

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**RURAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**August 9, 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 August 9, 2023, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the April 19, 2023, RTTC meeting minutes as presented.
2. Recommended approval of the addition of the 2024 SA Interchange Lighting Upgrades project to the FY 2023-2026 TIP as presented.
3. Recommended approval of the amendment to the FY 2023-2026 Transit TIP as presented.

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**RURAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**August 9, 2023**

**9:00 AM**

**SAP&DC Conference Room**

**Altoona, PA**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**I. Welcome**

The following members were present at the meeting:

- Vince Greenland, PennDOT District 9-0
- Lee Slusser, SAP&DC
- Stephanie Clevestine, Bedford County Planning Commission
- Rick Suder, Bedford County Planning Commission
- Tom McInroy, Bedford County Airport Authority
- Justin Evans, Fulton County Planning Commission
- James Lettiere, Huntingdon County Planning Commission
- Ron Rabena, Huntingdon County Rail Authority
- Stu Neff, Warriors Mark Township, Huntingdon County
- Brad Zearfoss, Somerset County Planning Commission
- Lindsay Baer, Somerset County
- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office
- Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- David Kammerer, PennDOT District 9-0
- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9-0
- Christy Shumac, PennDOT District 9-0
- Emily Osilka, SAP&DC
- Janice Streightiff, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- April 19, 2023 RTTC Meeting Minutes
- PennDOT District 9 Acting District Executive Rotation
- FFY 2023-2026 Highway/Bridge TIP Fiscal Constraint Chart

- SA RPO FFY 2023-2026 TIP Adjustments
- SA RPO Transit Actions 6/5/23
- PennDOT's TASA Program Timeline & General Criteria
- UPWP Task V Complete Streets & Accessibility
- Southern Alleghenies Regional Greenways Mini-Grant Program Round 9 Projects
- RTTC Committee Membership

## **II. Review and Approval of the April 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Vince Greenland called the meeting to order and Matthew Bjorkman conducted roll call. Vince introduced Lee Slusser, the new Director of Planning & Community Development at SAP&DC, and Emily Osilka, the new Transportation Planner. He also introduced the current Acting District Executive, Dave Kammerer. Dave is the Assistant District Executive for Maintenance at PennDOT District 9. Vince asked everyone to go around the room and introduce themselves.

Vince asked the committee to review the April 19, 2023, meeting minutes included in the meeting packet.

With no further discussion, Stew Neff made a motion to approve the April 19, 2023, RTTC meeting minutes as presented. Ron Rabena second the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Anne reviewed the FY 2023-2026 TIP modifications with the committee answering any questions they had. There was one amendment requiring approval.

The 2024 SA Interchange Lighting Upgrades project will be a new project to the regional FY 2023-2026 TIP. In the past, maintenance funds would have been used for this project, but because there is CRP and CRPU funding available that needs to be obligated by the end of this month, PennDOT is using that funding. PennDOT does not have a final cost estimate at this time, but necessary adjustments can be made once that is determined. Vince added that this is the Carbon Reduction funding, which has limited eligibility requirements. This project will update lighting at the I-99 Imler interchanges and the US 219 Gerome and Hollsopple interchanges. Because it is a new project it requires approval.

With no further discussion, Stew Neff made a motion to recommend approval of the addition of the 2024 SA Interchange Lighting Upgrades project to the FY 2023-2026 TIP as presented. Ron Rabena second the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Matthew informed the committee that some adjustments were made to the FY 2023-2026 Transit TIP. The Huntingdon-Fulton-Bedford Area Agency on Aging fell behind on bus replacements and had two replacements become one and the funding source changed from State funding to Federal funding. They were also able to replace some Mini-Vans using State funding.

With no further discussion, Frank Hampton made a motion to recommend approval of the amendment to the FY 2023-2026 Transit TIP as presented. Matthew Bjorkman seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **V. Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Program**

Matthew informed the committee that nine applications were submitted by the July 21<sup>st</sup> deadline in the RPO region. Meetings have been set up between the applicants, SAP&DC, and PennDOT District 9. Final applications are due by September 15<sup>th</sup> and the RPO's comments and scoring are due December 1<sup>st</sup>. At the last RTTC meeting it was decided that the same process would be used for the ranking and scoring as was done in the previous rounds. A joint meeting of the RTTC and RTCC will need to be scheduled. The applicants will be invited to give a ten-minute presentation with five minutes for questions and then the committees will rank and score the projects. Matthew also reviewed the scoring criteria with the committee noting that the Environmental Justice (EJ) section of the scoring will be filled in prior to the meeting by the SAP&DC staff as decided at last year's meeting. The RPO just received the EJ guidance for the upcoming TIP and will use that guidance for these projects. Matthew requested dates to avoid in early November to schedule a joint meeting. PennDOT offered one of their conference rooms to hold the meeting and noted that they have the Pennsylvania Association of Pennsylvania Contractors, which is usually the week before Thanksgiving so to avoid that week.

#### **VI. Southern Alleghenies Sidewalk Inventory**

Matthew informed the committee that additional funding was added through the UPWP to both the base funding and a new Task called Complete Streets and Accessibility. The Task provides an additional \$6,700 each year. The RPO amended its UPWP in April and the Southern Alleghenies Sidewalk Inventory project was approved. The project will provide a sidewalk inventory for the RPO. He introduced Emily, who has been working on the project. Emily informed the committee that she has been recording the location, material, ownership, and condition of the sidewalks using satellite data. The data may not be completely accurate but will help identify gaps in the region. When completed the data will be shared with PennDOT and the municipalities. There was a question on how staff is determining ownership and Matthew responded that they have not started that yet but plan to begin with the municipal ordinances. He asked the counties to let him know if there was

anything else they would like to see included in the project. Anne noted that a list of municipalities with sidewalk ordinances would be very helpful to PennDOT.

There was a question about the Fulton County Medical Center project that included sidewalks. There was supposed to be some senior housing and other projects there and the sidewalks would have connected them with the medical center and the shopping in the local downtown area. No other projects have been done and the sidewalks were never completed.

Huntingdon County may be doing their own inventory through their Active Transportation Committee. Staff will hold off on the Huntingdon County sidewalk inventory until we know for sure.

## **VII. Southern Alleghenies Regional Greenways Mini-Grant Program**

Matthew informed the committee that staff just completed Round 9 awards for the Southern Alleghenies Regional Greenways Mini-Grant Program. DCNR granted \$150,000 to SAP&DC for this round and four projects were awarded. The projects were Fort Bedford Park and Riverfront Revitalization Master Site Plan (Bedford Borough), Rockwood Community and Veterans Memorial Park (Rockwood Borough), Somerset Lake Nature Park Trail – Trail Building and Amenities (Somerset County), and Lilly-Washington Regional Memorial Park Interpretive Historical Monuments Project (Washington Township). Descriptions of the projects were included in the meeting packet. Matthew reviewed the projects with the committee answering any questions they had. Lindsay Baer from Somerset County gave a review of their project.

There is \$52,000 remaining in this round so there is also currently a supplemental round open, which closes September 29, 2023. There has been some interest expressed in the round. There was some discussion about what could be causing the decline in interest in the program.

## **VIII. RTTC Vice Chair Appointment**

Vince noted that at the last meeting he was elected Chair of the RTTC and it was decided that the new Planning & Community Development Director, who is now Lee Slusser, would become Vice-Chair. He congratulated Lee on the appointment.

## **IX. Other Business**

Riverview Business Park Transportation Impact Study – Matthew informed the committee that the Riverview Business Park in Shirley Township is interested in an ARC Local Access Road (LAR) project, but after some discussion decided a Traffic Impact Study (TIS) would be the first step. Staff met with them in February and are working on the TIS process with them. SAP&DC has funding available in the transportation budget to fund a

portion of this. The next step is to release an RFP. The TIS will identify what improvements need to be made. There is interest among the businesses in the park to expand, one being quite large. This could also lead to additional tenants if intersection improvements are completed.

Ron Rabena noted that there have been two accidents in the last five days on Routes 22 and 829 in Mill Creek. One was by the Dollar General and one at the Gas Station on either side of the signal. He also noted that with additional trains running for Norfolk Southern the traffic is backing up onto Route 22. Vince said he will have PennDOT staff look at it. When crash data comes in, PennDOT has a unit who studies that to see if there is increased traffic. Crash Data is based on a rolling five years.

Stew Neff noted that there is a Legislator possibly at the national level trying to get legislation passed on railroad crossings blocking roads for long periods of time. Vince said he has not seen that, but it is a frequent problem.

Jim Lettiere asked PennDOT if they received his submission of additional local bridges for the TIP. At the Local Bridge Subcommittee Meeting, Huntingdon was provided with an opportunity to provide addition bridges and he wanted to be sure they received them. Anne responded that they did receive them, and they have been forwarded to bridge engineer.

Anne informed the committee that PennDOT is going to start scheduling the County RPO meetings and asked if they prefer virtual or in person. The group chose virtual.

## **X. Adjournment**

Justin Evans made a motion to adjourn at 9:45 AM. Ron Rabena seconded the motion.

<p><b><u>NOTE:</u></b> The next meeting of the RTTC is scheduled for December 6, 2023, at the SAP&amp;DC beginning at 9:00 AM.</p>
--

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
RURAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
August 9, 2023**

**ACTION ITEMS**

<b>Action Items</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
There were no action items at the meeting.		