

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RURAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

April 19, 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 April 19, 2023, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the February 8, 2023, meeting minutes as amended.
2. Recommended approval of the \$2.2M cost increase and change from State 581 highway funds to Federal NHPP and STP funds on the PA 56 Reynoldsdale Road to Red Oak Road project.
3. Elected Vince Greenland Chair of the RTTC.
4. Appointed the new Director of Planning & Community Development to be the Vice-Chair of the RTTC once hired.

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MEETING MINUTES

I. Welcome

The following members were present at the meeting:

- Rick Suder, Bedford County Planning Commission
- Tom McInroy, Bedford County Airport Authority
- Justin Evans, Fulton County Planning Commission
- Anthony Molinari, Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton Area Agency on Aging
- Ron Rabena, Huntingdon County Rail Authority
- Stu Neff, Warriors Mark Township - Huntingdon County
- Michael Villeneuve, Somerset County Transportation System
- Brad Zearfoss, Somerset County Planning Commission
- Lindsay Baer, Somerset County Parks and Trails
- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office
- Vince Greenland, PennDOT District 9-0
- Brandon Peters, SAP&DC
- Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9-0
- Cristy Shumac, PennDOT District 9-0
- Pamela Hess, PA Turnpike Commission
- Zachary Lee, SAP&DC
- Janice Streightiff, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- February 8, 2023 RTTC Meeting Minutes
- SA RPO FY 2023-2026 TIP Adjustments
- FY 2023-2026 TIP Highway & Bridge Fiscal Constraint Chart
- Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Implementation Guidance

II. Review and Approval of the February 8, 2023 RTTC Meeting Minutes

Brandon Peters called the meeting to order, and Matthew Bjorkman conducted roll call. He asked everyone to review the February 8, 2023, meeting minutes included in the packet. There was one correction to the last paragraph of the last page where it says Rt. 22 it should read Rt. 220.

With no further discussion, Ron Rabena made a motion to approve the February 8, 2023, meeting minutes as amended. Tom McInroy seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. FY 2023-2026 TIP Modifications and Amendments

Anne informed the committee there was one amendment requiring approval. This project is contingent on approval from the Program Center, but PennDOT expects the project to be approved before the RTCC meeting. The project is on PA 56 in Bedford County from Reynoldsdale Road to Red Oak Road. There is a gap in the middle that will not be resurfaced as there was recently a project completed there. There is a \$2.2M increase on the project as costs have increased, and work is being done on Salas Hills Road Intersection where some rock slope stabilization and site distance improvements will need to be completed. There are federal funds from the reserve line item available to cover these costs. The project will be changing from State 581 highway funds to Federal NHPP and STP funding.

With no further discussion, Rick Suder made a motion to recommend approval of the \$2.2M cost increase and change from State 581 highway funds to Federal NHPP and STP funds on the PA 56 Reynoldsdale Road to Red Oak Road project. Mike Villeneuve seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Anne informed the committee that there is another project in Somerset County on Rt. 219 from US 30 to the North Somerset Interchange that she wanted to review with them. This project is also pending PennDOT Program Center approval. The project has a cost increase of \$1.8M in state funding due to a few things that were added to the project, including work on eight structures, temporary crossovers for traffic control, and additional drainage work. The increase was funded from the reserve line item.

The remaining modifications in the packet are provided for the committee's information. If anyone has any questions on any of the projects, please contact PennDOT and they will be happy to answer them.

IV. FY 2025-2028 TIP

Brandon informed the committee that the RPO is in the early stages of the FY 2025-2028 TIP. The County comment data has been collected and the next step is to accept and discuss the County Priorities. There was one he wanted to discuss with the committee. There was a meeting with Meyersdale in Somerset County to discuss an issue with CSX. When the trains come through town, they block the crossings cutting off access to some residents in the town. In the event of an emergency, no emergency vehicles can get through. They are looking at making improvements to High Street Bridge to allow it to carry emergency vehicles. This project has been added to Somerset County's priorities. Once they obtain ownership of that bridge, it could potentially be placed on the TIP or other funding could be applied for. Meyersdale will also be responsible for maintaining the bridge. Meyersdale and CSX have not met yet to discuss the issue.

The next step is for the RPO to send the County priorities they have received to PennDOT so they can review them and discuss any issues with the county/municipality. The local bridge subcommittee meeting is expected to be scheduled in May. Individual County Meetings and TIP development will begin in the fall.

Anne informed the committee that the draft financial guidance for the FY 2025-2028 TIP was just released. There is a slight increase in funding from last program and a slight change in the type of funding. The focus on bridges will remain. More about the guidance will be discussed at the Spring Planning Partners Meeting this afternoon.

V. 2023-2026 Carbon Reduction Program

Matt informed the committee that the guidance for the Carbon Reduction Program was included in the meeting packet. The last page shows the funding for the program. With the funding shown, the Southern Alleghenies RPO could do the PE phase on a project. The funding shown for FY 2023 will need to be obligated by August, so PennDOT is looking for qualifying items in existing projects, which will also free up other funding programmed on the TIP. They hope to have recommendations at the next meeting. This funding is already on the TIP. Frank also noted that some other districts are using the funds to upgrade traffic signals and conduct Carbon Reduction Strategy Studies.

VI. Southern Alleghenies Candidate Project Listing

Zachary Lee informed the committee that there was a problem with the Zip file he sent to the committee members and only five or six project rankings have been received from the committee. He reviewed the projects and current rankings with the committee answering any questions they had. A fourth category was added, Ongoing Maintenance, and the Great Allegheny Passage Project was moved into that category. He wants to give the committee members that were unable to open the Zip file time to rank the projects. Frank noted that he was able to review them this morning and a lot of projects had information missing.

Brandon added that these rankings are not linked to any particular funding stream so there were no specific requirements. Vince Greenland noted that the Huntingdon submission was confusing even though he is familiar with the project. Zachary added that they sent a report with their submission, but the file was too large to send. He agreed to upload the report on SharePoint for the committee to see. Brandon asked that the committee members who have not yet ranked the projects, as well as anyone who would like to change their rankings, review and rank the projects over the next week so they may be presented to RTCC at the May 3rd meeting.

VII. Coordinated Transit Plan Update

Matthew informed the committee that there has not been much movement on the Coordinated Transit Plan this quarter. He plans to reach out to the transit agencies in May and schedule the public meetings in each of the counties. Frank recommended staff look into setting up MOUs between SAP&DC and the transit agencies to help with the sharing of information and development of the Transit TIP.

VIII. RTTC Chair Selection

Brandon noted that as he is leaving for a position with the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority, the committee will need to elect a new chair. A staff member from SAP&DC will also need to be placed on the committee. The Chair of the RTTC also holds a seat on the RTCC. The appointment would be in affect as of May 5th. He reviewed the committee structures with the committee and opened up the floor for nominations.

Brandon nominated Vince Greenland as Vice Chair of the RTTC to fill the role as the RTTC chair. There was some discussion about Vince being the Acting District Executive at PennDOT with Tom Prestash leaving. Would that make him Chair of both committees? Brandon replied that as Vice Chair, Commissioner Jeff Thomas would take over the role of chair on the RTCC.

Frank made a motion to close nominations. All were in favor. With no other nominations, Vince Greenland was approved as Chair of the RTTC.

With no further discussion Vince Greenland made a motion to appoint the new Director of Planning & Community Development to be the Vice-Chair once hired. Frank seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

IX. Other Business

Saxton Borough Trail Connectivity Study

Matthew informed the committee that SAP&DC submitted an application to DCNR on April 5th for a C2P2 grant to do a connectivity study in Saxton Borough, northeastern

Bedford County and a small amount of southwestern Huntingdon County. The study looks at connecting the northern terminus of the Huntingdon and Broad Top Rail Trail, the Terrace Mountain Trail, and the Huntingdon and Broad Top Mountain Railroad Trail. Connecting these three major trails through Saxton, effectively designates Saxton as a “trail town” and potentially spurs economic development through an increase in tourism. The application requested \$45,000 with match provided by SAP&DC as well as Bedford County for a total project cost of \$90,000. SAP&DC’s share of the match will come from unused UPWP funds from vacant staff positions.

Frank noted that the DCED Multi Modal Transportation Grant program is open. The deadline is July 31st. Also, the WalkWorks Grant program is open. Th deadline for that program is May 26th. The Transportation Set Asides will be open this summer and the Safe Streets for All program is also open.

X. Adjournment

Brandon thanked the committee for making his job here easy. Vince added that he will be missed.

Tom McInroy made a motion to adjourn at 10:10 AM.

<p><u>NOTE:</u> The next meeting of the RTTC is scheduled for August 9, 2023, at the SAP&DC beginning at 9:00 AM.</p>
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ACTION ITEMS

Action Items	By Whom	Due Date
Send the County priorities staff have received to PennDOT so they can review them.	RPO Staff	Following the meeting
Submit project rankings and/or any changes in rankings to SAP&DC staff over the next week.	Committee Members	April 26, 2023