

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

December 18, 2019

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 December 18, 2019, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the August 14, 2019, RTCC meeting minutes as presented.
2. Approve the Draft FY 2021-2024 TIP as presented.
3. Approved submitting a letter to PennDOT Central Office adopting the State Safety Performance Targets.
4. Approved having the RPO apply for TSMO funding for the eight DMS retrofits and one new device as presented.
5. Approved retaining Tom Prestash Chair and Commissioner Jeff Thomas Vice Chair of the RTCC for 2020.

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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 Gerald Walker, Somerset County
- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office
- Tom Prestash, SAP&DC
- Steve Howsare, SAP&DC
- Brandon Carson, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- Michele Ivory, Senator Judy Ward's Office
- Vince Greenland, PennDOT District 9-0
- David Lybarger, PennDOT District 9-0
- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9-0
- Brandon Peters, SAP&DC
- Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC
- Zach Lee, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- August 14, 2019 RTCC Meeting Minutes
- FFY 2019-2022 SA RPO TIP Adjustments
- FY 2021-2024 Draft TIP
- Safety Performance Targets
- TSMO Frequently Asked Questions
- 2020 Meeting Schedule

II. Review and Approval of the August 14, 2019 RTCC Meeting Minutes

Tom Prestash welcomed the committee to the meeting and Brandon Carson conducted roll call. Tom asked the committee to review the August 14, 2019, RTCC meeting minutes included in the packet.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Rodney McCray made a motion to approve the August 14, 2019, RTCC meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Jeff Thomas seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. Corridor N (U.S. Route 219) Completion Analysis & Study

Tom reminded the committee that Maryland is also conducting a cost benefit analysis and PennDOT will share those results once they are received. Brandon added that this study will go a step farther than that one looking at the effects on marketing as well to justify completing that last 5.5 miles. An RFP was advertised and released, and two consultants responded, EDR Group and Metro Analytics. Both proposals were quality responses. There is \$75,000 available in ARC funds for the study. Both consultants gave a presentation at the December 4, 2019, RTCC meeting. After some discussion, the committee scored the proposals and Metro Analytics was recommended for approval. The SAP&DC Board of Directors approved the selection and hopes to have the study underway by the end of the year. The period of performance for the study has been extended due to a joint application for the project not being submitted. The study is expected to be complete by the end of April.

PennDOT has a new Secretary of Transportation. Her name is Yassmin Gramian. She is well aware of the Route 219 Project and is going to make time available to come to the area and discuss the project.

Tom added that there is new legislation with ARC funding. PennDOT needs to get clarification on it but there may be additional dedicated funding. PennDOT is hearing there could be \$100 M for all 13 states. Pennsylvania could get upwards of \$30 M a year. Tom will update the committee as more information becomes available.

Maryland has now designated their piece of Route 219 a critical freight corridor. The RPO will need to review this and decide whether to request critical freight corridor designation of the last five miles of Route 219. If Route 219 is added, something will have to be removed as well. Adding our section will strengthen Maryland's designation. Tom added that if no one has any objection, PennDOT can try and coordinate this.

IV. FY 2019-2022 TIP Modifications and Amendments

David Lybarger reviewed the FY 2019-2022 TIP modifications with the committee answering any questions they had. There were no amendments requiring a vote.

V. FY 2021-2024 Draft TIP

Tom Prestash gave a presentation on the Southern Alleghenies RPO 2021-2024 TIP. He informed the committee there has been a change in how projects will be prioritized. Rather than of focusing on poor infrastructure, it will now be based on the lowest life cycle cost instead. This will begin around the third year of the TIP. There is also an increase in funding for the interstate system, creating a reduction in funds available for new projects. Tom noted that PennDOT reviewed the county priorities but not all were added to the TIP. He has shared this information with the County Planners and has been meeting with the counties individually to discuss.

The Draft TIP began with the carry over projects on the current TIP. Tom reviewed the requirements/performance measures that go into selecting a project to be added to the TIP. He reviewed the financial guidance noting that funding is declining. This is caused by fuel efficiency, less gas tax, and the State Police Fund. Another reason is there has not been enough investment in the Interstates, causing the maintenance on these highways to fall behind. To remedy this, the Transportation Committee took action and \$150 M will be taken off the top statewide for the Interstates and \$50 M per year after that. The allocation for the RPO is \$134 M, \$92 M in carry over projects and \$42 M for new projects. Of those projects 60% are roadway and 40% are bridge. The committee is being asked for approval of the FY 2021-2024 Draft TIP today. It will then be submitted to the Program Center and FHWA/FTA for review. Following that is the Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Public Comment Period. The RPO will adopt the TIP in the summer of 2020 and then it will be combined into the STIP and sent to the State Transportation Commission for approval. The FY 2020-2024 TIP will take effect in October 1, 2020.

Vince Greenland reviewed the new projects being added to the FY 2021-2024 TIP with the committee answering any questions they had. The projects included the Breezewood Truck Study projects. PennDOT is waiting for approval from FHWA on one of the signs. The sign is red, which typically is not allowed but typical signs are not working. Brandon Peters asked if a support letter from the RPO would be helpful. Tom agreed that it would. Michele Ivory requested the stakeholders be allowed to provide input before the projects are finalized also.

Commissioner Thomas thanked PennDOT for coming out to the Counties to review this information before the meeting and answer their questions.

There was some discussion about the declining gas tax with today's more fuel-efficient vehicles and different ways to make up the difference to be able to fund the maintenance of the roads and highways. Fuel economy has reduced the average annual fuel tax contribution by approximately 61%. Many states pay higher vehicle registrations than Pennsylvania to help make up the difference. Pennsylvania is looking into several possible options. Brandon Carson recommended the legislators be invited to the policy group meetings in the future. Their being informed on these problems could be helpful. He recommended the meeting invitation and agenda be sent in advance so they can see if there is anything on the agenda that would benefit them. The group agreed and Brandon will send the agendas out to them in the future.

With no further discussion, Steve Howsare made a motion to approve the Draft FT 2021-2024 TIP as presented. Commissioner Gerald Walker seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

VI. Safety Performance Target

Brandon Peters noted that Tom already mentioned the safety performance measures earlier in the meeting. The last two years the RPO has been asked either adopt the state targets or adopt its own targets. Previously the RPO has elected to adopt the state safety performance targets.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Barry Dallara made a motion to submit a letter to PennDOT Central Office adopting the State Safety Performance Targets. Commissioner Jeff Thomas seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) Capital Funding Initiative

Brandon Peters asked the committee to reaffirm the memo vote conducted earlier this month. The Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) Capital Funding Initiative will help to promote and support the implementation of TSMO strategies to resolve key mobility and safety issues. PennDOT identified eight existing digital messaging systems (DMS) to be retrofitted at a cost of \$320,000 (\$160,000 TSMO and \$160,000 TIP funds) and one new DMS board to be installed in the RPO at a cost of \$200,000 (\$100,000 TSMO funding and \$100,000 TIP funds). He reviewed the locations of the DMS boards with the committee. The RTTC recommended that the RPO submit an application to access TSMO funds.

With no further discussion, Frank Hampton made a motion that the RPO apply for TSMO funding for the eight DMS retrofits and one new device as presented. Rodney McCray seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

VIII. 2020-2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Brandon Peters reviewed the changes in the UPWP answering any questions the committee had. Previous UPWPs encompassed everything the RPO could accomplish; beginning with the 2020-2022 UPWP, the document will include only what the RPO will accomplish. Previously the UPWP consisted of eight tasks, this UPWP has been condensed into four tasks. He reviewed the four tasks detailing what would be included in each. It will not contain less work but rather be a more streamlined process.

He reviewed the funding breakdown and the timetable noting that PennDOT has reviewed the document and it will now go to FHWA for a 30-day comment period beginning January

1, 2020. This committee will conduct a memo vote to approve the 2020-2022 UPWP following that comment period and it will go into effect July 1, 2020.

Michele Ivory inquired about assistance for a municipality, possibly through LTAP. She has four different inquiries concerning private roads being used by counties and utilities, etc. who have agreements in place allowing them to use the roads. These roads are not owned by the municipality and no maintenance is conducted on these roads. PennDOT noted that costs can be shared by the owner and those using the roads. This does require legal work to put the agreements in place. Brandon noted there is not a current course on this topic but if she sends him the details, he will contact the LTAP representative and see if there is anything they can do for them. Michele said she has four different inquiries on this topic. Frank recommended including LTAP announcements in the back of each meeting packet. Brandon said we are currently putting this year's schedule together. Once approved, he will be included in the packet.

IX. Other Business

Other Business

Tom noted that the FHWA has been focusing on enforcing the 1965 Ladybird Johnston Act restricting certain advertisements in right of ways on interstates. PennDOT is being asked to conduct surveillance and notify property owners to remove the signs if anything illegal is found. Funding could be withheld if PennDOT does not comply.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair.

As it is the last meeting of the year, it is time to elect the Chair and Vice Chair for 2020. Brandon noted that there was one change in membership on the committee. Larry Shifflet has been replaced with Mark Tobin. He also informed the committee that the RTCC retained Brandon Carson as Chair and Vince Greenland as Vice Chair. The current Chair of the RTCC is Tom Prestash and the Vice Chair is Commissioner Jeff Thomas.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Barry Dallara made a motion to retain Tom Prestash Chair and Commissioner Jeff Thomas Vice Chair of the RTCC for 2020. Frank Hampton seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Tentative Meeting Schedule.

Brandon Peters noted that the tentative meeting schedule was included in the meeting packet. If no one has any objections it will be final.

X. Adjournment

Brandon Carson made a motion to adjourn at 11:56 AM.

<p>NOTE: The next meeting of the RTCC is scheduled for February 19, 2020, at the SAP&DC beginning at 10:00 AM.</p>

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ACTION ITEMS

Date Issued	Action Items	By Whom	Due Date
December 18, 2019	Provide a support letter to FHWA asking that they allow a red traffic sign in Breezewood PA to help stop the confusion causing the truck turnarounds there as per the Breezewood Truck Study.	The RPO	No Date Given
December 18, 2019	Coordinate having the last five miles of Route 219 designated a critical freight corridor with the RPO. Five miles will need to be selected to be removed from the designation as well.	PennDOT	No Date Given
December 18, 2019	Contact the LTAP representative for the RPO to see if they can assist a municipality concerning private roads used by counties and utilities, etc. who have agreements in place allowing them to use the roads coordinate a way to get assistance with maintenance on those roads.	Brandon Peters	No Date Given