

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

April 20, 2022

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 April 20, 2022, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the January 26, 2022, meeting minutes as presented.
2. Approved adding the FY 2022 IJA funds of \$12,838 to the FY 2022 TIP.
3. Reaffirmed the approval of the addition of the nine projects listed below to the FY 2021-2024 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
4. Approved the addition of the two additional projects listed below as presented to the FY 2021 – 2024 TIP.
 - Sideling Hill Ck Br 2 Bridge Replacement Project
 - SR 641 Safety Improvements
5. Approved the addition of the ARC local access road funding for the preliminary engineering, final design, right of way, and construction phases of the Everett Area Business Park Armory Road Extension Project to the FY 2021-2024 TIP.
6. Approved the addition of \$3M to the FY 2021 TIP to complete preliminary engineering on the US 219 Meyersdale to I-68 project.
7. Approved the addition of \$50M to the FY 2021-2024 TIP (\$25M for right of way, \$8M for utilities, and \$17M for final design) for the US 219 Meyersdale to I-68 project.
8. Approved the release of the FY 2023-2026 Draft TIP, Draft Interstate TIP, Draft Transit TIP, MOU, and Environmental Justice for a 30-day public comment period from May 2-31, 2022.

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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 9-0
- Steve Howsare, SAP&DC
- Brandon Carson, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- Commissioner Gerald Walker, Somerset County
- Jennifer Mearkle, Congressman Joyce's Office
- Nolan Ritchie, Senator Langerholc's Office
- Ben Gilsdorf, Senator Casey's Office
- Robbie Matesic, Senator Casey's Office
- Michele Ivory, Senator Judy Ward's Office
- Tammy Hess, Congressman Topper's Office
- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office
- Vince Greenland, PennDOT District 9-0
- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9-0
- Christy Shumac, PennDOT District 9-0
- Brandon Peters, SAP&DC
- Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- January 26, 2022 RTCC Meeting Minutes
- SA RPO FY 2021 – 2024 TIP Adjustments
- Draft SA RPO FY 2023 – 2026 Highway & Bridge TIP
- Draft SA RPO FY 2023 – 2026 Interstate TIP
- Draft SA RPO FY 2023 – 2026 Transit TIP

- FY 2023 – 2026 Memorandum of Understanding
- EJ Maps
- Municipal Outreach Submitted
- SA RPO LRTP 2042 Development Schedule
- Available and Projected Yearly Revenue 2023 – 2042
- FY 2023 – 2034 Twelve Year Program
- 2021 Transportation Alternatives Set – Aside Program Criteria
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Candidate Project List

II. Review and Approval of the January 26, 2022 RTCC Meeting Minutes

Tom Prestash welcomed the committee to the meeting and Brandon Carson conducted roll call. He asked the committee to review the January 26, 2022, meeting minutes included in the meeting packet.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Colleen Dawson made a motion to approve the January 26, 2022, meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Jeff Thomas seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. FY 2021-2024 TIP Modifications and Amendments

Tom gave a presentation on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding across District 9-0. 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.

With no further discussion, Steve Howsare made a motion to approve adding the FY 2022 IIJA funds of \$12,838 to the FY 2022 TIP. Commissioner Colleen Dawson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Vince Greenland and Christy Shumac reviewed the additional projects for the SA RPO answering any questions the committee had. The projects were:

- 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
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- Sideling Hill Ck Br 2 Bridge Replacement Project
- SR 641 Safety Improvements

All but the last two were previously approved by the RTCC via memo vote. Tom asked the committee to reaffirm that vote.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Colleen Dawson made a motion to reaffirm the approval of the first nine projects listed above. Steve Howsare seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Tom then asked for a motion to approve the two additional projects to be added to the FY 2021-2024 TIP.

With no further discussion, Steve Howsare made a motion to approve the two additional projects listed above as presented to the FY 2021 – 2024 TIP. Commissioner Jeff Thomas seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was one more additional project to be added. PennDOT has been working with BCDA and Brian Chamberlin on a local access road project in the Everett Area Business Park to extend Armory Road. This amendment will add the ARC funds for the preliminary engineering, final design, right of way, and construction to the FY 2021-2024 TIP. This is the largest project of its kind in the RPO and the second largest in the state of Pennsylvania.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Barry Dallara made a motion to approve the addition of the ARC local access road funding for the preliminary engineering, final design, right of way, and construction phases of the Everett Area Business Park Armory Road Extension Project the FY 2021-2024 TIP. Brandon Carson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Tom reminded the committee that a list of administrative actions were previously provided to the committee. He asked they let PennDOT know if they have any questions on those actions.

There was one final project to discuss. The US 219 Meyersdale to I-68 project previously received \$6M. FHWA requires a final plan be in place for the completion of the project. Working very closely with Governor Wolf, Secretary Gramian, and the area legislators and congressman at the federal level, Tom was pleased to announce that an additional \$53M has been secured for the project. He added that Senator Langerholc has been very involved in this award. Robbie Matesic from Senator Casey's office added that they are very happy about this award and wanted to congratulate everyone on all their hard work. A press release will go out shortly.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Colleen Dawson made a motion to approve the addition of \$3M to the FY 2021 TIP to complete preliminary engineering on the US 219 Meyersdale to I-68 project. Commissioner Barry Dallara seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Colleen Dawson made a motion to approve the addition of \$50M to the FY 2021-2024 TIP (\$25M for right of way, \$8M for utilities, and \$17M for final design) for the US 219 Meyersdale to I-68 project. Commissioner Barry Dallara seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. FY 2023-2026 Draft TIP

Brandon Peters reviewed the FY 2023-2026 Draft TIP, Draft Transit TIP, Draft Interstate TIP, and MOU and Matthew Bjorkman reviewed the Environmental Justice. They will be available for public comment from 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 July meeting where the committee will vote on the final adoption of the FY 2023-2026 Draft TIP.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Colleen Dawson made a motion to approve releasing the FY 2023-2026 Draft Highway and Bridge TIP, Draft Interstate TIP, Draft Transit TIP, MOU, and Environmental Justice for a 30-day public comment period from May 2-31, 2022. Brandon Carson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

V. FY 2025-2026 TIP

The first step in developing a TIP is municipal outreach. The county planning commissions send out level one screening forms to their municipalities to solicit new projects. Starting this year, the RPO is using a more unified electronic process. SAP&DC will be the central host of process using Arc GIS Hub. He showed the committee some of the responses received to date. This process will be left open all year allowing anyone with a transportation issue to complete this form. The counties have completed their mailings with information on the online form. Any hardcopies received will be entered into this platform.

VI. 2042 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

The Draft 2042 LRTP is not yet ready for public comment. The Agency Coordination Meeting (ACM) was also moved back. 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. Brandon reviewed the current timeline as well as the projected yearly revenue for FY 2023-2042. He also reviewed the current project list noting that this will change with the Route 219 funding added today.

VII. Transportation Alternatives Set Aside (TASA) Program

At the last meeting, this committee requested having the RTTC review the criteria for scoring these projects. They did not feel the Environmental Justice (EJ) section was being scored properly as many of those scoring may not realize the project affects an EJ area. The RTTC discussed the issue and decided that the RPO staff should score this section and have it prefilled before the scoring of the projects. They adopted a motion recommending that the EJ criteria be prescored and not be changed by the reviewer. The vote was not

unanimous as RPO and PennDOT staff voted against it, but the motion was passed. The commissioners commented that prescoring was not their intention. It was recommended that the EJ information be presented to the committees in advance of the project scoring meeting so that they can make informed decisions. The committee requested it be reviewed after the next vote.

VIII. Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Candidate Project Listing

Brandon Peters informed the committee that Arc GIS Hub was used for this as well. Exhibit B of the plan is the candidate project list. The RPO would like funding agencies to be able to look at this list and see that these projects have been vetted. These projects will be rated initial, early developmental, and advanced developmental depending on the status of the project. The plan was to publish the list on May 1st, but staff have decided to leave the application period open for a while longer. No action is required on this. Zachary Lee reviewed the submissions with the committee noting that they are all good quality projects. He requested everyone please spread the word to anyone with a bicycle and/or pedestrian project. The list will be published annually.

IX. Other Business

Tom informed the committee that there is a bridge less than 20 ft. in Lincoln Township, Bedford County with safety issues and PennDOT must do its due diligence. The Bridge, which is used by school busses, has been closed. PennDOT will work with the Township on the project. They do have a local engineer. Signs have been placed on the bridge, but people are driving around them. This bridge does not qualify for federal funds.

Brandon informed the committee that the July 13, 2022, RTCC meeting will be held at PennDOT District 9-0 Room 1CA. The date and time have not changed, just the location.

Tom informed the committee that SAP&DC is losing a key staff member. Mr. Carson has accepted a position at DCED as the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority. His last day with SAP&DC will be May 13, 2022. He was at SAP&DC for 16 years and was a great partner. He will be missed. Congratulations on his new position.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 AM.

<p>NOTE: The next meeting of the RTCC is scheduled for July 13, 2022, at PennDOT District 9-0 beginning at 10:00 AM.</p>

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April 20, 2022**

ACTION ITEMS

Action Items	By Whom	Due Date
Provide the EJ information to the committees in advance of the project scoring meeting for the next TASA funding cycle so that they can make informed decisions. Review the scoring process following that meeting.	RTCC	After the next TASA Program funding cycle