

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

July 13, 2022

10:00 AM

PennDOT District 9-0

Hollidaysburg, PA

ACTION SUMMARY

The following are the major actions taken by the Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee (RTCC) at its regular meeting held on July 13, 2022, at PennDOT District 9-0 in Hollidaysburg, PA.

1. Approved the April 20, 2022, RTCC meeting minutes as presented.
2. Approved the addition of the US 220 Study project to the FY 2021-2024 TIP.
3. Approved the addition of \$39,000 in Transportation Alternatives Oversight and Management funds to the FY 2021-2024 TIP for the preliminary engineering phase of the 2021 Main Street School Safe Route, Garrett Borough Streetscape, and Rockwood Streetscape Improvement projects.
4. Approved the Draft FY 2023-2026 Highway and Bridge TIP, Draft FY 2023-2026 Public Transit TIP, Draft FY 2023-2026 Interstate TIP, MOU, Environmental Justice Analysis, and Public Comment Summary.
5. Approved putting the Draft 2042 Long Range Transportation Plan out for public comment.
6. Approved the addition of the draft projects with rankings to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Candidate Project List.

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MEETING MINUTES

I. Welcome

The following members were present at the meeting:

- Commissioner Barry Dallara, Bedford County
- Commissioner Randy Bunch, Fulton County
- Commissioner Jeff Thomas, Huntingdon County
- Commissioner Colleen Dawson, Somerset County
- Mark Tobin, PennDOT Central Office
- Thomas Prestash, PennDOT District 9-0
- Brandon Peters, SAP&DC
- Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC (alternate Steve Howsare)

Others in attendance included:

- Gene Porochniak, FHWA
- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9-0
- Jim Pruss, PennDOT District 9-0
- Christy Shumac, PennDOT District 9-0
- Michele Ivory, Senator Judy Ward's Office
- Julia Cacciotti, Senator Judy Ward's Office
- Samantha Quinn, Representative Reschenthaler's Office
- Zachary Lee, SAP&DC
- Janice Streightiff, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- April 20, 2022 RTCC Meeting Minutes
- RTCC & RTCC Committee Composition
- 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 20, 2022 RTCC Meeting Minutes

Tom Prestash welcomed the committee to the meeting and Brandon Peters conducted roll call. Tom noted that Brandon was recently promoted to Director of Planning & Community Development at SAP&DC. Brandon added that Zachary Lee was also recently promoted to Community Development Program Manager and Matthew Bjorkman was promoted to Transportation Program Manager. The committee congratulated them on their recent promotions. Tom then asked the committee to review the April 20, 2022, meeting minutes included in the meeting packet.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Jeff Thomas made a motion to approve the April 20, 2022, RTCC meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Barry Dallara seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. RTTC Composition

Brandon Peters informed the committee that he was appointed the new chair of the RTTC at the July 13th meeting. He also noted that Donald Schwartz retired from the Bedford County Planning Director position and has been replaced by Stephanie Clevenstine. She will take his place on the RTTC. There are also two municipal representatives who need to be replaced; Gary Decker, who is no longer with Licking Creek Township, Fulton County; and Tom Glessner, who is no longer with Berlin Borough, Somerset County. The Counties will need to appoint new representatives.

IV. FY 2021-2024 TIP Modification and Amendments

Tom informed the committee that there are a few amendments that need to be approved today.

Anne Stich noted that the first amendment was not presented to the RTTC. There is a study on US 220 in Bedford County that is adding \$300,000 dollars to the TIP. It is being funded with HSIP funding from the State Set Aside fund outside of the TIP. This project needs to be underway by August to utilize that funding. Jim Pruss gave the committee some background information on the project noting that there have been a few fatalities here all caused by aggressive driving and the residents are requesting improvements. The project includes a 17.5-mile corridor in Bedford Township.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Barry Dallara made a motion to approve the addition of the US 220 Study project to the FY 2021-2024 TIP. Commissioner Colleen Dawson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Anne informed the committee that the next amendment also used funding outside the TIP. The funding came from the Transportation Alternatives Oversight and Management Line Item. This action adds the preliminary engineering phase of the 2021 Main Street School Safe Route, Garrett Borough Streetscape, and Rockwood Streetscape Improvement projects, all in Somerset County. A total of \$39,000 (\$13,000 for each project) was added.

With no further discussion, Colleen Dawson made a motion to approve the addition of \$39,000 in Transportation Alternatives Oversight and Management funds to the FY 2021-2024 TIP for the preliminary engineering phase of the 2021 Main Street School Safe Route, Garrett Borough Streetscape, and Rockwood Streetscape Improvement projects. Brandon Peters seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Anne reviewed the remaining modifications with the committee answering any questions they had.

Tom added there is a provision in the new budget that reduces State Police budget, providing additional funds to PennDOT. It is some relief and will be used to cover cost increases.

V. FY 2023-2026 Draft TIP

Brandon Peters informed the committee that we are at the end of another tip cycle. The FY 2023-2026 TIP will begin in October of 2022. Everything in the draft being presented today has been reviewed by this committee except for the Public Involvement Summary. Matt reviewed the Public Involvement Summary noting that public hearings were held in each of the four counties per the requirements in the Public Participation Plan. A virtual option was also provided. Huntingdon County was the best attended with 14 - 15 people. All comments made at the four hearings were recorded and addressed.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Jeff Thomas made a motion to approve the Draft FY 2023-2026 Highway and Bridge TIP, Draft FY 2023-2026 Public Transit TIP, Draft FY 2023-2026 Interstate TIP, MOU, Environmental Justice Analysis, and Public Comment Summary. Commissioner Randy Bunch seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

VI. 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. He provided a condensed version of the input being collected. The RPO did receive a few hardcopy responses, which Matthew entered into the system. A total of 37 responses have been received. A list of comments can be provided for each county if they would like them. This will be left open all year for submissions. Brandon Peters added that it can be a struggle to solicit input through the mail each cycle. He recommended when they are

approached by someone with an issue, they direct them here to enter it. PennDOT and the County Planning Departments also have access to the system. BP will send the link to the online form to the committee members and political representatives following the meeting.

VII. 2042 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Matthew informed the committee that the LRTP update is reaching the end of the process. The final draft will be put out for public comment August 1st through September 2nd. A public meeting will be held toward the end of August and a virtual link will be provided. The meeting will be advertised per the requirements of the PPP. The RTTC has reviewed the document and provided comment. Those comments have been incorporated into the document. This committee can vote today to put the document out for public comment or request the document go back to the RTTC for final approval. Matthew reviewed projected funding with the committee as well as the projected project list for the next 12 years. He also reviewed the illustrative list, which is not fiscally constrained but still important to the region.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Barry Dallara made a motion to approve putting the Draft 2042 Long Range Transportation Plan out for public comment. Commissioner Colleen Dawson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

VIII. Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Candidate Project Listing

Zachary Lee informed the committee that the RTTC reviewed and ranked the six projects that were submitted for inclusion in the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan project list. Two projects were ranked in the early developmental stage and four were ranked in the advanced developmental stage. This is a draft listing that will be an appendix to the plan. Staff will be soliciting projects for the plan twice a year. The RPO is looking to adopt these rankings so they can become part of the plan.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Jeff Thomas made a motion to approve the addition of the draft projects with rankings to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Candidate Project List. Commissioner Colleen Dawson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

IX. Other Business

Tom noted that the Governor just announced the Green Light Go awards. Two of the six counties received funding. In Blair County, the City of Altoona received \$266,000 for a traffic signal on Broad Avenue and Logan Township received \$359,000 for a signal light at East Pleasant Valley Blvd. and East Walton Avenue. In Huntingdon County, Huntingdon Borough received \$266,800 for signals on Washington, Mifflin, and Monroe Streets.

Brandon added that the October RTCC meeting originally scheduled for October 19th has been moved to October 17th at 1:00 PM due to the Planning Partners Meeting. Brandon will send out a meeting invite to the committee members.

Brandon also noted that EO 12372 reviews are required for DCED Multimodal projects. SAP&DC is the clearing house for these reviews through our EDA grant. If anyone knows of anyone applying for these funds, please refer them to us for the review letter.

Commissioner Barry Dallara inquired if there has been any progress made on the issue of taxing electric vehicles. Tom replied that the legislators are working on this, and Tom will update the group as information is received.

Commissioner Barry Dallara also added that there are four bridges in Bedford County that are in desperate need of repair. He asked if there was anything available that the counties together could work on that might help move these bridge projects more quickly on the TIP. Brandon said they can research whether bridges are supported by the IJA funding. Tom noted that Cambria County was able to complete most of their bridge repairs by charging the additional \$5 registration fee. This brought in almost \$800,000. Commissioner Dallara asked if PennDOT will still be matching these funds if the County opted to use that option. Tom said he can check on that.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM.

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| <p><u>NOTE:</u> The next meeting of the RTCC is scheduled for October 17, 2022, at the SAP&DC beginning at 1:00 PM.</p> |
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**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
 RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE
 July 13, 2022**

ACTION ITEMS

| Action Items | By Whom | Due Date |
|--|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Send the link to the online form to submit potential projects for the FY 2025-2028 TIP to the committee members and political representatives following the meeting. | Brandon Peters | Following the meeting |
| Send out a meeting invite to the committee members for the October RTCC meeting new date and time. | Brandon Peters | No date given |
| Research whether bridge projects are supported by the IJJA funding. | Brandon Peters | No date given |
| Check to see if the match option is still available for the counties who choose to charge the additional \$5 registration fee. | PennDOT | No date given |