

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RURAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

February 8, 2023

9:00 AM

SAP&DC Conference Room

Altoona, PA

ACTION SUMMARY

The following are the major actions taken by the Rural Transportation Technical Committee (RTTC) at its regular meeting held on February 8, 2023, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the October 5, 2022, meeting minutes as presented.
2. Recommended approval of the three amendments to the FFY 2023-2026 TIP as presented on pages 3 & 4.
3. Recommend approval of the PM 1 performance measures as presented.

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MEETING MINUTES

I. Welcome

The following members were present at the meeting:

- Stephanie Clevestine, Bedford County Planning Commission
- Rick Suder, Bedford County Planning Commission
- Donald Hedge, Broad Top Township, Bedford County
- Justin Evans, Fulton County Planning Commission
- Julie Dovey, Fulton County Human Services
- James P. Lettiere, Huntingdon County Planning Commission
- Stew Neff, Warriors Mark Township, Huntingdon County
- Brad Zearfoss, Somerset County Planning Commission
- Lee Hoffman, Somerset Borough
- Tom McInroy, Bedford County Airport Authority
- Anthony Molinari, Huntingdon, Bedford, Fulton Area Agency on Aging
- Ron Rabena, Huntingdon County Rail Authority
- Lindsay Baer, Somerset County Parks and Trails
- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office
- Vince Greenland, PennDOT District 9
- Brandon Peters, SAP&DC
- Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- Barry Dallara, Bedford County Commissioner
- Gerald Walker, Somerset County Commissioner
- Gene Porochniak, FHWA
- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9
- Christy Shumac, PennDOT District 9
- Zachary Lee, SAP&DC
- Edward Locher IV, SAP&DC
- Janice Streightiff, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- October 5, 2022 RTTC Meeting Minutes
- FFY 2021-2024 TIP Highway/Bridge Fiscal Constraint Chart
- FFY 2023-2026 TIP Highway/Bridge Fiscal Constraint Chart
- SA RPO FFY 2023-2026 TIP Adjustments – Administrative Actions
- SA RPO FFY 2023-2026 TIP Adjustments – Amendments
- Vulnerable Road User Year 1 Approach Flyer
- Performance Measures MPO/RPO Target Setting
- 2022 Coordinated Transit and Human Services Transportation Plan Update Slides
- Fy 2023 PennDOT Multimodal Projects
- Bicycle and Pedestrian RPO Project Candidate Listing Press Release and Selection Process

II. Review and Approval of the October 5, 2022, RTTC Meeting Minutes

Brandon Peters called the meeting to order, and Matthew Bjorkman conducted roll call. Brandon asked the committee to review the October 5, 2022, meeting minutes included in the meeting packet.

With no further discussion, Frank Hampton made a motion to approve the October 5, 2022, meeting minutes as presented. Stew Neff seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. FY 2023-2026 TIP Modifications and Amendments

Christy Shumac directed the committee to the FY 2023-2026 TIP modifications and amendments included in the meeting packet. There were three that require approval today. The first one is for the Vulnerable Road Users Program. She reviewed the Vulnerable Road Users (VRU) Program with the committee answering any questions they had. This is based on the Highway Improvement Program and targets VRU, which is defined as pedestrians and bicyclists. There was a VRU special rule that came out with the IIA that requires that all states where 15% or more of the total annual roadway fatalities are VRU fatalities, must use no less than 15% of its HSIP funds the next federal fiscal year for projects that improve VRU safety. In Pennsylvania last year, 16.75% of total roadway fatalities were VRU. The amendment is to add the preconstruction and construction phases of the project to the FY 2023-2026 TIP. The project includes all six counties, uses federal funds, and will be let in February of 2024. Central Office came up with a 5-Tier program to address VRU safety. This amendment addresses Tier 1 and Tier 2, which includes new countdown signals, new signs, new push buttons, and new push button poles. A list of the projects will be provided to the committee after this meeting.

The second amendment was to add \$950,000 in Federal funds to the construction phase of the Stoney Creek Bridge Project on the FY 2026 TIP.

The last amendment is to add \$900,000 in Federal Highway Improvement Funds to the construction phase of the 2024 SA RPO Intersection Conflict Warning System (ICWS) Improvements project. Anne Stich reviewed the intersections the improvements will occur at. There were two intersections in Bedford County and one in Somerset County.

With no further discussion, Don Hedge made a motion to recommend approval of the three amendments to the FFY 2023-2026 TIP as presented above. Ron Rabena seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Anne noted that the majority of the modifications listed today are from the transition to the FY 2023-2026 TIP. No changes could be made until after October 1st, so these are all the changes for the last four months. If anyone has any questions on a specific change, PennDOT staff will be happy to answer them.

Brandon introduced the new RTTC members to the committee. Anthony Molinari from Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton Area Agency on Aging is the new Public Transportation Representative for Transit and Tom McInroy from Bedford County Airport Authority is the new Aviation representative. He noted that Jeff Eisaman is now an Ex-Officio member representing Freight.

IV. FY 2025-2028 TIP

Matthew Bjorkman noted that the RPO began discussing the county priority lists at the end of last year but were waiting on the bridge selection process to be finalized. Some of the counties have already submitted their lists. Now that the new bridge selection tool, Bridge Care, is available, he asked if any of the counties would like to revisit their selections. Anne added that PennDOT will use the bridge assessments, Bridge Care, and the local and regional input when selecting bridge projects. PennDOT will be sending out another bridge update on March 1st. If the counties notice anything that doesn't look to be correct, please let them know. The final county priorities are due to the RPO on April 30th. The next meeting of the Local Bridge Subcommittee will be in May or early June to start discussing the final priorities.

Vince Greenland noted that due to the bridge collapse in Pittsburgh, there has been a change in the methodology for bridge assessment. It is now more criteria and calculation based. This has caused bridges that previously would have been a Priority 1 to be a Priority 0, giving the bridge owners seven days to react. Repairs then must be made creating unexpected expenses. Before the county meetings, PennDOT's bridge representative will check bridge care for recommendations to extend the life of the bridges and discuss them with the county representatives at the meeting.

V. Performance Measures

Matthew has received the PM 1 performance measures. The RPO has not yet received the PM 2 and PM 3 so the RPO may need to do a memo vote for those. The options are to adopt the measures as listed or create our own stricter performance measures. Matt reviewed the PM 1 measures with the committee.

With no further discussion, Stu Neff made a motion to recommend approval of the PM 1 performance measures as presented. Jim Lettiere seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

VI. Coordinated Transit

Matthew reminded the committee that he is in the process of updating Coordinated Transit Plan. One steering committee meeting has been held so far with the next meeting scheduled for February 14th. The topic for discussion at the meeting will be the public involvement phase. He reviewed the slides to be presented at the listening sessions for the CTP with the committee. A copy of the slides was included in the meeting packet. Brandon asked the committee to please provide any additional service providers not included in the list provided. Also if there are any listed there that are no longer in service, please let us know that as well. There was a question on the timeline for the CTP update. Matthew responded that the meetings and listening sessions will be held in early spring. The plan is expected to be completed in the fall.

VII. FY 2023 PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund

Brandon reviewed the three applications submitted in the RPO with the committee answering any questions they had. There were four applications submitted but one did not include a signed match commitment letter, so they were not eligible for the funds. He reminded the committee that SAP&DC staff are here to help. Since the RPO reviews the application, staff can't prepare the application, but can review it before it goes in. Staff intend to recommend all three of these projects but would like to include any comments you have. Please submit your comments before March 31st.

VIII. Other Business

Greenway Plan Update

The current Greenway plan "Southern Alleghenies Greenways and Open Space Network Plan" is from 2007 and needs to be updated. SAP&DC is receiving less funding from DCNR for the Southern Alleghenies Regional Greenways Mini-Grant Program due to the age of the plan. Projects currently applying for funding from various sources are not listed in plan due to its age. It was recommended that the project list be updated regularly like is done in the Southern Alleghenies Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. SAP&DC plans to hire a

consultant to complete the update but are currently not sure of the cost. Staff plans to apply for DCNR C2P2 funding and may use UPWP funds with local match for matching funds. The deadline for applications is April 5th. Staff are currently reaching out to various agencies to get an idea of the cost.

Candidate Project Listing

Zachary Lee reviewed the process for keeping the Candidate Project List in the Southern Alleghenies Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan up to date with the committee for the new members. He reviewed the Candidate Project List as well as the categories. The steering committee met four months ago noting that completed projects seeking maintenance funding had no place on the list. A fourth category for maintenance has been added to the list and one project was moved to that category.

Zachary added that a notice was recently sent out for submission of projects. Projects are due March 31, 2023. Brandon will send the notice out to the committee to share with anyone they think may have a project to submit. At the April meeting, the committee will rank these projects. Projects on the list will be updated to the different categories as they progress. Eventually they will move either to the maintenance category or the accomplishments page. Any project sponsor can apply.

ARC Local Access Road Update

Brandon informed the committee that SAP&DC is beginning to develop projects for ARC local access road funding for this year. As always, he would like to see projects in the RPO. He turned it over to Vince who reviewed the program with the committee. The stream of funding is geared toward economic development and job creation. Sponsors can be the developer, municipality, etc. Lately he has seen several projects for \$2M+ funded in the area. He reviewed the current active list of LAR projects. They included: Everett Business Park, Industrial Blvd. Extension, Bedford County; Theatre Drive Intersection Improvements, Blair County; McMahan Road, Blair County; Lamppost Lane, Blair County; Jackson Twp. Business Park – improvements on Rt. 22, Cambria County; and Johnstown Urban Industrial Park Phase 2, Cambria County. There have been a lot of success stories across the region with this program. The McMahan Road project is the largest award this region has seen at \$2.25M.

A Traffic Impact Study has been recommended for the Riverview Business Center in Huntingdon County. Improved access to the business park, especially with Cabinet Works opening there, would be a good LAR project.

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Grants

This funding was announced about a month ago. Many of the recent funding streams, such as ARPA and IIJA, have noted that green infrastructure is becoming a priority, and they are looking at making significant improvements to infrastructure to support that development. Brandon showed a map that identified Tier 1, 2, and 3 priorities for funding. Breezewood and parts of the PA Turnpike (I-70) were identified on the map. They are looking to make investments in these areas. The investments are largely in the form of charging stations. The application period is February 24, 2023, through April 6, 2023.

Brandon noted that the RPO is not promoting electric vehicles, just making the committee aware of the funding opportunity. Businesses are eligible for this funding as well.

Brandon introduced Ed Locher IV, SAP&DC's new Community Capacity Coordinator. SAP&DC applied for a Community Capacity Municipal Assistance grant through ARC to hire a Community Capacity Coordinator to work directly with the municipalities to assist them in applying for ARPA and IIJA funding. If you have a municipality that comes to you looking for assistance, please refer them to Ed.

Dylan Casper left SAP&DC for a job in Ashville, NC so SAP&DC is looking to hire a Transportation Planner again.

Rick Suder saw a project in Bedford County in the July RTCC meeting minutes that he wasn't familiar with. It was to approve the addition of \$300,000 in HSIP Set Aside Funding for a study of 17 miles on Rt. 22 in Bedford Township. Vince responded that they were looking at safety features on the passing lanes beginning on Rt. 22 where you come off I-99 south and extending down the Rt. 22 Corridor into Bedford and Cumberland Townships.

IX. Adjournment

Jim Lettiere made a motion to adjourn at 11:00 AM.

<p><u>NOTE:</u> The next meeting of the RTTC is scheduled for April 19, 2023, at the SAP&DC beginning at 9:00 AM.</p>
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 RURAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
 February 8, 2023**

ACTION ITEMS

Action Items	By Whom	Due Date
Provide a list of the VRU Tier 1 and Tier 2 projects being added to the FY 2023-2026 TIP.	PennDOT District 9	Following the meeting
Send the notice to solicit new projects for the Southern Alleghenies Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Candidate Project List to the committee for them to share with anyone they think may have a project to submit.	Brandon Peters, SAP&DC	Following the meeting