

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE &
RURAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

January 26, 2022

9:00 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 January 26, 2022, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the December 16, 2021, RTTC & RTCC Meeting Minutes as presented.
2. Approved the Draft FY 2023-2026 TIP as presented.

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MEETING MINUTES

I. Welcome

The following RTCC members were present at the meeting:

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

The following RTTC members were present at the meeting:

- Vince Greenland, PennDOT District 9-0
- Stewart Neff, Warriors Mark Township
- Rick Suder, Bedford County
- Lindsay Pyle, Somerset County
- Mike Villeneuve, Somerset County Transportation System
- Julie Dovey, Fulton County Family Partnership
- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office
- Donald Hedge, Broad Top Township
- Debra Clark, Huntingdon County Business & Industry
- Justin Evans, Fulton County Planning Commission
- Karl King, Rails to Trails of Central PA
- Ron Rabena, Huntingdon County Rail Authority
- James P. Lettiere, Huntingdon County Planning Commission
- Tom Glassner, Berlin Borough
- Bran Zearfoss, Somerset County Planning Commission
- Brandon Peters, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- Commissioner Gerald Walker, Somerset County
- Jennifer Mearkle, Congressman John Joyce's Office
- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9-0
- Cristy L Shumac, PennDOT District 9-0
- Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC
- Zachary Lee, SAP&DC
- Janice Streightiff, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- December 16, 2021 RTTC/RTCC Meeting Minutes
- Draft FFY 2023 SA RPO TIP
- 2023 TIP EJ Minority Population Map
- 2023 TIP EJ Low Income Map
- PennDOT Multimodal Fund Application Summaries
- ARC LAR Maps

II. Review and Approval of the December 16, 2021 RTTC & RTCC Meeting Minutes

Tom Prestash called the meeting to order and Brandon Peters conducted roll call. Tom asked the committee to review the December 16, 2021, meeting minutes included in the meeting packet.

With no further discussion Commissioner Barry Dallara made a motion to approve the December 16, 2021, RTTC & RTCC Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner Coleen Dawson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. 2023-2026 TIP

Tom reminded the committee that at the December meeting they had approved the Draft FY 2023-2026 TIP with the stipulation that it would be revisited at this meeting once the new projects from the infrastructure bill had been added. Tom gave a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the process. He noted that the infrastructure bill increased funding in the SA RPO by \$63,464 over the four-year period. He reviewed the different types of funding and what kind of projects that are eligible for each. Vince Greenland gave an overview of the additional projects added to the FY 2023-2026 TIP answering any questions the committees had. There were 37 additional projects – 32 bridge projects, 2 roadway projects, 2 TMSO projects and 1 local bridge. All of the regional priorities were able to move forward except for Route 219 due to the size of the project.

There was a question from Donald Hedge from Broad Top Township asking if there was anything put in the infrastructure bill to help municipalities. With the cuts in liquid fuel

funds and taxes they receive the municipalities are really struggling. PennDOT responded that as it is a federal bill, nothing was included for the local level. Brandon Peters responded that there have been discussions at the State level about ways to help the municipalities. He received a request from Senator Casey's office asking for input on the infrastructure bill and one of the comments submitted was asking if there was anything coming for the municipalities. He is waiting to hear back from them but will let them know it came up at this meeting as well.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Jeff Thomas made a motion to approve the Draft FY 2023-2026 TIP as presented. Commissioner Randy Bunch seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Environmental Justice Process Overview

Brandon Peters reviewed the development schedule for the FY 2025 – 2028 TIP. The next step is the Environmental Justice Core Elements, which is a burdens and benefits review essentially. There are several planning emphasis areas that came out of the Infrastructure Bill and one of them is inclusion and equity, which is an important part of the discussion in the EJ process. The RPO has always kept this in the forefront of its planning process so not a lot will change.

Matthew Bjorkman informed the committee that he has already begun the process. He reviewed the results of his analysis showing maps displaying the minority populations and low-income populations. There are 165 census block groups in RPO. Of those 165, there are 33 minority block groups and 64 low-income block groups. Over half of the block groups qualify for one or both. Staff will overlay the project map with these maps to see if there is an undue burden on any of these communities. This information will be included in the LRTP as well.

MOU Overview

Typically, the committees would approve the MOU at this meeting. Brandon did not have the draft MOU at this time but still discussed the thresholds with the committees. If you add a project that is new to the TIP and contains federal funds, if more than \$2M is moved on or off a project, if it will affect the air quality or if there was a drastic change of scope the project would require approval. This is the same MOU that has been reviewed in the past.

Transit Asset Management Process

Brandon added that this came up on the Planning Partners call yesterday when discussing performance measures. He asked Mike Villeneuve if this was something he could provide. Mike responded that he can. He noted that they adopt the States Transit Asset Management Plan. He will send that out to Brandon. Brandon will reach out to the Huntingdon, Bedford, Fulton Area Agency on Aging and see if they have something they can send as well. Frank added that Brandon will need something in writing on the agency's letterhead saying how they adopted the plan.

IV. 2025-2028 TIP

Municipal Survey Outreach Process

Around this time in the TIP cycle, each of the Counties send out their municipal surveys to begin the outreach process. Brandon wanted to look at how to universalize this process. SAP&DC has been using the platform publicinput.com for public comment but are now switching to Hub. It is a less expensive ESRI product that could be shared with the RPO counties, municipalities, and PennDOT. Staff would like to use this to create an RPO wide survey to engage the public. Municipal surveys are the first step to find out their needs and priorities. Knowing that technical expertise varies throughout the RPO, a paper option could be offered where necessary. Brandon asked that the County Planners send their survey questions over to him so they can be incorporated into the survey. Staff hopes to have the new program up and running by early February.

V. LRTP Update

Brandon noted that on the planning partners call yesterday they were informed that new guidance is coming out from PennDOT Central Office for the LRTP. Staff will comply with what they can but are too far along in the process to make all of the changes. Staff is also reviewing the Public Participation Plan. Both documents will go out for public comment beginning in April or May. He reviewed the available and projective yearly revenue for FY 2023-2042 with the committee. The documents will be presented at an Agency Coordination Meeting on May 25, 2022.

VI. PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund

Brandon informed the committee that the RPO received four eligible projects. The RPO needs to provide comment by January 31st.

VII. Other Business

ARC Local Access Roads

Brandon Carson reviewed the McMahan Road ARC LAR project, which will provide improvements to the intersection at 17th street and McMahan Road in Altoona. This will provide access for development of a 60-acre parcel behind Lowes. Logan Township and PennDOT have both been engaged and the application has been submitted to ARC for FY 22 funding. There is already a commitment in place for the development, but the improvements must be in place for that to happen.

Brandon asked the committees to think about possible FY 2023 projects. He mentioned a few previous projects to give an idea of possible projects and reminded them that no match is required for these funds.

Route 219 Project

Tom noted that the Route 219 project is moving forward. A stakeholder meeting has been scheduled for February 2, 2022. PennDOT has been keeping the lines of communication open with Senator Langerholc, the Transportation Chair, and Congressman Joyce to discuss the next steps. So far this year, \$17M has been received. There is also a Rural Surface Transportation Grant, which is discretionary funds, for \$2B from the FY 22-26 Highway Trust Fund of which 25% is designated for the ADHS. That is from \$400M nationwide. He had a conversation this morning with Deputy Secretary Shifflet who provided some additional information on the funding and PennDOT District 9-0 is looking into it.

Other Business

Commissioner Jeff Thomas recommended the RPO revisit how it scores the Transportation Alternative Set-Aside projects. If you look at the Environmental Justice maps presented today, Mount Union qualifies for the designation and not everyone scoring the projects realized that. With that being one of the criteria, the project should have scored much higher. Tom added that at the next RTTC meeting they should do an after-action review and look at how to improve the process. Commissioner Thomas also recommended it be limited to one in each county.

There were also two applications submitted in Huntingdon County that not everything they filled in on the application came through causing some questions to look like they were left blank. This caused the applicant to lose points. Brandon responded that this would be an issue with the agency.

VIII. Adjournment

Steve Howsare made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:23 AM.

<p><u>NOTE:</u> The next meeting of the RTTC is scheduled for April 13, 2022, at the SAP&DC beginning at 9:00 AM. The next meeting of the RTCC is scheduled for April 20, 2022, at the SAP&DC beginning at 10:00 AM.</p>

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ACTION ITEMS

Action Items	By Whom	Due Date
Reach out to the Huntingdon, Bedford, Fulton Area Agency on Aging and see if they have something they can provide on the Transit Asset Management Process.	Brandon Peters	No date given
Complete an after-action review of the scoring of the TA Set-Aside projects and look at how to improve the process.	RTTC	At their next meeting