

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

February 14, 2018

10:00 AM

SAP&DC Conference Room

Altoona, PA

ACTION SUMMARY

The following are the major actions taken by the Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee (RTCC) at its regular meeting held on February 14, 2018, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the December 8, 2017, RTCC meeting minutes as presented.
2. Approved tabling the discussion on the four additional representatives for the RTCC membership for another meeting.
3. Approved the submission of the FY 2018-2020 UPWP to PennDOT Central Office as presented.
4. Approved sending the support letter to Congressman Shuster expressing the RPO's concern and requesting the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside funding be returned to the RPOs.
5. Approved also sending support letters to the other representatives in the RPO region expressing our concern and requesting the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside funding be returned to the RPOs.

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

February 14, 2018

10:00 AM

SAP&DC Conference Room

Altoona, PA

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
- Larry Shifflet, PennDOT Central Office via phone
- Tom Prestash, PennDOT District 9-0
- Steve Howsare, SAP&DC
- Brandon Carson, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- Vince Greenland, PennDOT District 9-0
- Dave Lybarger, PennDOT District 9-0
- Chris Hull, PennDOT 9-0
- Brandon Peters, SAP&DC
- Joseph Saxfield, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- December 8, 2017 RTCC Meeting Minutes
- Proposed RTTC Membership Structure
- Southern Alleghenies RPO Policies and Procedures
- Draft FY 2018-2020 UPWP
- 2019 TIP Program Development Schedule
- Southern Alleghenies RPO TIP Adjustments
- Transportation alternatives Set-Asides Congressional Letter
- PennDOT Connects Outreach Sessions Marketing Email
- LTAP Attendance Map

II. Review and Approval of the December 8, 2017 RTCC Meeting Minutes

Tom Prestash welcomed the committee to the meeting and Brandon Carson conducted roll call. Tom asked the committee to review the December 8, 2017, RTCC meeting minutes included in the packet.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Rodney McCray made a motion to approve the December 8, 2017, RTCC meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner John Vataavuk seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. RTCC Committee Structure

Brandon Carson gave the committee an update on the discussion that took place at the February 7, 2017, RTCC meeting. The committee recommended the addition of four representatives to its membership; two municipal representatives, one township and one borough; an additional non-motorized transportation representative; and an additional public transit representative. These four positions would rotate every two years with even distribution among the counties to ensure equal representation. Brandon noted that Fulton County, even though they saw the value, did have some concerns about being able to find representatives willing to fill the positions and voted no on the additional members. The committee discussed a few recommendations as to how the positions could be filled and/or votes conducted.

Brandon Peters reviewed the RPO's policies and procedures as they would be amended to accommodate the additional committee members detailing the process and how equal representation would be ensured. If approved by this committee, SAP&DC staff will work with the four counties to fill the positions by the end of the calendar year. New positions would begin January 1, 2019.

After much discussion, Commissioner Jeff Thomas made a motion to table the discussion on the four additional representatives for the RTCC membership for another meeting. Commissioner Barry Dallara seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. Unified Planning Work Program Update

Brandon Peters gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Draft FY 2018-2020 UPWP explaining that it is a two-year agreement with PennDOT to conduct transportation planning for the four rural counties. He reviewed the funding breakdown, prospectus and work elements with the committee answering any questions they had. Brandon noted that on Task V: Public Involvement & Outreach, our Public Participation Plan will not be updated as early as usual as the State is updating its Public Participation Plan and staff would like to see that update before beginning the RPO update. Also, on Task VII: Local

Technical Assistance Program (LTAP), SAP&DC has been coordinating the program with the Blair and Cambria County Planning Commissions for several years. Cambria County has decided to no longer coordinate with the RPO and do their own program beginning with this UPWP. Brandon Carson expressed his frustration on the lack of willingness to coordinate efforts moving forward.

The 2018-2020 UPWP will be submitted to PennDOT Central Office by the end of the month and should be approved by March 14, 2018. The UPWP will run from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Jeff Thomas made a motion to approve the submission of the FY 2018-2020 UPWP to PennDOT Central Office as presented. Commissioner Barry Dallara seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Brandon Carson reminded the Commissioners that the county invoices for their 2019 budget will be sent out this fall. Tom Prestash requested that once the budget for the FY 2018-2020 UPWP is approved it be forwarded to the committee members.

V. 2019-2022 Draft TIP Update

David Lybarger gave an update on the PennDOT Connects process. To date, 152 projects have been evaluated completing 209 forms and coordinating with 89 municipalities. The data collected was shared with the County Planners and RPO staff for comment. If any follow-up with the municipalities was noted, they will be contacted by the design team when the projects begin.

PennDOT District 9-0 was required to submit its draft 2019-2022 TIP to Central Office by the end of last year. There were no significant findings and they were pleased with the process used to develop the program. The Spike projects have already been announced and added to the TIP. One project was awarded in Huntingdon County; Route 26 over the Muddy Run Culvert. The next time the 2019-2022 Draft TIP is presented to the committee it will contain Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) set aside funding. The District filed several applications for the funding and two were approved. They are the Cable Median Barrier on I-70 from Town Hill to the Pennsylvania Turnpike ramps and a District wide High Friction Surface Treatment project (includes Blair and Cambria Counties). This will add \$600,000 to the 2019 TIP. The draft 2019-2022 TIP will be presented to this committee again on May 2, 2018, for approval for public comment and June 20, 2018, for final approval.

Tom Prestash added that two projects were awarded through the Interstate Program. District 9 received \$2 M on I-70 and \$6.5 M on I-99 in Bedford County for Bridge Preservation Projects. He thanked Larry Shifflet for his support on these projects.

Brandon Peters reviewed the 2019-2022 Draft TIP development schedule with the committee.

VI. FY 2017-2020 TIP Modifications and Amendments

David Lybarger reviewed the FY 2017-2020 TIP modifications with the committee answering any questions they had. There were no amendments requiring approval at this meeting.

VII. Transportation Alternatives Set-Asides Congressional Letter

Tom reminded the committee that before MAP 21 legislation, each MPO/RPO received a portion of the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside funding to award to projects in their area. MAP 21 legislation added the threshold of population, making the RPOs compete statewide for funding, while the larger MPOs still receive a portion of the funding plus can compete statewide for funding as well. The Committee was concerned, and with talk of a new transportation bill, would like congress to relook at this. A support letter, which was included in the meeting packet, was drafted to Congressman Shuster expressing the committee's concern and requesting funding be returned to the RPOs.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Rodney McCray made a motion to send the support letter to Congressman Shuster expressing our concern and requesting the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside funding be returned to the RPOs. Steve Howsare seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

VIII. Coordinated Transit Presentation

Joe Saxfield gave a presentation put together by Andy Batson of Michael Baker Inc. on the Coordinated Transit Plan. At the Coordinated Transit Plan meetings, there has been discussion about having fixed route transit somewhere in the region. JC Blair Hospital identified a gap in service as some patients have trouble getting home. They have been in discussions with Mike Whysong from the Huntingdon – Bedford – Fulton AAA. He noted that the Cart vans had been going there frequently and recommended grouping some of the patients together and the van could pick them up on a scheduled basis, similar to a fixed route. The committee thought it would be worth looking into fixed route transit. Joe reviewed the types of traditional rural transit with the committee and noted that they would be looking at a traditional route. The first step would be completing a feasibility study. At this point, it has not been determined whether the route would cover the region or just one county. Another option would be Microtransit, which operates as a shared-ride service with a fixed route fare in places that two transit areas overlap.

The other part of the fixed route transit is funding. It was recommended staff look into the Demonstration program through Act 44 and 89. So far Joe has been unable to locate any

information on this program. He then reviewed the things to consider moving forward such as contracted or current operator, age/medical requirements, additional Federal and State regulations, local funding/match, and long-term viability. There will need to be coordination with the other transit agencies to coordinate travel from one area to another. They will be reaching out to Tableland Services in Somerset and Family Partnership in Fulton to discuss this. Participation from the local transit providers will be needed to move forward.

There was some discussion among the commissioners concerning flaws in the transit system making it not very user friendly. Some of the rules with the current transit system are confusing and don't make sense. Tom Prestash asked Larry Shifflet if he could get the proper contact from central office for Tom to discuss the transit issues with and then get back with this committee. Following that discussion, the committee could draft a paper voicing their concerns to send to Toby Farber, Deputy Secretary for Multimodal Transportation.

One of the committee members asked what PennDOT is doing long term to look at autonomous vehicles. It doesn't look like it will be long before they will be on the road. Tom responded that PennDOT is very involved in the process and just recently held a seminar to discuss the issue. The biggest issue so far is who owns the data. When the cars come out, PennDOT will be prepared.

IX. Other Business

PennDOT Connects

Secretary Leslie S. Richards has invited all of the municipalities to attend a two-hour Municipal Outreach Session to discuss her priority PennDOT Connects initiative. Three PennDOT Connects Municipal Trainings are being held in the area. One will be in Ebensburg on Thursday from 1 PM -3 PM, and on Friday there will be one in Bedford from 9 AM – 11 AM and one in Hollidaysburg from 1 PM – 3 PM.

LTAP

Brandon Peters reviewed the LTAP attendance map put together by Justin Ruggles reflecting attendance for the last three years. The map showed areas that are not being served by the program. Brandon added that there is real capacity to be gained by attending these courses. For this year's program, courses are being spread out more around the RPO to try and reach some of the areas identified. Staff is also reaching out to Franklin County outside of our region as they are also underserved. Justin has also been certified to teach flagger certification courses in our region. The training is free, saving the municipalities the cost of the course if they take it elsewhere.

Tom requested a copy of the attendance maps for the RPO and the two MPOs for his upcoming meetings to discuss what the barriers might be with underserved municipalities. Commissioner Rodney McCray requested a copy of the LTAP Brochure be sent to him when they are ready.

Brandon Peters also added that the DCED Multimodal Fund will be accepting applications March 1, 2018, through July 31, 2018. The program has a cap of \$3 M and requires a 30% match. PennDOT recently announced the awards for its Multimodal Fund. The RPO did not receive any awards but two projects in Cambria County were awarded. A new application period will be opening on February 26, 2018, through March 30, 2018, and also has a cap of \$3 M and requires a 30% match. Brandon added he would really like to see some quality projects in the RPO.

Brandon Carson asked if there was any word on the TAP applications. Larry Shifflet replied that he believes the applications have been narrowed down to a draft list of applications to be presented to the executive staff. He expects the selections should be announced soon. He has not seen the list and does not know if any of the RPOs projects are on it. Brandon also noted that the RPO is very interested in having a seat on the statewide selection committee and if the opportunity came about he would like to be notified.

With no further discussion, Steve Howsare made a motion that Motion to also send support letters to the other representatives in the RPO region expressing our concern and requesting the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside funding be returned to the RPOs. Commissioner Jeff Thomas seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

X. Adjournment

Brandon Carson made a motion to adjourn at 11:40 AM.

<p><u>NOTE:</u> The next meeting of the RTCC is scheduled for May 2, 2018, at the SAP&DC beginning at 10:00 AM.</p>
--

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

February 14, 2018

ACTION ITEMS

Date Issued	Action Items	By Whom	Due Date
February 14, 2018	Forward the budget for the FY 2018-2020 UPWP once approved to the committee members.	Brandon Peters	Upon Approval
February 14, 2018	Send the support letter to Congressman Shuster expressing the committee's concern and requesting the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside funding be returned to the RPOs.	The RPO	No Date Given
February 14, 2018	Tom Prestash asked Larry Shifflet if he could get the proper contact from central office for Tom to discuss the transit issues with and then get back with this committee.	Larry Shifflet and Tom Prestash	No Date Given
February 14, 2018	Tom requested a copy of the attendance maps for the RPO and the two MPOs for his upcoming meetings	Brandon Peters	Following the meeting
February 14, 2018	Commissioner Rodney McCray requested a copy of the LTAP Brochure be sent to him.	SAP&DC Staff	When the LTAP brochures are sent out.