

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

**December 16, 2020**

**10:00 AM**

**Zoom**

**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 16, 2020, on Zoom.

1. Approved the July 22, 2020, RTCC meeting minutes as presented.
2. Reaffirmed the e-memo approval of the removal of the construction phase of Meyersdale Bypass to Berlin project from the TYP and adding the construction phase of PA 403 – Wilbur Road to US 219 to the FY 2021-2023 TIP.
3. Approved the Dark Shade Creek Bridge project being converted from STP funds to State funds and the PA 655 Under 8 ft. Culverts Project in Fulton County, the Fulton and Huntingdon County Under 8 ft. Culverts project, and the US 30 Truck Study Signage project being converted from State funding to STP funds as presented and listed on page 28 of the meeting packet.
4. Approved the necessary changes associated with moving the US 219 Salisbury Rockfall project to Federal funding as presented and listed on page 29 of the meeting packet.
5. Approved the addition of the Everett Business District Access Road Project to the FY 2021 TIP.
6. Approved the addition of the construction phase of the SR 3007 Black Valley Road project in Bedford County to the FY 2021-2022 TIP as presented and listed on page 31 of the meeting packet.
7. Approved the modification of the Southern Alleghenies LRTP and the FY 2021-2022 Highway and Bridge TIP to add Preliminary Engineering for US 219 from Meyersdale to Old Salisbury Road.
8. Approved the 2020 Public Participation Plan and Limited English Proficiency Plan as presented.

9. Approved the adoption of the Statewide PM1, PM2, and PM3 targets as presented.
10. Approved the RTTC composition as presented for a two-year term.
11. Retained Tom Prestash as Chair of the RTCC for the 2021 term.
12. Retained Commissioner Jeff Thomas as Vice Chair of the RTCC for the 2021 term.

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**MEETING MINUTES**

**I. Welcome**

The following members were present at the meeting:

- Commissioner Barry Dallara, Bedford County
- Commissioner Jeff Thomas, Huntingdon County
- Commissioner Colleen Dawson, Somerset County
- Mark Tobin, PennDOT Central Office
- Tom Prestash, PennDOT District 9
- Steve Howsare, SAP&DC
- Brandon Carson, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- Commissioner Gerald Walker, Somerset County
- Jim French, French Engineering
- Tammie Hess, Representative Jesse Topper's Office
- Michele Ivory, Senator Judy Ward's Office
- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office
- Vince Greenland, PennDOT District 9
- David Lybarger, PennDOT District 9
- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9
- Chris Hull, PennDOT District 9
- Adam Sherlock, PennDOT District 9
- Jacob Krause, PennDOT District 9
- Nolan Paronish, PennDOT District 9
- Leland Mowery, PennDOT District 9
- Brennan Smay, PennDOT District 9
- Brandon Peters, SAP&DC
- Zack Lee, SAP&DC
- Matt Bjorkman, SAP&DC
- Janice Streightiff, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- July 22, 2020 RTCC Meeting Minutes
- Route 219 Infrastructure Profile Maps
- Southern Alleghenies RPO FY 2021-2024 TIP Adjustments
- County Priority Project Lists
- Southern Alleghenies RPO 2042 LRTP Development Schedule
- French Engineering HSIP Points for RTTC and RTCC
- MPO/RPO Performance Measure Statewide Targets
- RTTC and RTCC Committee Membership Lists
- List of Planned Activities and Milestones
- 2021 RTTC and RTCC Meeting Schedule

## **II. Review and Approval of the July 22, 2020 RTCC Meeting Minutes**

Tom Prestash welcomed the committee to the meeting and Brandon Carson conducted roll call. Tom asked the committee to review the July 22, 2020, RTCC meeting minutes included in the packet.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Barry Dallara made a motion to approve the July 22, 2020, RTCC meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Colleen Dawson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Tom reviewed the action items. One of the action items was to draft a letter from the RPO to the local legislators to voice concerns on the need for transportation funding. Tom discussed the COVID impacts on PennDOT's funding. PennDOT funding is currently around \$600M. Federal funds have not decreased but they must have matching State funds to access the Federal dollars. PennDOT currently has a cash flow issue and cannot open bids on any projects. In November, PennDOT asked for a \$4-5M bond to help with the cash flow issue but were not able to fit it into the Legislators schedule. The Governor's office along with the treasurer came up with a short-term solution to cover the existing projects. In January, PennDOT is scheduled to meet with the Transportation Chairman's to discuss a solution. Commissioner Dallara asked if the letter was sent to the legislators. Tom responded that they drafted the letter but with the current changes, the letter needs to be revised before sending.

Brandon gave a brief introduction to the PennDOT Pathways Program and Brandon Peters showed a short video. The video reviewed funding sources and other possible ways to generate funding that has been discussed. Tom added that some of the spot tolling, which applies to the structure being tolled, has been approved. He added that there is two things currently happening: one is cash flow and the other is funding. Without the cash flow, PennDOT cannot proceed with its current program. Tammie Hess added that she spoke with Representative Topper and the short-term funding the Treasurer came up with will

last until February. The Legislators are working on other solutions including higher registration fees for electric cars and the heavier vehicles.

### **III. Corridor N U.S. 219 Study Findings Review**

Tom Prestash reminded the committee that funding has been secured for preliminary engineering, but the project can't be completed due to the current situation. Brandon Peters gave the committee an update on the results of the Corridor N U.S. 219 Study. The Study was completed the end of September with several deliverables. He showed a map noting what has been completed and what remains. The Maryland portion will cost approximately \$64M to complete. He reviewed the market profile, which showed the potential cost savings as well as the potential for business expansion and additional jobs. Commissioner Walker thanked everyone for their work on the study. The completed study is much better than anticipated and will be the hallmark to moving the U.S. 219 project forward. Brandon added that the support of the Commissioners, the Greater Cumberland Committee, and all of the stakeholders in the region, was instrumental in putting this study together.

### **IV. FY 2021-2024 TIP Modifications and Amendments**

Dave Lybarger reviewed the FY 2021-2024 TIP modifications with the committee answering any questions they had. There were six amendments requiring approval.

The first amendment was the reaffirmation of an e-memo vote that was previously approved by this committee. The Meyersdale Bypass to Berlin project was able to be advanced to the FY 2021 TIP cycle. This amendment removes the construction phase of Meyersdale Bypass to Berlin project from the TYP and adds the construction phase of PA 403 – Wilbur Road to US 219 to the FY 2021-2023 TIP. This project was delayed from the previous TIP due to issues with securing Right of Way clearance. Excess funds came from the Bridge & Highway Reserve Line Item on the TYP.

With no further discussion, Steve Howsare made a motion to reaffirm the approval of the removal of the construction phase of Meyersdale Bypass to Berlin project from the TYP and adding the construction phase of PA 403 – Wilbur Road to US 219 to the FY 2021-2023 TIP. Commissioner Colleen Dawson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Next is the Dark Shade Creek Bridge project, which had been programed on the FY 2021 TIP with STP funds. This project is being converted from STP funds to State funds. The STP funds will then be moved to the construction phases of the PA 655 Under 8 ft. Culverts project in Fulton County, the Fulton and Huntingdon County Under 8 ft. Culverts project, and the US 30 Truck Study Signage project, which were all on the FY 2021 TIP with state funding.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Jeff Thomas made a motion to approve the Dark Shade Creek Bridge project being converted from STP funds to State funds and the PA 655 Under 8 ft. Culverts Project in Fulton County, the Fulton and Huntingdon County Under 8 ft. Culverts project, and the US 30 Truck Study Signage project being converted from State funding to STP funds as presented and listed on page 28 of the meeting packet. Mark Tobin seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The next one is taking a project that was originally programed with State funding and moving it to Federal funding. The US 219 Salisbury Rockfall project that was programed on the FY 2021-2023 TIP with STP funds will now be funded with Federal funds. To accomplish that change, the Beaver Dam Creek project in Somerset County was moved to 100% Federal funds, the PA 96 N. Bard Tributary Culvert project was moved from Federal to State funding, the PA 522 Keystone Rd. project was moved to 100% State funding, and the Wall St. to Front Mountain Road project, the PA 655 Under 9 ft. Culverts project and the PA 403 Wilbur Road project were cashflows. The construction phase was also added to the SR 3007 Black Valley Road project with Federal funding. Excess funds came from the Bridge & Highway Reserve Line Item.

With no further discussion, Brandon Carson made a motion to approve the necessary changes associated with moving the US 219 Salisbury Rockfall project to Federal funding as presented and listed on page 29 of the meeting packet. Mark Tobin seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Next is the Everett Business District Access Road Project, which was not on the FY 2021 TIP when it was adopted. This is ARC Local Access Road funding and is not coming from the TIP funds.

With no further discussion, Steve Howsare made a motion to approve the addition of the Everett Business District Access Road Project to the FY 2021 TIP. Commissioner Jeff Thomas seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Next is the addition of the construction phase of the SR 3007 Black Valley Road project in Bedford County to the FY 2021-2022 TIP. Funds were moved from the Bridge and Highway Reserve Line Item as well as cashflows on the PA 403 Wilbur Rd. and PA 403 US 219 to PA 985 projects.

With no further discussion, Brandon Carson made a motion to approve the addition of the construction phase of the SR 3007 Black Valley Road project in Bedford County to the FY 2021-2022 TIP as presented and listed on page 31 of the meeting packet. Commissioner Barry Dallara seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The last one was the addition of ARC APD funding for the PE phase of U.S. 219 from Meyersdale to the Maryland line to the FY 2021-2022 TIP. Brandon covered the details of this project earlier in the meeting.

With no further discussion Commissioner Colleen Dawson made a motion to approve the modification of the Southern Alleghenies LRTP and the FY 2021-2022 Highway and Bridge TIP to add Preliminary Engineering for US 219 from Meyersdale to Old Salisbury Road. Steve Howsare seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **V. FY 2023-2026 County Priority Review**

Brandon Peters informed the committee that all four counties have submitted their priority lists for the FY 2023 TIP to PennDOT. PennDOT will review the lists and then meet with each of the four counties to discuss the projects and plan for the FY 2023 TIP.

#### **VI. 2020 Public Participation Plan & Limited English Proficiency Plan**

Zachary Lee informed the committee the Public Participation Plan (PPP) and the Limited English Proficiency Plan (LEP) public comment period began on October 23, 2020, and ended December 4, 2020. No comments were received. The plans were presented to the RTTC at the December 3, 2020, meeting and they recommended adoption by the RTCC. Brandon Peters added that due to COVID-19, staff has been working on procuring a virtual public involvement platform subscription for future use for various plans and meetings. This will ensure that everyone who would like to participate, can participate in the planning process.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Jeff Thomas made a motion to approve the 2020 Public Participation Plan and Limited English Proficiency Plan as presented. Commissioner Colleen Dawson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **VII. 2042 Southern Alleghenies LRTP**

Matt Bjorkman informed the committee that the 2042 LRTP update is underway and the steering committee has met several times. Staff is currently updating the stakeholder list to gather input. French Engineering was awarded a contract to develop a process to identify HSIP projects. He introduced Jim French from French Engineering who added that it is relatively early in the process, but they have been looking at specific locations with crash histories including fatalities and serious injury, specifically locations with the most crashes. The next step is to check and see if the identified projects would be well received on an HSIP application. He has discussed potential locations with the Bedford and Somerset County Planners. If this group has any safety concerns in their area, please share with Matt and he will pass along to Jim French for review.

## **VIII. Performance Measures**

Brandon informed the committee that this is the same as the RPO has done in the past. The committee reviews the PM 1 Statewide Safety targets every year and, in the past, has adopted the State targets. He reviewed the PM1 (Safety), PM2 (Highway and Bridge) and PM3 (Other) statewide targets with committee. If the RPO opts to adopt their own targets, they must be at least as restrictive as the state targets. This was presented to the RTTC at its December 2, 2020, meeting and they recommended adopting the State targets.

With no further discussion, Brandon Carson made a motion to adopt the Statewide PM1, PM2, and PM3 targets as presented. Commissioner Jeff Thomas seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **IX. RTTC and RTCC Composition**

Brandon Carson reviewed the committee structure with the group, noting that every two years the composition of the Technical Committee is reviewed. Brandon Peters reached out to the counties and they had no recommended changes. He asked the committee for approval to keep the RTTC composition as is for the next two-year term.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Barry Dallara made a motion to approve the RTTC composition as presented for a two-year term. Commissioner Jeff Thomas seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Fulton County has hired a new Planning Director. Brandon will reach out and get the name and contact information and add to the membership list.

Next is the election of officers for the RTCC. The current officers are Tom Prestash Chair and Commissioner Jeff Thomas Vice Chair. This is for a one-year term.

With no further discussion Brandon Carson made a motion to retain Tom Prestash as Chair of the RTCC for the 2021 term. Commissioner Jeff Thomas seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Barry Dallara made a motion to retain Commissioner Jeff Thomas as Vice Chair of the RTCC for the 2021 term. Steve Howsare seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **X. Other Business**

### Bicycle Pedestrian Plan

The Southern Alleghenies Bicycle Pedestrian Plan, which is updated every five years, was last updated in 2016. The 2021 update will be done in house.



Another related item, Round 7 of the Southern Alleghenies Regional Greenways Mini-Grant Program, which supports projects identified in the Bicycle Pedestrian Plan will be opening in January 2021. If anyone has any park, trail, recreation type projects, have them contact Stacy LoCastro at SAP&DC.

#### Meeting schedule

Brandon reviewed the 2021 meeting schedule with the committee. The meetings will be advertised early January.

#### 522 Study

SAP&DC staff has been discussing a study on the 522 Corridor in Huntingdon County with PennDOT and Commissioner Jeff Thomas. The study would look at safety issues, economic impact, traffic flows, etc. Staff is currently looking for feedback from the public. Brandon Peters will discuss the study at the Huntingdon County Business & Industry meetings in January or February to solicit feedback. Commissioner Jeff Thomas added that with the Huntingdon County Business Park, the reopening of the East Broad Top Railroad, and other new businesses along the corridor, traffic has changed dramatically leaving parts of the corridor in need of repair.

SAP&DC has purchased a drone for use in project development. Matt Bjorkman is charged with flying the drone, which will be used for both photos and videos. The drone will be used to show development of projects and will go a long way in application development. PennDOT is looking forward to partnering on this as it can benefit them as well.

## **XI. Adjournment**

Brandon Carson made a motion to adjourn at 11:30 AM

<p><b><u>NOTE:</u></b> The next meeting of the RTCC is scheduled for February 24, 2021 on Zoom beginning at 10:00 AM.</p>
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**ACTION ITEMS**

<b>Action Items</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Submit any areas of concern for possible HSIP funding to Matt Bjorkman to pass along to French Engineering.	All	No Date Given