

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

May 3, 2023

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 May 3, 2023, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the February 22, 2023, RTCC meeting minutes as presented.
2. Approved the \$2.2M cost increase and change from State 581 highway funds to Federal NHPP and STP funds on the PA 56 Reynoldsdale Road to Red Oak Road project.
3. Approved the full bridge replacement on PA 26 over Ravers Run.
4. Approved the Southern Alleghenies Candidate Project Listing as presented.
5. Approved continuing to holding the presentations and ranking as the RPO has done in the past for the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program.

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MEETING MINUTES

I. Welcome

The following members were present at the meeting:

- Commissioner Jeff Thomas, Huntingdon County
- Commissioner Barry Dallara, Bedford County
- Commissioner Colleen Dawson, Somerset County
- Mark Tobin, PennDOT Central Office
- Vince Greenland, PennDOT District 9-0
- Steve Howsare, SAP&DC
- Brandon Peters, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office
- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9-0
- Christy Shumac, PennDOT District 9-0
- Michele Ivory, Senator Judy Ward
- Christian Johnson, Representative John Joyce
- Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC
- Zachary Lee, SAP&DC
- Janice Streightiff, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- PennDOT District 9 Executive Changes
- February 22, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- SA RPO FY 2023-2026 TIP Adjustments
- 2025 TIP Development Schedule
- FFY 2025-2028 Highway/Bridge Funding Allocation
- 2023-2026 Carbon Reduction Funding
- Southern Alleghenies Candidate Project List

II. Review and Approval of the February 22, 2023 RTCC Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Jeff Thomas welcomed the committee to the meeting. He informed the committee that Tom Prestash moved to another PennDOT District and showed the schedule of acting District Executives. Each of the Assistant District Executives will take a three-month term as Acting District Executive. After that time, a new District Executive will be named. In the interim, Commissioner Jeff Thomas, Vice-Chair of the committee, will act as the Chair. He asked the committee to review the February 22, 2023, RTCC meeting minutes included in the meeting packet.

With no further discussion, Steve Howsare made a motion to approve the February 22, 2023, RTCC meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Colleen Dawson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. FY 2023-2026 TIP Modifications and Amendments

Anne Stich informed the committee that a list of FY 2023-2026 TIP modifications and amendments were included in the meeting packet. She passed out a handout with another amendment making two that require approval today. The first project is on PA 56 in Bedford County from Reynoldsdale Road to Red Oak Road. There is a \$2.2M increase on the project as costs have increased, and work is being done on Salas Hills Road Intersection where some rock slope stabilization and site distance improvements will need to be completed. There are federal funds from the reserve line item available to cover these costs. The project will be changing from State 581 highway funds to Federal NHPP and STP funding. This project has been approved by PennDOT's Program Center.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Barry Dallara made a motion to approve the \$2.2M cost increase and change from State 581 highway funds to Federal NHPP and STP funds on the PA 56 Reynoldsdale Road to Red Oak Road project. Brandon Peters seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The second is a bridge project also in Bedford County. This project was scheduled to have some repair work done on it but after a recent inspection, it was determined that there was a beam issue, restricting traffic to one lane with no truck traffic. The bridge is located on PA 26 just south of Saxton. A contractor will begin work on Monday and repairs are expected to be completed before Memorial Day. The cost of the repair is approximately \$35,000 and is available through the reserve line item. The project PennDOT is requesting approval for will be a full bridge replacement. This section of PA 26 is narrow and there are three narrow bridges that will also be widened. Funding is available from the Bridge reserve line item. Preliminary Engineering is programmed for this year with construction in 2025. Because it is a new project and uses federal funding it requires approval.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Barry Dallara made a motion to approve the full bridge replacement on PA 26 over Ravers Run. Steve Howsare seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was one more modification in this packet that does not require approval, but PennDOT just wanted to bring it to the committee's attention. The project is in Somerset County on Rt. 219 from US 30 to the North Somerset Interchange. The project has a cost increase of \$1.8M in state funding due to a few things that were added to the project, including work on eight structures, temporary crossovers for traffic control, and additional drainage work. The increase was funded from the reserve line item. This project was also approved by the PennDOT Program Center. If anyone has any questions on the remaining actions, please let PennDOT know.

IV. FY 2025-2028 TIP

General & Procedural Guidance

Matthew Bjorkman informed the committee that work has begun on the FY 2025-2028 TIP. The final guidance has been received and a timeline is included in the meeting packet. All of the County priorities have been received and forwarded to PennDOT for review. The next Bridge Sub-Committee meeting will be held at the end of May. Anne added the next steps is for PennDOT to review the local bridges submitted, review the carryover bridges to see what is left to distribute to new projects. New projects will be selected using bridge care and the local bridge risk assessment. For the non-bridge priorities, the District will spend a few months doing research on those projects. In the fall meetings will be scheduled with the counties, SAP&DC staff and the district to discuss the projects. The Draft FY 2025-2028 TIP will be put together by the end of the year.

Financial Guidance

Vince Greenland reviewed the financial guidance with the committee noting the Southern Alleghenies RPO will receive less NHPP funds but will receive an additional \$2.2M in State Bridge funds and an additional \$17.5M in funding overall.

V. 2023-2026 Carbon Reduction Program

Matthew reviewed the Carbon Reduction Program funding allocated for the Southern Alleghenies RPO for FY2023-2026. As this is not a substantial amount of funding, no new projects can be completed. PennDOT recommended looking for phases of current projects that would qualify, which will also free up other funding programed on the TIP. They hope to have recommendations at the next meeting. This funding is already on the TIP. The 2023 funds need to be obligated by the end of August.

VI. Southern Alleghenies Candidate Project Listing

Zachary Lee informed the committee that the latest round of Candidate Project Listing submissions opened in February and ran through March 31st. Six projects were received. No projects ranked in the Initial Stage category, four were ranked in the Early Development category, two projects ranked in the Advanced Development category, and one project in the Ongoing Maintenance category.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Colleen Dawson made a motion to approve the Southern Alleghenies Candidate Project Listing as presented. Brandon Peters seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. Coordinated Transit & Human Services Plan Update

Matthew informed the committee that the RPO is entering the public outreach phase of the Plan. Two public meetings have been scheduled in Fulton County in two weeks and he hopes to schedule two public meetings in the other three counties as well. One meeting will be held with the providers and one with the potential users. The meetings should be completed by June and will form the goals and vision of the plan.

VIII. Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside

Brandon reviewed the timeline for the Transportation Alternative Set Asides funding and asked the committee how they want to approach this round. Do they want to continue to have the applicants come and make a presentation and then rank the projects to submit to the State as we have done in the past, or do they want SAP&DC staff to provide the input. It is required that PennDOT and the RPO meet with the project sponsors. The RPO has done well with this funding in the past. We usually hold a joint RTTC & RTCC meeting in the fall and provide our rankings to the State in December.

After much discussion, Steve Howsare made a motion to continue holding the presentations and ranking as we have done in the past for the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program. Brandon Peters seconded the motion. Jeff Thomas, Colleen Dawson, Mark Tobin, Vince Greenland, Steve Howsare, and Brandon Peters voted yes. Barry Dallara voted no. The motion was approved.

IX. Other Business

Saxton Borough Trail Connectivity Study

Matthew noted that SAP&DC submitted an application to DCNR for the Saxton Borough Trail Connectivity Study to connect the current terminus of the H&BT Trail through Saxton Borough into southwestern Huntingdon County and hopefully connect with the Huntingdon Broad Top Mountain Railroad Trail. The application requested \$45,000 with

\$15,000 in match from SAP&DC and \$30,000 in match from Bedford County. The application was submitted in April and staff expect to hear back soon. The Study will highlight the best path and possible funding sources.

Another trail, the TOPP Trail (PA turnpike trail), is applying for an ARC Area Development Grant to resurface the trail. They are matching with an RCAP award and are also applying to DCNR and DCED. SAP&DC staff have a meeting with them to assist on the DCED application. They are also building a Trailhead on the Fulton County side of the trail.

Brandon added that he and Commissioner Walker visited Addison Township to see some road damage they had reported. They are having issues with a road that was level a month ago and now has large cracks with at least a foot drop from side to side. He showed the committee some pictures of the damage. This issue has been discussed with PennDOT and LTAP is coming out on May 12th to look at the road to see if they can offer any assistance in the interim. The road may need to be shut down in the meantime. Vince Greenland asked if there is any drainage. Brandon said there is not and the foundations on the houses up and down that road are cracking as well. The Township is in contact with the Conservation District and the Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Program.

Steve added that Bette Slayton sent an old picture of Bud Shuster from when the last section of I-99 was opened. Bud Shuster recently passed away and he wanted to acknowledge him.

Barry Dallara added that he heard there is a bill being developed that would allow the hospitality tax to be used for economic development and asked if anyone had heard anything about that. Michele Ivory from Senator Judy Wards office said she will look into it.

X. Adjournment

The committee thanked Brandon for his time with them. Brandon added that he enjoyed working on transportation and thanked the committee for allowing him to participate.

Vince added that PennDOT is very fortunate to have the staff they have there. They are what drives District 9. Once a permanent replacement is in place the RPO will not see a change.

Brandon Peters made a motion to adjourn at 11:12 AM.

<p>NOTE: The next meeting of the RTCC is scheduled for August 23, 2023, at the SAP&DC beginning at 10:00 AM.</p>

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May 3, 2023**

ACTION ITEMS

Action Items	By Whom	Due Date
There were no action items at this meeting.		