

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RURAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

April 21, 2021

9:00 AM

SAP&DC Conference Room and Zoom

Altoona, PA

ACTION SUMMARY

The following are the major actions taken by the Rural Transportation Technical Committee (RTTC) at its regular meeting held on April 21, 2021, at the SAP&DC and on Zoom in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the February 3, 2021, RTTC meeting minutes as presented.
2. Ratified the approval of the prioritized project list that was submitted to Congressman Joyce's office for consideration for Congressional Earmarks.

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MEETING MINUTES

I. Welcome

The following members were present at the meeting:

- Donald Schwartz, Bedford County Planning Commission
- Justin Evans, Fulton County Planning Commission
- Jim Lettiere, Huntingdon County Planning Commission
- Brad Zearfoss, Somerset County Planning Commission
- Josh Boland, Somerset County Economic Development Council
- Donald Hedge, Broad Top Township
- Jeff Eisaman, CLI Transport
- Ron Rabina, Huntingdon County Rail Authority
- Karl King, Central PA Rail to Trails
- Mike Villeneuve, Somerset County Transportation System
- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office
- Vince Greenland, PennDOT District 9-0
- Brandon Carson, SAP&DC
- Brandon Peters, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- Gene Porochniak, FHWA
- James French, French Engineering
- Keri Shedlock, French Engineering
- David Lybarger, PennDOT District 9-0
- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9-0
- Chris Hull, PennDOT District 9-0
- Matt Bjorkman, SAP&DC
- Zachary Lee, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- February 3, 2021 RTTC Meeting Minutes
- Southern Alleghenies RPO FY 2021-2024 TIP Adjustments
- Community Project Funding Program Projects
- HSIP Final Report

II. Review and Approval of the February 3, 2021 RTTC Meeting Minutes

Brandon Carson welcomed the committee to the meeting and Brandon Peters conducted roll call. He asked the committee to review the February 3, 2021, RTTC meeting minutes included in the meeting packet.

With no further discussion, Donald Hedge made a motion to approve the February 3, 2021, RTTC meeting minutes as presented. Vince Greenland seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. FY 2021-2024 TIP Modifications and Amendments

David Lybarger reviewed the FY 2021-2024 TIP modifications with the committee answering any questions they had. There were no amendments requiring action.

IV. Congressional Earmarks (Continued)

Brandon Carson stated that a joint meeting of the RTCC and RTTC was held previously, and projects were selected to be submitted for Congressional Earmarks. The projects were the US 219 Salisbury Rockfall project for \$5,340,348 and the Addison Resurfacing project for \$6,782,130. Brandon Peters submitted the projects to Congressman Joyce's office for consideration. They did reply to say that they were happy to receive the projects and inquire to see if they were listed in order of priority. Each congressman was given \$20M to distribute. The RPO does not expect to get the projects fully funded but wanted to list the full amount. It is expected that the Congressman will make smaller awards to make the distribution go farther. Brandon reviewed the prioritized project list with the committee and asked for a motion to ratify the submission.

With no further discussion, Ron Rabina made a motion to ratify the prioritized project list that was submitted to Congressman Joyce's office for consideration for Congressional Earmarks. Donald Hedge seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

V. Alternative Revenue Options (Continued)

The alternative revenue options were also discussed at the joint meeting and a list of pros and cons was captured for each option. Brandon wanted to revisit those options today to capture any additional comments or thoughts. Brandon Peters emailed these out this morning but wanted to see if the committee had anything to add. He reviewed each option and the comments given and asked for additional comments.

Spot Tolling – No additional comments.

Managed Lanes –Josh Boland asked if they would add lanes or use current lanes. Brandon answered that he is not sure, but it would probably be a hybrid of both.

Congestion Pricing – No additional comments.

Corridor Tolling – No additional comments.

Vehicle Miles Traveled – No additional comments.

Fee and Tax Increases – Jim Lattiere suggested a registration fee for horse and buggies in the Amish/Mennonite communities. These steel wheels damage the roads more than car tires. Would like to submit this suggestion as an additional source. Brandon said he will

submit it to TROC. Frank Hampton added that this has been looked at in the past but has been declined due to religious exemption.

Brandon added that there are a greater number of fees and taxes being considered by TROC such as bicycle and pedestrian fees, airplane fees, etc.

Brandon told the committee that the comments from the joint RTCC/RTTC meeting, today's meeting, and the RTCC meeting on May 12th will be put together and submitted to TROC. If anyone has any additional comments, please send them to him. Frank Hampton added that he will call Brandon with his.

Brandon Carson asked what format the information will be submitted in. Brandon Peters responded that he would check with Amy Kessler as she is on TROC. Brandon Carson also suggested that the RPO engage the legislators as well, so they understand the stance the RPO is taking. Brandon Peters said he will include this with the RPO letter when it is mailed and ask that they call us to discuss.

VI. 2021 Southern Alleghenies Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Zachary Lee noted that he and Matthew Bjorkman gathered the socio economic and demographic data as well as the walkability index and supplemental data to support the plan. Matt informed the committee that he used the PennDOT Crash Information Tool to update the crash data and reviewed the crash and fatality data with the committee. He will clean up the graphs and charts and include them in the plan. He received a lot of feedback from the steering committee on the goals, objectives, and strategies as well as the candidate project listing and will include that in the plan as well. He reviewed the population change data, commuting data, and the adult obesity rates in Pennsylvania gathered from the American Community Survey. He also reviewed the walkability analysis for the region with the committee noting how the walkability decreases in the more rural areas. The idea was to find areas that could be targeted for central funding with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. They looked at places people walk for necessity as well as recreation. Some of the points of interest from the comments at the recent Bicycle Pedestrian meetings included childhood centers, healthcare facilities, ADA compliance, etc.

Zachary Lee discussed the new outreach tool, publicinput.com with the committee. This is still a work in progress as staff is still learning what site can do. It can be used to send to email lists, phone lists, and livestream from Facebook. On the surveys, you can create questions with options for answers and add interactive maps that will gather general demographic information. It has many options for collecting data including QR codes. He hopes to get the survey out to the Steering Committee by the end of the week so they can provide feedback. He will then put out the Press Release and begin the public input.

Vince Greenland asked if other initiatives can be set up in publicinput.com. Zack responded that you can. Matt is currently using it for the LRTP as well. Multiple users can be set up. They would be happy to add Vince if there is something he would like to use it on. Vince was interested in using it for PennDOT Connects. It can also be used to coordinate with Zoom or Microsoft Teams for a public meeting and also will transcribe the meeting. Publicinput.com can provide assistance when needed.

VII. 2042 Southern Alleghenies LRTP

Matt has been working with French Engineering on the HSIP Study for the LRTP. Jim French gave a presentation on the final report. He reviewed the purpose of the project and noted one of the hurdles was filtering out the locations that have recently been improved. They began by looking at locations from crash data. Many higher-ranking locations had already been addressed so they went deeper into the list, solicited input, and identified 14 potential candidate projects. They performed the benefit cost analysis in accordance with PennDOT Central Office's advice. In the systemic methodology they did not find many options. PennDOT Central Office suggested impaired/unbelted drivers and horizontal curve signing for roads with less than 1,000 drivers per day. He presented the results by county showing the hotspots in each as well as the project cost benefit ratio. He noted that he did receive PennDOT's comments on the report and has addressed their comments. Matt will provide this information to the steering committee and add it to the project records. Brandon Peters asked Jim and PennDOT what the next steps would be now that a list of potential projects has been developed. PennDOT responded that they will use this information when developing the TIP. Annually they have the opportunity to apply for additional funding nationally and will also use this list when selecting projects to apply for. Brandon and Matt thanked Jim for his work on the project.

VIII. County Illustrative List.

Brandon wanted to give each of the counties the opportunity to discuss their project lists they submitted for consideration. He started with Bedford. Donald Schwartz stated that Rick Suder has been working on this and was not able to attend the meeting. He will defer to Rick and they will submit something in writing.

Justin Evans from Fulton County noted that he reviewed his list of unfunded projects with the commissioners, and they would like to keep them all at a higher priority with the projects with safety concerns a higher priority than the others.

Jim Lettiere from Huntingdon County began by thanking Brandon Peters for assisting the Planning Commission to better understand how the process works. One of the Planning Commission members had a concern and suggested potentially holding a workshop to go over the TIP process and the methodology used to better understand how the Planning Commission can make informed decisions to remove or add projects to the list. He found it overwhelming looking at list of projects he is not familiar with and really doesn't have anything to offer. Vince from PennDOT added that they would be happy to assist with this as well. Brandon Peters said he thought it might be valuable to set aside an hour with the County Planners, the County Commissioners and possibly the engineer to meet with staff from SAP&DC and PennDOT and have a discussion on the projects. Anne Stich suggested these meetings be combined with the regular County TIP meetings PennDOT holds when developing the TIP as they are currently getting ready to set those up for some time in May. Anne explained the TIP development meetings to those who are new and added that additional stakeholders would be welcome to attend. She asked for the county lists in advance in a spreadsheet with as many details as possible so PennDOT can be prepared at the meeting. Brandon Carson asked if she could provide a template for the counties to use. Anne said just to use the sheet they track ongoing county requests on, which they have provided in the past as it has the information, they would need on it. Some of these projects

may already be on that list so PennDOT wouldn't have to review them twice. Don asked how many projects the counties should submit on their list. Brandon responded that it was really up to the RPO committees and the LRTP steering committee to decide. He will look at a few other LRTPs to see what they include and pass that information on the counties. This can be discussed further at the next LRTP Steering Committee meeting.

Brad Zearfoss from Somerset County said they basically took the spreadsheet and added their HSIP projects and a few smaller projects that came up since submitting previously. Of course, Rt. 219 remains the County's top priority, followed by a few safety projects and one bridge project.

There was a discussion about the timeline for the project lists. For the counties that requested assistance, it was recommended a conversation take place within the next few weeks to provide guidance on how to formulate the list in advance of the meetings with staff and PennDOT.

IX. Other Business

Brandon Peters informed the committee that the Everett Area Business Park Local Access Road project in West Providence Township was awarded funding from ARC. Pennsylvania has around \$5M in funding to compete for each year and this award was for \$2M. This is the largest amount the region has been awarded. A project on Lamppost Lane in Blair County was also submitted but SAP&DC has not received word on that project. PennDOT asked if the Township was aware and if they can reach out and begin coordinating. Brandon responded that ARC has notified them, and they may contact them. This project will need to be added to the TIP.

The PennDOT Multimodal awards have been announced and none of the five projects submitted in the RPO were selected. It is important to encourage the elected officials to try and make these projects happen. DCED Multimodal projects have not yet been announced. Both of these will begin the application process again in the late summer to early fall. There is also the possibility for another round of Transportation Alternative Set Asides (TASA). This is also a good resource for bicycle and pedestrian projects. It is important that stakeholders begin to put together applications for quality projects. Brandon Carson asked if the RPO receives any feedback from the review process on the applications that were funded as this would be helpful for future rounds. Frank Hampton replied that we do not, but he can pass the comment along.

X. Adjournment

Jim Lettiere made a motion to adjourn at 10:47 AM.

<p>NOTE: The next meeting of the RTTC is scheduled for July 14, 2021, at the SAP&DC and on Zoom beginning at 9:00 AM.</p>
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ACTION ITEMS

Action Items	By Whom	Due Date
Send any additional comments on the Alternative Funding Options to Brandon Peters.	RTTC members	By the May 20 th RTCC Meeting
Include the RPO's recommendations with the RPO letter supporting additional funding methods when it is mailed and ask that the legislators call us to discuss.	Brandon Peters	No date given
Look to see how many projects other RPOs include with their LRTP and pass the information on to the counties.	Brandon Peters	No date given
Provide guidance on how to formulate the project list to the counties that requested assistance in advance of the meetings with staff and PennDOT.	Brandon Peters	Within the next few weeks