

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**RURAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**June 29, 2022**

**9:00 AM**

**Altoona, PA**

**ACTION SUMMARY**

The following are the major actions taken by the Rural Transportation Technical Committee (RTTC) at its regular meeting held on June 29, 2022, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the April 13, 2022, RTTC meeting minutes with the requested changes.
2. Appointed Brandon Peters the new Chair of the RTTC for the remainder of the term.
3. Recommended approval of the addition of \$13,000 to each of the three TA Set Asides projects (2021 Main Street School Safe Route, Garrett Borough Streetscape Project, and the Rockwood Streetscape Improvements all in Somerset County) to the FY 2021-2024 TIP for District 9-0 staff to provide assistance.
4. Recommended approval of the Draft FY 2023-2026 Highway and Bridge TIP, Draft FY 2023-2026 Public Transit TIP, Draft FY 2023-2026 Interstate TIP, MOU and Environmental Justice Analysis, and Public Comment Summary to the RTCC.

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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 Planning Commission
- Justin Evans, Fulton County Planning Commission
- James P. Lettiere, Huntingdon County Planning Commission
- Debra Clark-Loner, Huntingdon County Business & Industry
- Brad Zearfoss, Somerset County Planning Commission
- Lindsay Baer, Somerset County
- Stew Neff, Warriors Mark Township
- Karl King, Rails to Trails of Central PA
- Ron Rabena, Huntingdon County Rail Authority
- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office
- Vince Greenland, PennDOT District 9-0
- Brandon Peters, SAP&DC
- Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9-0
- Cristy Shumac, PennDOT District 9-0
- Stephanie Clevestine, Bedford County Planning Commission
- Zachary Lee, SAP&DC
- Janice Streightiff, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- April 13, 2022 RTTC Meeting Minutes
- RTTC Committee Membership List
- SA RPO FY 2021-2024 TIP Adjustments
- FY 2023-2026 Southern Alleghenies RPO Public Involvement Summary

- Municipal Survey Project Entries
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Candidate Project Listing

## **II. Review and Approval of the April 13, 2022 RTTC Meeting Minutes**

Vince Greenland welcomed the committee to the meeting and Matthew Bjorkman conducted roll call. Vince asked the committee to review the April 13, 2022, meeting minutes included in the meeting packet. PennDOT had one change. On item IX and in the action items the minutes stated that PennDOT recommended the bridge on Spruce Hollow Road be closed and that the RPO would send a letter to Lincoln Township about the Retroactive Reimbursement program. The minutes should have stated that the Township would send a letter to PennDOT requesting to use the program if interested. The RPO sending the letter will need to be removed from the action items as well. Rick Suder added that he saw a bid advertisement for the project in the paper and a temporary structure has been put in place.

With no further discussion, Frank Hampton made a motion to approve the April 13, 2022, RTTC meeting minutes with the requested changes. Lindsay Baer seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **III. Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Candidate Project Listing**

Zachary Lee informed the committee that the RPO received six submissions for the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan project list. He reviewed the list of projects with the committee noting that all projects were placed in a drop box and a link was sent to the committee members. The projects will now need to be reviewed and ranked by this committee to determine which of the categories they fall into, initial, early developmental, or advanced. This will then be presented to the RTCC at their July 13, 2022, meeting for approval. Brandon Peters will send an email to the committee members with instructions on scoring the projects and asked the scores be returned next week.

## **IV. RTTC Committee Composition**

Vince informed the committee that since Brandon Carson is no longer with SAP&DC, a new Chair of the RTTC needs to be appointed. He opened the floor for nominations.

With no further discussion, Vince Greenland made a motion to appoint Brandon Peters the new Chair of the RTTC for the remainder of the term. Rick Suder seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Gary Decker is no longer with Linking Creek Township and Thomas Glessner is no longer with Berlin Borough. These municipal representatives will need to be replaced by their County Commissioners. This is being presented as an FYI so that the committee

members can go back and begin discussions with the counties on replacements. The RTCC will then make the appointments.

The SAP&DC needs to have two representatives on the committee. Brandon spoke with Steve Howsare and he appointed Matthew Bjorkman to the committee.

Donald Schwartz introduced Stephanie Clevestine, the new Bedford County Planning Director who will be taking his place. The committee members went around the room and introduced themselves.

## **V. FY 2021-2024 TIP Modifications and Amendments**

Anne Stich reviewed the FY 2021-2024 TIP Modifications and Amendments with the committee answering any questions they had.

There were three TA Set Asides projects: the 2021 Main Street School Safe Route, Garrett Borough Streetscape Project, and the Rockwood Streetscape Improvements all in Somerset County. For each of three projects, \$13,000 was added to the TIP for District 9-0 staff to provide assistance. The approval is between FHWA and Central Office; it does not need voted on by the RPO. Frank Hampton disagreed and stated the projects did require approval by this committee. The committee decided to vote just in case.

With no further discussion, Debra Clark-Loner made a motion to recommend approval of the addition of \$13,000 to each of the three TA Set Asides projects listed above to the FY 2021-2024 TIP for District 9-0 staff to provide assistance. Frank Hampton seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Vince discussed how the fuel cost increases affect the projects. If fuel goes up after a project is bid, it can significantly increase the cost of completing the project. PennDOT has something called the asphalt and fuel index that allows the contractor to come back with a cost increase. If prices go down, PennDOT would receive a rebate. Across the District there is currently a \$5M increase in the cost of projects. The full impact of this has not yet been discussed. It could go higher if prices don't stabilize.

## **VI. FY 2023-2026 Draft TIP**

Brandon noted that the Draft FY 2023-2026 Highway and Bridge TIP, Draft FY 2023-2026 Public Transit TIP, Draft FY 2023-2026 Interstate TIP, MOU and Environmental Justice Analysis have already been reviewed by the committee. The Public Comment Summary is new to the committee today. Brandon reviewed the public comment procedure with the committee and Matthew reviewed the Public Comment Summary. Brandon asked the committee to recommend approval of the Draft FY 2023-2026 Highway and Bridge TIP, Draft FY 2023-2026 Public Transit TIP, Draft FY 2023-2026

Interstate TIP, MOU and Environmental Justice Analysis, and Public Comment Summary to the RTCC.

With no further discussion, Stew Neff made a motion to recommend approval of the Draft FY 2023-2026 Highway and Bridge TIP, Draft FY 2023-2026 Public Transit TIP, Draft FY 2023-2026 Interstate TIP, MOU and Environmental Justice Analysis, and Public Comment Summary to the RTCC. Jim Lettiere seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **VII. FY 2025-2028 TIP**

Matthew informed the committee the RPO has been conducting outreach for the FY 2025-2028 TIP. The process is a little different this year as the form has been moved online. So far approximately 37 responses have been received. The RPO did receive a few hardcopy responses, which Matthew entered into the system. He reviewed a printout of what the data will look like with the committee. The system does offer a nice print out for each project. He offered to send them to the County Planners and PennDOT if they would like them. This will be left open all year for submissions. Vince asked if there is a way to track the progress of the projects. Brandon replied that he will check to see if this can be done in HUB. Access to HUB will be provided to PennDOT District 9-0 as well. Matthew will work with them to set it up.

## **VIII. 2042 Long Range Transportation Plan**

Matthew noted that we are approaching the public comment period for the LRTP. The public comment period will run August 1<sup>st</sup> through September 2<sup>nd</sup>. A public meeting is being planned for the end of August. He reviewed the highlights of the document including the goals and objectives of the plan, the illustrative list, and projected revenue with the committee.

Stew Neff added that Governor Wolf announced that there is a deal in place for a second train running from Harrisburg to Pittsburgh. The State is going to contribute \$200M toward the project. Matt agreed to look up the announcement and add it to the plan.

Donald Schwartz brought up an ongoing issue in Hyndman Borough, Bedford County at a railroad crossing. The trains are very long and traffic is regularly blocked for long periods of time, including emergency vehicles. The issue is not new, but no solutions have been identified except an overpass, which would be very costly.

Brandon informed the committee that the next step is to send the final Draft 2042 Long Range Transportation Plan out to the committee members for their review over the next week. The RTCC will review the Draft 2042 Long Range Transportation Plan at their July meeting.

**IX. Other Business**

Vince congratulated Donald Schwartz on his retirement and thanked him for his time serving on the committee. Frank Hampton reminded the committee that the STC is still looking for public comment. Go to [talkpatransportation.com](http://talkpatransportation.com) to provide comment.

Brandon Peters made a motion to adjourn at 10:00 AM.

**NOTE:** The next meeting of the RTTC is scheduled for October 5, 2022, at the SAP&DC beginning at 9:00 AM.

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES  
 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
 RURAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
 June 29, 2022**

**ACTION ITEMS**

<b>Date Issued</b>	<b>Action Items</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
June 29, 2022	Send an email to the committee members with a link to the drop box and instructions on scoring the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan projects.	Brandon Peters	Following the meeting
June 29, 2022	Check to see if there is a way to track the progress of the TIP projects using the HUB platform.	Brandon Peters	No date given