

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

**October 17, 2022**

**1:00 PM**

**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 October 17, 2022, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the July 13, 2022, meeting minutes as presented.
2. Approved the cost increase of \$3.179M on the PA 403 – US 219 to PA 985 resurfacing project in Somerset County.
3. Approved the 2022-2042 Long Range Transportation Plan as presented.
4. Approved the following appointments to the RTCC: Lindsay Baer as the non-motorized transportation representative, a Bedford County Airport representative as the aviation representative, Ronald Rabena as the rail representative, Mike Villeneuve as the public transportation representative, and Jeff Eisaman as an ex-officio member.
5. Retained Tom Prestash as Chair and Commissioner Jeff Thomas as Vice Chair of the RTCC for the 2023 term.

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**MEETING MINUTES**

**I. Welcome**

The following members were present at the meeting:

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

Others in attendance included:

- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office
- Vince Greenland, PennDOT District 9-0
- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9-0
- Christy Shumac, PennDOT District 9-0
- Michele Ivory, Senator Judy Ward's Office
- Isaiah Bailey, Representative Carl Walker Metzger's Office
- Jennifer Markel, Congressman John Joyce's Office
- Sarah Youngdahl, Congressman Guy Reschenthaler's Office
- Pamela Hess, PA Turnpike Commission
- Matt Bjorkman, SAP&DC
- Dylan Casper, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- July 13, 2022 RTCC Meeting Minutes
- SA RPO FY 2021-2024 TIP Adjustments
- SA RPO FY 2023-2026 TIP Adjustments
- Appendix D: Sample Performance Based Planning Approach Acknowledgement Form
- RTTC & RTCC Committee Membership

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

Tom Prestash welcomed the committee to the meeting and Brandon Peters conducted roll call. Tom asked the committee to review the July 13, 2022, meeting minutes included in the meeting packet.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Colleen Dawson made a motion to approve the July 13, 2022, meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Barry Dallara seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **III. FY 2021-2024 TIP**

Anne Stich referred the committee to the FY 2021 – 2024 TIP modifications included in the meeting packet. She noted that the new TIP did take affect October 1<sup>st</sup>, but these modifications occurred on the 2021-2024 TIP. If anyone has any questions, let Anne know. Most of the modifications are cost increases and cleaning up the fiscal year.

## **IV. FY 2023-2026 TIP Amendments**

As of October 1<sup>st</sup> PennDOT is operating in fiscal year 2023. As they were not able to make any adjustments since January, there are a lot of modifications that were made. There was one amendment requiring approval, the PA 403 – US 219 to PA 985 resurfacing project in Somerset County. The project had a significant construction cost increase of almost \$3.179M. The cost increase will be cash flowed over three years and funding will come from the line item. The project is expected to be let in December or January and was approved by PennDOT's Program Management Committee on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Dallara had a question about what caused that large of a cost increase. Vince explained there were changes in scope, including a sink hole, as well as inflation. Vince and Anne reviewed the description of the increases with Commissioner Dallara.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Colleen Dawson made a motion to approve the cost increase of \$3.179M on the PA 403 – US 219 to PA 985 resurfacing project in Somerset County. Steve Howsare seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Brandon introduced Dylan Casper, SAP&DC's new Transportation Specialist. He is a Johnstown native but has been living in California the last three years. Brandon asked the committee to go around the room and introduce themselves.

Matt Bjorkman informed the committee that the county priority project lists were discussed with the County Planners at the RTTC meeting as they are due in December. This will be done in two steps this round as there is a new procedure for identifying bridge projects.

Vince Greenland informed the committee that PennDOT is moving to a new methodology called Bridge Care to identify bridge projects. This system will be used for the local bridges as well. It uses a best cost analysis system, although the output can be a little confusing. District 9 is working with Central Office to put together a document the counties can use to identify their bridge projects. He hopes to have this document to the County Planners by the end of the year. Once the document is put together the Local Bridge Subcommittee can meet and put together the bridge list. The counties should expect to see recommendations for more of a rehabilitation and preservation approach with this system. Matt added that the municipal survey link will be left open so that projects can be entered as issues arise. He can send out a link to the committee members if they would like. Brandon also noted that staff would be happy to attend the county meetings to discuss the projects if they would like.

## **VI. Coordinated Transit**

Matt informed the committee that staff is in the early stages of updating the Coordinated Transit Plan. The intent is to update the old plan rather than rewriting it. Staff is also looking to identify people for the steering committee. The intent is to keep communication open with the service agencies for the purpose of performance measures, TIP priorities, etc. Brandon noted that there may not be bus services in the RPO but there is medical assistance transportation. The RPO needs to assure transportation is as accessible as possible.

## **VII. 2022-2042 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)**

Matt informed the committee that after two and a half years, the plan is completed. The Public Involvement Summary has been added and all comments addressed. He asked the committee for approval of the final LRTP.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Randy Bunch made a motion to approve the 2022-2042 Long Range Transportation Plan as presented. Commissioner Colleen Dawson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **VIII. Transportation Budget County Requests**

Brandon informed the committee that this time of year a request for matching funds for the UPWP is sent out to the four rural counties. These letters have already been sent out. All Federal and State funds require a local match, including the UPWP. The amount requested for UPWP match has not been increased since 2014. Due to funding increases over that period of time, there will be a small increase this year. Brandon reviewed the formula used to determine the match amount, noting that it is the same formula used before with a slight increase in the base amount. This increase was necessary to be able to match the UPWP funding. Without the correct match, the RPO cannot access the funding.

## **IX. RTTC Composition**

Every two years the composition of the Rural Transportation Technical Committee is reviewed. Brandon reviewed the membership with the committee, noting that there has been some turnover recently on the municipal representatives adding Gene Mellott from Fulton County and Lee Hoffman from Somerset County. The staff, municipal representatives, and county representatives do not need voted on as they are all appointed positions. The last group on the membership list is the non-motorized transportation, public transportation, and two representatives from Freight, Aviation and Rail. This group does need approved by the RTCC. The non-motorized representative is retiring and will need replaced. There was a request by PennDOT's Bureau of Public Transit that both the Somerset County Transportation System and the Huntingdon, Bedford, Fulton Area Agency on Aging both be represented on this committee. The By-Laws only allow for one representative from that field. The RTTC recommended the following: add Anthony Molinari to the Public Transit representative, move Mike Villeneuve of Somerset County Transportation System to the Somerset County At-Large position. Then move Lindsay Baer of Somerset County Parks and Trails to the Non-Motorized Transportation representative. For the two representatives from Freight, Aviation, and Rail the recommendation was to retain Ronald Rabena for Rail, add a representative from the Bedford County Airport for Aviation (potential names to be submitted by Bedford County), and retain Jeff Eisaman as an ex-officio member.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Jeff Thomas made a motion to approve Lindsay Baer as the non-motorized transportation representative, a representative from Bedford County Airport for aviation, Ronald Rabena as the rail representative, Mike Villeneuve as the public transportation representative, and Jeff Eisaman as an ex-officio member of the RTTC. Commissioner Colleen Dawson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **X. RTCC Composition**

### Election of Officers

Tom noted that he is the current RTCC Chair and Commissioner Jeff Thomas is the Vice Chair. He opened the floor for nominations.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Barry Dallara made a motion to retain Tom Prestash as Chair and Commissioner Jeff Thomas as Vice Chair of the RTCC for the 2023 term. Brandon Peters seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **XI. Other Business**

### Greenways Plan Update

Matt informed the committee that SAP&DC is currently in Round 8 of the Southern Alleghenies Regional Greenways Mini-Grant Program and will soon be applying for Round 9. The amount of funding awarded has been declining due to the age of the Southern Alleghenies Greenways and Open Space Network Plan. SAP&DC is preparing to update the plan using a consultant. Staff is currently working on a cost estimate and will apply to

DCNR for funding to update the plan. There was a comment about a municipality that was declined funding because their project was not listed in the regional plan. Staff responded that the plan is to keep updating the project list like they are doing with the Bicycle Pedestrian Plan project list. Tom recommended amending the projects listed in the Southern Alleghenies Greenways and Open Space Network Plan until the update is completed.

#### ARC Community Capacity Grant

Brandon informed the committee that some of the larger municipalities in the region had a lot of capacity and some of the smaller ones have very little. SAP&DC has obtained a two-year ARC Community Capacity Grant and is going to hire a staff person whose sole focus will be assisting municipalities with area development, local access, and ARC and EDA applications. They would also assist them with LTAP and the Southern Alleghenies Regional Greenways Mini-Grant Program. Staff hope to have the new hire on board in January.

#### 2023 Meeting Schedule

Brandon reviewed the 2023 RTCC meeting schedule with the committee asking that they let him know of any conflicts.

#### Other Business

Commissioner Colleen Dawson noted that there was another fatality on Route 160 in Wellersburg. In the past, this committee discussed a runaway truck ramp. She asked for an update on the status of that project. Tom replied that the project is on hold. This is a \$2M project and they must question if that large of an amount should be invested in something that should not be there in the first place.

Vince updated the committee on changes concerning shared use trails. Any offline trail that crosses a state road needs a signed agreement with PennDOT. The change is that the agreement needs to be in the name of the municipality. The municipalities can have another agreement with the trail owner if they so desire, but the agreement with PennDOT needs to be in the name of the municipality.

## **XII. Adjournment**

Commissioner Colleen Dawson made a motion to adjourn at 2:08 PM. Commissioner Barry Dallara seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

<p><b>NOTE:</b> The next meeting of the RTCC is scheduled for February 22, 2023, at the SAP&amp;DC beginning at 10:00 AM.</p>
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**RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

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**ACTION ITEMS**

<b>Action Items</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Send a link to the municipal survey to the committee members to distribute so that projects can be entered as issues arise.	Matt Bjorkman, SAP&DC	Following the meeting