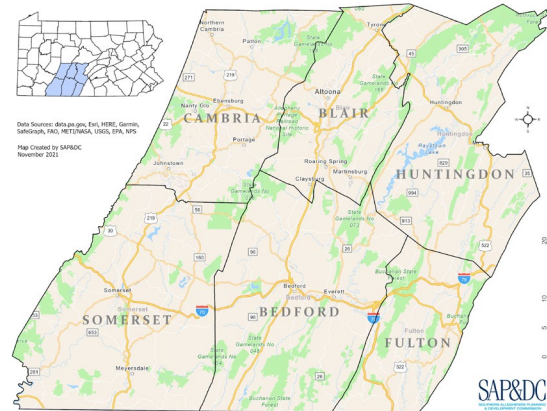


Southern Alleghenies RPO Overview

The Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAP&DC) is a non-profit, regional economic and community development organization serving Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon, and Somerset Counties and is designated as a Local Development District (LDD) that implements a Rural Transportation Work Program for the counties of Bedford, Fulton, Huntingdon, and Somerset. On April 2, 2003, an Intergovernmental Agreement was signed between the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and SAP&DC designating SAP&DC as a Regional Planning Organization (RPO).



SAP&DC has established a Rural Transportation Technical Committee (RTTC) and a Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee (RTCC) to develop and oversee the development of the region's Long Range Transportation Plan. The Technical Committee is responsible for the creation and analyses of transportation plans and programs, and makes recommendations to the Coordinating Committee. The Coordinating Committee establishes transportation policy and makes final decisions on courses of action. The Southern Alleghenies RPO Policies and Procedures, which includes committee membership, can be found in Appendix A.

Purpose

As a Rural Planning Organization, SAP&DC is responsible for developing a project specific 20-year-minimum plan referred to as the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). This plan is financially constrained and is a springboard for identifying and recommending projects for inclusion in the state's Twelve-Year Transportation Program and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is derived from the Long Range Plan and is a listing of federally funded projects to be completed during the first four-year period of the plan.

The Long Range Transportation Plan for the Southern Alleghenies RPO delineates how available and projected transportation funds will be spent over a 20-year period. The Long Range Plan serves the following purposes:

- outlines the "vision" of the future transportation picture through a series of goals and objectives,
- describes the transportation projects that make up the Plan,
- outlines a financial plan that describes the proposed source of funding and establishes a time frame for implementation,
- tests proposed projects to a level that can reasonably be expected to be let,
- describes how the plan will be updated and provides for new initiatives to be undertaken, and
- provides for inclusion of comments, concerns, and the vision of the general public.

Background

Plan Development

The Southern Alleghenies RPO 2022-2042 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) was developed with the guidance of a steering committee comprised of local, regional, and statewide stakeholders. These stakeholders included county planning directors, PennDOT staff, Southern Alleghenies RPO staff, and regional rail and freight representatives. The steering committee provided input and assistance in the day-to-day development of the plan. Stakeholders were also contacted to provide information on various transportation modes including existing assets, historic trends, and future implications. Southern Alleghenies Rural Transportation Technical Committee and Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee provided regular guidance and input in the overall plan development including vision, goals, and objectives and project selection.

Public Involvement

An extensive public involvement process, consistent with the Southern Alleghenies RPO Public Participation Plan, occurred over the development of the plan and prior to its adoption. During development of the plan, a series of listening sessions were held in each county to gather valuable input on the desired vision of the transportation network as well as to discuss any issues or projects that are important to the community. Additionally, an online and paper survey was conducted to gather input from the region. The input received at these meetings and via the survey was considered in developing the project list and the vision, goals, and objectives of the plan. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, county comprehensive plans, the FAST Act's ten planning factors, the Keystone Principles, and the PA On Track were also considered in developing the plans vision, goals, and objectives.

A public meeting was held to allow for comment on the draft plan during a 30-day public comment period. During this time, the plan was available for viewing at the four rural county planning commission offices, SAP&DC office, and PennDOT District 9-0, as well as at www.sapdc.org.

The public involvement process and comments received are detailed in Appendix J of this document.