are some concerns, especially in Huntingdon County, but PennDOT had to respect the Congressman's wishes. Commissioner Thomas responded that they don't mind sharing resources but he felt PennDOT should have reached out more to the County to provide input on what projects should be selected. He feels that PennDOT picked the projects, the Congressman approved them and Huntingdon County was left out of the process. Tom apologized to Commissioner Thomas and agreed to try and do a better job moving forward. Commissioner Thomas had a question about the location of the bridge project on Walnut Grove Road as there are two bridges on that road. Jim Pruss reviewed the location of the project with him and answered his questions. He added that deliverability of projects played a very big part in selection of projects.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Barry Dallara made a motion to approve 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. Commissioner Rodney McCray seconded the motion. The votes were six (6) in favor and two (2) opposed. The motion was approved.

Commissioner Thomas added that he was not against the other projects, he just felt the situation could have been handled differently. He also thanked the Congressman's office for the heads up on the projects selected.

Tom informed the committee the remaining modifications did not require a vote but were provided for the committee's information. PennDOT received 50% of the funding for the US 219 Beechdale Slide project from the Secretary's Emergency Fund. The remaining \$425,000 came from the reserve line item. There was also a \$35,000 cash flow from FY 2017 to FY 2019 on the Handwerk Rd to Ling Road project.

VI. Other Business

Justin Ruggles informed the committee that the Dirt and Gravel Road Program formerly cost municipal employees approximately \$400 for the two-day class. Someone from the municipality must attend the class for the municipality to be eligible for Dirt and Gravel Road funding. It is currently being offered to municipal employees for free and is being offered in State College in November. He will be sending information out to the municipalities.

Brandon Peters added that he received some information from Jim Ritzman this morning on the Road Maintenance and Preservation Program (Road MaP). The funding comes from the \$5 fee program that was voted on by Pennsylvania counties to leverage state funds. The \$5 fee was to be added to the Drivers License and Car Registration fees. Counties must participate in the \$5 fee program to qualify for the funding. The funding does require a 50% match, but as much as \$2 Million can be leveraged from the state. He will send the information out to the committee members following the meeting. None of the RPO counties implemented the \$5 fee. Commissioner Vatauvuk voiced concerns that as funding becomes tighter, he feared this program could eventually take away liquid funds from the counties. Tom reassured him that it was not the intent of the program.

VII. Adjournment

Brandon Carson made a motion to adjourn at 10:45 AM. Commissioner Vatauvuk seconded the motion.

<p>NOTE: The next meeting of the RTCC is scheduled for November 2, 2017, at PennDOT District 9-0 beginning at 11:00 AM.</p>
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**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
 RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE
 August 23, 2017**

ACTION ITEMS

Date Issued	Action Items	By Whom	Due Date
August 23, 2017	Send information to the municipalities in the RPO about the two-day Dirt and Gravel Road class being offered in State College in November.	Justin Ruggles	No Date Given
August 23, 2017	Send information to the committee about the Road MaP program.	Brandon Peters	Following the Meeting