

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

October 20, 2021

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 October 20, 2021, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the August 4, 2021, RTCC meeting minutes as presented.
2. Reaffirmed the September 8, 2021, memo vote to provide the RPO's top priorities to Deputy Secretary Shifflet in case additional funding becomes available through federal transportation legislative efforts.
3. Retroactively approved the I-70 Curve Warning System and the I-70 ITS Gaps for submission for TSMO funding.
4. Approved putting the Southern Alleghenies Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan out for a 30-day public comment period from November 1, 2021, through December 1, 2021.
5. Retained Tom Prestash as Chair and Commissioner Jeff Thomas as Vice-Chair of the RTCC for the 2022 term.

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MEETING MINUTES

I. Welcome

The following members were present at the meeting:

- Commissioner Barry Dallara, Bedford County
- Commissioner Randy Bunch, Fulton County
- Commissioner Jeff Thomas, Huntingdon County
- Commissioner Colleen Dawson, Somerset County
- Mark Tobin, PennDOT Central Office
- Tom Prestash, PennDOT District 9-0
- Steve Howsare, SAP&DC
- Brandon Carson, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office
- Vince Greenland, PennDOT District 9-0
- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9-0
- Chris Hull, PennDOT District 9-0
- Gene Porochniak, FHWA
- Jason Berardo, Congressman Joyce's Office
- Tammie Hess, Representative Topper's Office
- Brandon Peters, SAP&DC
- Zachary Lee, SAP&DC
- Janice Streightiff, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- August 4, 2021 RTCC Meeting Minutes
- Federal Transportation Legislative Prioritized Project List
- Southern Alleghenies RPO FY 2021-2024 TIP Adjustments
- Draft 2023 TIP Development Schedule

- TASA Project Summaries
- TASA General Criteria
- TSMO Applications
- UPWP and Statewide Planning and Research (SPR) Work Program Development Schedule
- RTCC Committee Membership List

II. Review and Approval of the August 4, 2021 RTCC Meeting Minutes

Tom Prestash called the meeting to order, and Brandon Peters conducted roll call. Tom asked the committee to review the August 4, 2021, meeting minutes included in the meeting packet.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Jeff Thomas made a motion to approve the August 4, 2021, RTCC meeting minutes as presented. Brandon Carson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. Reaffirm September 8, 2021 Memo Vote for RPO Priorities

Tom asked the committee to reaffirm the September 8, 2021, memo vote.

With no further discussion, Steve Howsare made a motion to reaffirm the September 8, 2021, memo vote to provide the RPO's top priorities to Deputy Secretary Shifflet should additional funding come available through federal transportation legislative efforts. Brandon Carson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. FY 2021-2024 TIP Modifications and Amendments

Anne Stich reviewed the 2021-2024 TIP modifications with the committee answering any questions they had. There were no amendments requiring approval.

V. 2023-2026 TIP Status Update

Anne noted that PennDOT is currently working on the FY 2023-2026 TIP update. They have held a series of county meetings to review the county priorities, LRTP, and illustrative list. PennDOT District 9 has been working to review the current program and see what projects will need to be carried over. They are now looking at candidate projects along with funding guidance. They will review this information with the counties and see what capacity there is to add additional projects. The Draft FY 2023-2026 TIP will be provided for approval at the December 16th combined RTTC and RTCC meeting.

Brandon added that they may add another Local Bridge Sub-Committee meeting to make sure they have a good sense of what the county priorities are. He then reviewed the 2023

TIP Development Schedule with the committee noting that the meeting dates have not been sent out to the committee and are just based on the TIP schedule.

Tom Prestash added that the funding projections for 2022 are coming in around \$2B for the District 9 six-county region. PennDOT District 9 currently has \$2.7B in projects and \$2B to fund lets, so again projects will need to be pushed to the next cycle. Every district was given a target budget and District 9 is looking at \$100M for 2022. Some of the projects from the last quarter will need to be moved to 2023. He reviewed some of the projects being targeted with the committee. He will let this committee know as soon as this is completed. This was a very difficult process but was done fairly.

Commissioner Thomas asked if the turnpike funding from Act 44 had resumed payments now that the lawsuit had been resolved. Tom replied that they had and will continue until 2023.

Commissioner Dallara asked if they are collecting tolls on the turnpike now that the booths are no longer manned. Tom responded that they are but there is some tolls that have not been collected and they are working on resolving that issue.

VI. Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Program

Brandon Peters informed the committee that six quality projects were submitted in the RPO as of October 15th. Chris Hull, Brandon Peters, and on some Matt Bjorkman met with the applicants to discuss their projects. He reviewed a summary of each project answering any questions the committee had. Central Office is reviewing the projects and will send them out to the Districts and RPOs/MPOs for comment on Monday. Comments are due back to Central Office on January 7th. At the next meeting the applicants will give presentations on their projects and the RTTC and RTCC will score and rank the projects. The RPO's recommendations will then be forwarded to Central Office.

VII. Transportation Systems & Maintenance Operations (TSMO) Application

There were two projects that were submitted. The previously approved ROP had several projects in it including two for the RPO region. With the application deadline, staff was unable to get approval from the committee before submitting. We are asking for retroactive approval at today's meeting. Brandon reviewed the projects with the committee answering any questions they had. These projects were also presented with the ROP at a previous meeting. The projects were the I-70 Curve Warning System and the I-70 ITS Gaps.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Barry Dallara made a motion to retroactively approve the I-70 Curve Warning System and the I-70 ITS Gaps for submission for TSMO funding. Commissioner Colleen Dawson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

VIII. Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Zachary Lee reviewed the recent changes to the draft Southern Alleghenies Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan with the committee answering any questions they had. Brandon noted that there are no projects included in the plan at this time but as they go through evaluation criteria, which is included in the plan, they will be added. The project list would be updated annually even though the plan is only updated every five years. Applications for projects to be included would be submitted in January and the candidate project list would be announced in May. This timeline could be changed to adhere to grant application cycles.

The public comment period is scheduled for November 1st through December 1st. The plan is scheduled to be adopted at the December 16th combined RTTC and RTCC meeting. The RTTC did recommend approval at their October 6th meeting.

With no further discussion, Brandon Carson made a motion to approve putting the Southern Alleghenies Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan out for a 30-day public comment period from November 1, 2021, through December 1, 2021. Commissioner Jeff Thomas seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

IX. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Brandon Peters noted that the UPWP provided the funds for the RPO to complete its tasks. Two years ago, the RPO rewrote the entire plan and tasks/work elements. This year there will be very minor revisions. The intent is to get the UPWP to PennDOT for review as soon as possible and to FHWA by November 1st. The UPWP is scheduled to be adopted at the December 16th combined RTTC and RTCC meeting.

X. 2022 RTCC Committee Selections

Tom opened the floor for nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair for 2022.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Barry Dallara made a motion to retain Tom Prestash as Chair and Commissioner Jeff Thomas as Vice-Chair for the 2022 term. Commissioner Randy Bunch seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

XI. Other Business

Tom noted that Dave Lybarger retired recently, and Anne Stich has been promoted to that planning and programing position.

Commissioner Jeff Thomas added that PennDOT doesn't get many compliments on jobs well done but he was very pleased with the three projects on Route 22.

Commissioner Barry Dallara asked if this group deals with airports. Tom replied that it can. He can bring in the appropriate staff from PennDOT if there is something that needs done. Commissioner Dallara noted that at the Bedford County Airport there is a hanger that is washing out underneath. The airport is going to need serious capital projects moving forward. He asked if there is a point of contact for funding sources. PennDOT replied that the contact is Tony McCloskey. Tom agreed to set up a conference call with him and Commissioner Dallara.

Tom gave an update on the Rt. 219 project noting that they held the agency coordination meetings and went over alternatives. On the Legislative side they are working through the funding issues.

Frank Hampton added that the Green Light Go program is beginning to accept applications for the next round of funding.

XII. Adjournment

Steve Howsare made a motion to adjourn at 11:16 AM.

<p><u>NOTE:</u> The next meeting of the RTCC is scheduled for December 16, 2021, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA beginning at 12:30 PM.</p>

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RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

October 20, 2021

ACTION ITEMS

Action Items	By Whom	Due Date
Notify the committee of the project moved to the FY 2023 TIP cycle due to funding projections being less than the programed projects.	Tom Prestash, PennDOT	When completed
Set up a conference call with Tony McCloskey and Commissioner Dallara to discuss possible funding sources for the Bedford County Airport projects.	Tom Prestash, PennDOT	Following the meeting