

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

**February 22, 2023**

**9:00 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 February 22, 2023, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the October 17, 2022, RTCC meeting minutes as presented.
2. Approved the addition of the preconstruction and construction phases of the VRU Tier 1 & Tier 2 Signal Upgrades Project to the FY 2024 TIP.
3. Approved the addition of \$950,000 in Federal funds to the construction phase of the Stoney Creek Bridge Project on the FY 2026 TIP.
4. Approved the addition of \$900,000 in Federal Highway Improvement Funds to the FY 2024 TIP for the construction phase of the 2024 SA RPO Intersection Conflict Warning System (ICWS) Improvements project.
5. Approved the adoption of PM1, PM2, and PM3 as presented.
6. Recommended approval of the three PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund projects.

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

February 22, 2023

9:00 AM

SAP&DC Conference Room

Altoona, PA

**MEETING MINUTES**

**I. Welcome**

The following members were present at the meeting:

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

Others in attendance included:

- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office
- Vince Greenland, PennDOT District 9
- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9
- Christy Shumac, PennDOT District 9
- Gene Porochniak, FHWA
- Erin Weyant, Representative Jesse Topper's Office
- Tammie Hess, Congressman Jesse Topper's Office
- Jennifer Markel, Congressman John Joyce's Office
- Matt Bjorkman, SAP&DC
- Ed Lochner, SAP&DC
- Janice Streightiff, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- October 17, 2022 RTCC Meeting Minutes
- Vulnerable Road User Year 1 Approach Flyer
- 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
- Performance Measures MPO/RPO Target Setting
- Performance Measures Acceptance Letter
- 2022 Coordinated Transit and Human Services Transportation Plan Update Slides
- FY 2023 PennDOT Multimodal Projects

## **II. Review and Approval of the October 17, 2022 RTCC Meeting Minutes**

Tom Prestash welcomed the committee to the meeting and Brandon Peters conducted roll call. Brandon introduced Edward Locher IV, the new Community Capacity Coordinator for SAP&DC.

Tom asked the committee to review the October 17, 2022, meeting minutes included in the meeting packet.

Commissioner Jeff Thomas made a motion to approve the October 17, 2022, RTCC meeting minutes as presented. Steve Howsare seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **III. FY 2023-2026 TIP Modifications and Amendments**

Anne Stich directed the committee to the FY 2023-2026 TIP modifications and amendments included in the meeting packet. There were three amendments that required approval. The first one was the Vulnerable Road Users Program. Christy Shumac 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. There are 11 intersections programed for 2024 in the Southern Alleghenies Region.

With no further discussion, Steve Howsare made a motion to approve the addition of the preconstruction and construction phases of the VRU Tier 1 & Tier 2 Signal Upgrades Project to the FY 2024 TIP. Commissioner Jeff Thomas seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

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 funds came from the reserve line item and cost savings on other projects.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Colleen Dawson made a motion to approve the addition of \$950,000 in Federal funds to the construction phase of the Stoney Creek Bridge Project on the FY 2026 TIP. Commissioner Jeff Thomas seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

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 where the improvements will occur. There were two intersections in Bedford County and one in Somerset County.

With no further discussion, Brandon Peters made a motion to approve the addition of \$900,000 in Federal Highway Improvement Funds to the FY 2024 TIP for the construction phase of the 2024 SA RPO Intersection Conflict Warning System (ICWS) Improvements project. Steve Howsare seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **IV. U.S. 219 Update**

Tom informed the committee that the project is moving along and is currently in the process of Preliminary Engineering. PennDOT submitted a Notice of Intent, which gives them two years to finish the Preliminary Engineering phase. They do not yet have Environmental Clearance or a preferred alignment. This is a \$300M project. Of that, there is \$60M currently on the TIP. Of the remaining \$240M, \$136M is on the Long Range Plan, but the project remains \$104M short in funding. He also met with the acting Secretary, Mike Carol, and briefed him on the project. They are moving along with Maryland on the project and the next milestone is the preferred alignment over the next few years. There are some grants available; the question is when to apply. There is a meeting scheduled with Secretary Shifflet who is in charge of Planning and Programing to try and figure out that timing. The next steps are the public comment period and then trying to get the preferred alignment.

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

##### County Bridge Discussion

Anne noted that as soon as PennDOT begins a new TIP, it is time to begin working on the next. The TIP is a two year cycle. As Matthew has discussed at previous meetings, the municipal survey has moved online to begin to collect feedback from the public and local stakeholders. Also previously discussed were the changes to local bridge assessments, which were previously sent to the Counties. An updated version will be sent out March 1<sup>st</sup>. Because of the delay in getting this information out, April 30<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the Counties to submit their prioritized project lists to SAP&DC staff. Then the Local Bridge Subcommittee will meet and review the priorities in May/June timeframe. After that, the

review will begin at the District level. PennDOT plans to hold their County meetings late summer, early fall.

Brandon also noted that the municipal survey is still active and providing feedback. The local legislative offices are sending a link to constituents who contact them with complaints. He recommended the County Planners check the website before submitting their final lists.

Tom informed the committee that there is a statewide financial workgroup that he and Deputy Secretary Shifflet participate in. The effort is led by Mark Tobin, and they are currently looking at carbon reduction. Anne added that the Southern Alleghenies RPO had \$420 dollars added over the next five years for the carbon reduction program. Anne explained that the funding was received because the Cumberland MD urbanized boundary extends slightly into Bedford County. The amount may increase on the 2025 TIP. Mark added that the definition of an urban area was redefined recently, and the Cumberland MD urbanized boundary no longer extends into Bedford County so that \$420 will go away at the end of the year. There is another pot of carbon reductions funding that is not subject to urban area population set-asides. The workgroup Tom is a member of came to an agreement on the distribution formula yesterday. That affects the 2025 TIP but it also affects the 2023 TIP as there is still some IJA funds to be used over the next few years. Mark plans to use that same formula across the State to distribute the carbon reduction non population set aside funding. It looks like the Southern Alleghenies RPO will receive approximately \$1M a year of that funding. Brandon asked what kind of projects are eligible. Anne reviewed some of the guidelines for the program. So far, PennDOT has used the funds for coordinated signal projects. Vince added other eligible projects include intersection projects, turning lanes, etc. Once the funding is received, PennDOT will send out the criteria. HSIP set aside is up for debate right now. There has been a request to increase the funding. Last is a new program called Protect with \$60M for statewide resiliency projects. Financial guidance is expected to be finalized around April or May.

## **VI. Performance Measures**

Matthew informed the committee that it is time to adopt performance measures. He reviewed the state PM1, PM2, and PM3 with the committee noting that the RPO can either adopt these or adopt its own more restrictive guidelines. He informed the committee that the PM 2 & PM3 guidelines did not go before RTTC as they were not out yet when that meeting was held. The RTTC did recommend adopting the PM1 guidelines as presented.

With no further discussion, Steve Howsare made a motion to approve the adoption of PM1, PM2, and PM3 as presented. Commissioner Jeff Thomas seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **VII. Coordinated Transit**

Matthew reminded the committee that the RPO is in the process of updating its Coordinated Transit Plan. He prepared a PowerPoint presentation for the upcoming public meetings. The slides from the presentation were included in the meeting packet. He plans to hold two public meetings in each of the counties; one with the service agencies and one with the users. Any input from this group would be greatly appreciated. Staff will keep the County Commissioners in updated on the process.

## **VIII. FY 2023 PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund**

Brandon informed the committee that there were four application from the RPO submitted for the program. Only three of those applications are being considered as one application was missing something that is required. SAP&DC staff offers to review the applications in advance of submission. Staff cannot write these applications as the RPO reviews them but can review them before they are submitted. Brandon reviewed the three projects with the committee. One included a letter saying they are exempt from providing match. DCED multimodal does that, but PennDOT traditionally does not. The RPO will offer comments on how these projects are consistent with the regions' plans and are all highly recommended. Comments are due the end of March.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Jeff Thomas made a motion to recommend approval of the three PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund projects. Commissioner Colleen Dawson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **IX. Other Business**

### Greenways Plan Update

Matthew informed the committee that SAP&DC plans to update its greenway plan. After looking into what the cost could be, staff plan to apply for \$100,000 in DCNR funding. If UPWP funds are used for match, the Blair and Cambria MPOs will have to provide match from their UPWPs as well as the Greenway Plan covers all six counties. The Counties will need time to budget for this so the application may not be submitted this year.

### ARC Local Access Road Update

Vince Greenland gave an update on the ARC Local Access Road Program, which has been very successful across the region. SAP&DC staff and PennDOT staff have been able to work well together to secure funds and deliver the projects quickly. Because of this, our region receives more funding than other regions across the State. He reviewed a few of the successful projects in the region and asked that anyone who hears of a possible project to let PennDOT or SAP&DC staff know. Brandon added that the majority of these are in Blair and Cambria Counties, but there is one currently under development at the Laurel Highlands Business Park in Somerset County. There was also some discussion about a

possible project at the Riverview Business Park in Huntingdon County. Steve Howsare commended the staff here and at PennDOT for their efforts on this program.

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Grants

Brandon informed the committee of a notice of funding opportunity for the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Grant program. The program opens February 24, 2023, through April 26, 2023, at 5 PM. He reviewed some of the guidelines and eligibility requirements. Most of these grants are used for charging stations. This is just being provided for your information.

**X. Adjournment**

Steve Howsare made a motion to adjourn at 10:08 AM.

**NOTE:** The next meeting of the RTCC is scheduled for May 3, 2023, at the SAP&DC beginning at 10:00 AM.

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

February 22, 2023

**ACTION ITEMS**

<b>Action Items</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Provide a list of the VRU projects to the committee members.	PennDOT	Following the meeting
Send out the guidelines/criteria once the carbon reduction non population set aside funding is received.	PennDOT	No date given