

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RURAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

April 13, 2022

9:00 AM

SAP&DC Conference Room

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 13, 2022, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the October 6, 2022, meeting minutes as presented.
2. Recommended approval of the addition of the FY 2022 IIJA funding to the FY 2021-2024 TIP, reaffirmed the addition to the FY 2021-2024 TIP of the first nine projects to be added from that funding that were approved by the RTCC by e-memo vote, and recommend the addition of the last two projects from that funding to the FY 2021-2024 TIP as presented.
3. Recommended approval of the FY 2023 – 2026 Draft Highway & Bridge and Transit TIP, Environmental Justice Analysis, and MOU.
4. Recommended approving that the EJ score be prefilled on the scoring sheet for the TA Set-Aside projects by the RPO staff using a tiered methodology. No adjustments would be allowed.

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MEETING MINUTES

I. Welcome

The following members were present at the meeting:

- Donald Schwartz, Bedford County Planning Commission
- Rick Suder, Bedford County
- Justin Evans, Fulton County Planning Commission
- James Lettiere, Huntingdon County Planning Commission
- Ron Rabena, Huntingdon County Rail Authority
- Stewart Neff, Warriors Mark Township
- Brad Zearfoss, Somerset County Planning Commission
- Lindsay Pyle, Somerset County
- Mike Villeneuve, Somerset County Transportation
- Dean Roberts, PennDOT Central Office
- Vince Greenland, PennDOT District 9-0
- Brandon Carson, SAP&DC
- Brandon Peters, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9-0
- Christy Shumac, PennDOT District 9-0
- Zachary Lee, SAP&DC
- Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC
- Janice Streightiff, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- October 6, 2021 RTTC Meeting Minutes
- SA RPO FY 2021-2024 TIP Adjustments
- Draft SA RPO Interstate TIP
- Draft SA RPO TIP
- Draft SA RPO Transit TIP
- SA RPO TIP MOU

- EJ Maps
- Municipal Outreach Responses
- SA RPO 2042 LRTP Development Schedule
- Available and Projected Yearly Revenue 2023-2042
- 2023-2042 LRTP Project List?
- TA Set-Asides Criteria Review
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Candidate Project Listing

II. Review and Approval of the October 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Brandon Carson welcomed the committee to the meeting and Brandon Peters conducted roll call. He asked the committee to review the October 6, 2021, meeting minutes included in the meeting packet.

With no further discussion, Stu Neff made a motion to approve the October 6, 2022, meeting minutes as presented. Ron Rabena seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. FY 2021-2024 TIP Modification and Amendments

Vince Greenland and Cristy Shumac from PennDOT District 9 gave a presentation on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding across District 9. The SA RPO originally received an allocation of \$134,284,000 for FY 2023-2026. This funding added \$63,464,000, an increase of 47.26%. For FY 2022, the RPO received an additional \$12,838,000. This funding will be held in a line item on the TIP and will be drawn upon to add new projects. They reviewed the additional projects for the SA RPO answering any questions the committee had. The projects were:

- Add the FY 2022 IIJA funding to the TIP
- US 219 Bridge Preservation Project
- SR 1004 Ashcom Cove Creek Bridge Preservation Project
- SR 4034 over I-99 Bridge Preservation Project
- SR 2030 – US 219 to PA 160 Resurfacing Project
- PA 26 – US 2 to Oneida Township Line Resurfacing Project
- SR 3027 – SR 3017 to PA 31 Resurfacing Project
- US 30 – Sideling Hill Mt. to SR 1007 Resurfacing Project
- SR 3015 – SR 3010 to PA 31 Resurfacing Project
- SR 4007 – W Patriot to Felgar Road Resurfacing Project
- Sideling Hill Ck Br 2 Bridge Replacement Project
- SR 641 Safety Improvements

With no further discussion, Ron Rabena made a motion to add the FY 2022 IIJA funding to the FY 2021-2024 TIP, reaffirm the addition to the FY 2021-2024 TIP of the first nine projects on the list that were approved by the RTCC by e-memo vote, and recommend the addition of the last two projects on the list to the FY 2021-2024 TIP. Lindsay Pyle seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Christy asked if anyone had questions on the administrative actions sent out to the committee in advance of the meeting. There were no questions.

IV. FY 2023-2026 Draft TIP

Brandon Peters reviewed the FY 2023 – 2026 Draft TIP with the committee noting that it will be out for public comment May 2 – 31, 2022. The Draft TIP will be available on the SAP&DC website, where public comment can be submitted electronically, as well as hardcopy at SAP&DC, PennDOT District 9, and the four rural County offices. Comments will also be accepted via email and mail. In addition, memos will be sent to the EJ communities and tribal interest groups announcing the Draft TIP public comment period via hard copy and email. A summary of the public comments will be presented at the June meeting with the final adoption of the FY 2023-2026 Draft TIP by the RTTC in July. Brandon noted that the MOU is also being adopted today. A copy was included in the meeting packet.

Matthew Bjorkman informed the committee that the Environmental Justice (EJ) makes sure that transportation projects do not inflict undue burden on these communities. He reviewed the EJ maps noting that there are 33 minority concentration blocks and 64 low-income blocks.

With no further discussion, James Lettiere made a motion to recommend approval of the FY 2023 – 2026 Draft Highway & Bridge and Transit TIP, Environmental Justice Analysis, and MOU. Ron Rabena seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

V. FY 2025-2026 TIP

Municipal outreach was held recently with PennDOT District 9 in each of the four RPO Counties. Brandon reviewed the input that has been collected so far and asked the committee to solicit input from their municipalities. Matthew added that if anyone receives hardcopies, they should forward them to him to be input into the system. He added that SAP&DC will do another email blast to the municipalities in the RPO reminding them that the input period will soon end. The software will be left open so input can be provided all year.

VI. 2042 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Brandon informed the committee that Frank was right and the timeline for the LRTP public comment has been moved back to June or July. The ACM meeting was also moved to June. The project lists have changed, and staff needs to make sure everyone has reviewed the documents. The Draft LRTP will be ready for public comment August 1st to September 2nd. A public meeting will be held August 24th and the Draft LRTP will be adopted at the October 19th RTCC meeting. The projected yearly revenue has changed since the meeting packet went out. Brandon reviewed the revised version with the committee answering any

questions they had. The changes were due to the infrastructure funds. He also reviewed the revised project list noting that this will be sent out to the committee members prior to the public comment period.

There was a comment from one committee member that there is still no solution to electric and hybrid vehicles paying their fair share in place of the state fuel tax. Both the RTTC and RTCC have made suggestions to TROCK but nothing has come down from them yet. Brandon reviewed a few of the options being discussed.

VII. Transportation Alternatives Set Aside (TASA) Program

There was a request from the committees that the TASA scoring criteria be reviewed. Brandon noted that the selection committee has met on multiple occasions and the RPO should be hearing something soon. He reviewed the project list and RPO rankings noting that the selection committee does not go by the RPO's ranking. He reviewed the criteria used by the RPO to score the projects, which comes right from the TA Set Asides guidance document. This program is usually available every other year, but with the current funding available there could be another round this summer. There was some question about the EJ criteria and how it was being ranked. If the applicant doesn't mention that the project is in an EJ area, anyone not familiar with the project may not know, causing the project to score lower. The committee recommended prescoring that item on the ranking sheet so that everyone is scoring with the same information. A tiered rank for this line was also suggested rather than all or none. There was some discussion on whether this was intended to be scored on qualifying as an EJ area or how the project positively effects the area. The committee liked the idea of prescoring that criteria.

With no further discussion, Jim Lettiere made a motion to recommend that the EJ score be prefilled on the scoring sheet by the RPO staff using a tiered methodology. No adjustments would be allowed. Donald Schwartz seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of nine yes votes and three no votes.

VIII. Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Candidate Project Listing

Zachary Lee informed the committee that the application period for the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Candidate Project list was open for the entire month of March. Six applications were received. He reviewed the submissions with the committee noting that they are all good quality projects. Staff are still hoping to receive more submissions and have decided to leave the application period open for a while longer. The next steps will be for the steering committee to evaluate the submissions and place them in the following categories: Initial, early developmental, and advanced developmental. Zachary will also add the TA Set Aside applications, as well as those for other funding programs to this list. Staff will likewise reach out to the applicants on the former list for anyone still looking for funding. The list is scheduled to be published on May 1st, but staff may not make that deadline. The list will be published annually.

Brandon Carson added that Zachary Lee was recently promoted to Community & Economic Development Program Manager. The committee congratulated him on his promotion.

IX. Other Business

DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund Application Period

Brandon Peters informed the committee that the DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund application period is open from March 1st through July 31st. Staff will send out information on the application period to the Southern Alleghenies municipalities. These grants can be 100% state with no match. Even though there is usually a 30% match, the municipality can request a waiver.

Other Business

Vince Greenland informed the committee that there is a bridge in Lincoln Township, Bedford County that is problematic. The Township has approached the County and PennDOT looking for funding for the bridge, which is under 20 feet. Vince recommended they get the bridge inspected. PennDOT was notified last week that the bridge is unsafe as the steel beams have deteriorated. PennDOT recommended immediate closure of the bridge. Unfortunately, the bridge is still open and school busses are still crossing the bridge. PennDOT is very concerned about this and plans to contact them today. They do have the responsibility to close the bridge if necessary. The bridge is on Spruce Hollow Road just north of Pleasantville. At their meeting last night, the Township should have approved Keller Engineers to do the design work. The bridge will be posted at 10 tons, so fuel trucks and school busses still won't be able to use the bridge. One option that is available to them is Retroactive Reimbursement. The Township would complete the project themselves and then be reimbursed 80% of the cost after PennDOT reviewed the project. The Township would need to send a letter to the PennDOT requesting to use Retroactive Reimbursement.

Rick Suder told the committee about another bridge that was closed. The detour for this bridge is only a few tenths of a mile so the bridge may be redundant. The bridge is located in the Village of Ryot in West St. Clair Township in Bedford County and is over 20 feet in length. Brandon Peters noted that the RPO could request funds to do a Redundant Bridge Study if they so desired. It was second on the priority list when the RPO decided on the HSIP Study.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11 AM.

<p><u>NOTE:</u> The next meeting of the RTTC is scheduled for June 29, 2022, at the SAP&DC beginning at 9:00 AM.</p>

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ACTION ITEMS

Action Items	By Whom	Due Date
Send out information on the DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund application period to the Southern Alleghenies municipalities.	RPO Staff	No Date Given
Send out another email blast to the municipalities in the RPO reminding them that the input period for the FY 25 – 26 TIP will soon end.	RPO Staff	No Date Given
Send the LRTP revised project list out to the committee members prior to the public comment period.	RPO Staff	Prior to the public comment period