

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

December 13, 2023

10:00 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 December 13, 2023, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the August 23, 2023, RTCC meeting minutes as presented.
2. Approved the TSMO project as submitted and if approved, commit the 20% match from Southern Alleghenies TIP.
3. Approved the Draft FY 2025-2028 TIP as presented.
4. Approved accepting the States PM1 2024 Safety Targets.
5. Elected Vince Greenland Chair and Commissioner Jeff Thomas Vice-Chair of the RTCC for the 2024 term.

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MEETING MINUTES

I. Welcome

The following members were present at the meeting:

- Commissioner Alan Frederick, Bedford County
- Commissioner Jeff Thomas, Huntingdon County
- Commissioner Colleen Dawson, Somerset County
- Mark Tobin, PennDOT Central Office
- Vince Greenland, PennDOT District 9
- Steve Howsare, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- Gene Porochniak, FHWA
- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office
- Ernest Cascino, PennDOT District 9
- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9
- Christy Shumac, PennDOT District 9
- Jaclyn Himmelwright, PennDOT District 9
- Michele Ivory, Senator Judy Ward's Office
- Lee Slusser, SAP&DC
- Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC
- Emily Osilka, SAP&DC
- Janice Streightiff, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- August 23, 2023 RTCC Meeting Minutes
- FFY 2023 – 2026 TIP Highway/Bridge Fiscal Constraint Chart
- SA RPO FFY 2023-2026 TIP Adjustments
- Draft FFY 2025 Southern Alleghenies TIP (a larger version was provided by PennDOT as a handout at the meeting)

- MPO/RPO Target Setting
- Planning Partners Safety Performance Measures Letter
- Southern Alleghenies Regional Greenways Mini-Grant Program Round 9.1 Projects
- RTTC & RTCC Committee Membership Lists
- Proposed 2024 Meeting Dates

II. Review and Approval of the August 23, 2023 RTCC Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Jeff Thomas called the meeting to order and Matthew Bjorkman conducted roll call. Commissioner Thomas congratulated Vince Greenland on his promotion to District Executive at PennDOT District 9. He then asked the committee to review the August 23, 2023, RTCC meeting minutes included in the meeting packet.

With no further discussion, Steve Howsare made a motion to approve the August 23, 2023, RTCC meeting minutes as presented. Alan Frederick seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. Southern Alleghenies RPO TSMO Application

Ernest Cascino, P.E., District Traffic Engineer for PennDOT District 9, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) program. The program's goal is to move people and goods as efficiently and safely as possible by addressing mobility and congestion issues. He gave some background on the program and reviewed the program strategies, match requirements, and eligibility requirements. The match for this round has been reduced from 50% to 20%. This is a highly competitive program, and an application was prepared for District 9 and submitted in August. The application contained one project in the Southern Alleghenies RPO. Awards have not yet been announced. PennDOT agreed to review the application with the committee at its next meeting and that is what this presentation is today. PennDOT does try to combine TSMO projects with other projects in the area when possible to make it more cost effective. If the project is awarded it will be placed on the Southern Alleghenies TIP and completed within two years. He also noted that the Regional Operations Plan (ROP) will be updated soon and the RPO will receive information on that update and be asked for input at that time.

He then reviewed the proposed project for the RPO. The project would place one Dynamic Message Sign in Bedford County on I-99 northbound 2.5 miles south of Exit 15 (King/Sproul). Maintenance on the sign will be managed by PennDOT. The total project cost is \$293,600 with TSMO providing \$234,880 and the 20% match (\$58,720) coming from the Southern Alleghenies TIP.

With no further discussion, Steve Howsare made a motion to approve the TSMO project as submitted and if approved, commit the 20% match from Southern Alleghenies TIP.

Commissioner Alan Fredrick seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. FY 2023-2026 TIP Administrative Actions

Anne Stich noted that the FY 2023-2026 TIP Administrative Actions were included in the meeting packet, none of which require approval. There were too many to go over all of them, but she informed the committee that if they have any questions about any of the actions to contact her and she will be happy to answer them. There was one project she and Vince wanted to review with them, the PA 403 project in Somerset County from US 219 to PA 985. Earlier this year during the Geotech work there was a mine void that released a tremendous amount of water down the hillside. This caused a landslide onto the CSX railroad tracks below requiring the railroad to be temporarily closed until it could be cleaned up. The railroad was only closed for three days and only missed three trips. PennDOT is currently working on permanent changes to handle the water. The cost of this is estimated at \$2.8M and was split between State 582 emergency maintenance funds and PROTECT funds, which are new and come from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to help communities build resilient infrastructure.

V. Draft 2025 – 2028 TIP Review

Vince gave a PowerPoint presentation showing the highlights of the Draft 2025 – 2028 TIP. He reviewed the condition of the Southern Alleghenies RPO bridge and highway assets noting the improvement from 2015 to now. He reviewed the TIP update priorities including carryover projects, a Transportation Asset Management Plan, a Strategic Highway Safety Plan, the Long Range Transportation Plan, County priorities, and other plans and studies. He reviewed the performance management safety measures, and select new projects noting that asset management is more critical than any plans and/or studies.

He reviewed the Transportation Performance Management set by FHWA on the national highway system. There are three performance measures that must be met. PM1 is regarding safety; PM 2 is regarding asset management (pavement and bridge conditions), and PM 3 is regarding system performance, freight, and congestion management and air-quality. He reviewed the targets and where the region stands on those targets. Those not on target were the older roads with more deterioration. More investment will need to be made in these corridors.

He reviewed the funding for all planning organizations in the PennDOT District 9 region. The increase is above the rate of inflation. The base financial guidance amount for the Southern Alleghenies RPO is \$220,083. Of that, \$170,943 will cover carryover projects leaving \$49,140 for new projects.

He reviewed the projects by county answering any questions the committee had.

Bedford County

US 30 – Scenic Road to SR 4010 – resurfacing – carryover project
US 30 – SR 4010 to SR 8014 – resurfacing – carryover project
US 30 Breezewood to Everett – resurfacing - carryover project
PA 26 over Ravers Run – bridge replacement - carryover project
PA 26 Riddlesburg to Saxton – resurfacing - carryover project
SR 4009 – Reconstruction of Concrete – resurfacing and reconstruction – new project

Fulton County

US 30 – Bedford County line to SR 4001 – resurfacing – new project
US 522 over Kendall’s Run – bridge replacement – new project
Fort Littleton Intersection Improvement – safety improvement – new project
US 522 – PA 655 to SR 1001 – resurfacing – new project

Huntingdon County

PA 26 - US 22 to Mountain Road – resurfacing – carryover project
PA 26 - Bedford County Line to Mountain Road – resurfacing - carryover project
PA 45 - Spruce Creek Bridge – bridge rehabilitation (possibly replacement) – new project
Shade Gap Intersection Safety Improvements – Safety Improvement – new project

Somerset County

US 30 – Westmoreland County line to PA 985 – resurfacing – new project
US 30 - SR 4010 to Somerset County line – resurfacing – new project
US 219 - Jennerstown to Cambria County line – resurfacing – carryover project
US 219 – US 30 to north Somerset – resurfacing and bridge improvements – carryover project
US 219 – Berlin/Somerset Interchange to Somerset Turnpike – resurfacing and bridge improvements – carryover project
US 219 – Meyersdale to Old Salisbury Road – Pre-Construction and Construction phases of realignment – carryover project
US 31 – Westmoreland County line to SR 3057 – resurfacing – new project
PA 601 – US 30 to US 219 – resurfacing – new project

Anne reviewed the more detailed version of the Draft FY 2025-2028 TIP that was provided at the meeting as a handout with the committee. She also reviewed how to read the sheets. A PDF version was emailed to the committee with links showing the project information and locations.

This is only the first approval; it is not final. The Draft FY 2025-2028 TIP will now go through a review process this spring as well as a public comment period. Final approval will take place this summer and the final FY 2025-2028 TIP will take effect October 1, 2024.

Vince thanked his staff for their hard work on the Draft FY 2025-2028 TIP. He also noted that this is Christy’s last meeting and wished her luck in her new position. Commissioner Jeff Thomas asked if PennDOT received Huntingdon County’s request to change the

priority order of a few bridges was received. Anne said the request was received and the change has been made. Each county got their top bridge priority. Bedford County applied for Multimodal funding for their two top priorities. They are waiting to see if either project is awarded before making their selection. Their bridge funding is currently in a line item until those awards are made. Bedford County also has a retroactive reimbursement. They have two structures that they funded together with their Act 13 funds. The bids came in higher than anticipated and they asked PennDOT if there was any funding available to help them fund the difference and there was some retroactive funding available. They will have to provide a 20% match and it will be a 80% reimbursement.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Colleen Dawson made a motion to approve the Draft FY 2025-2028 TIP as presented. Commissioner Alan Frederick seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

VI. PM-1 2024 Safety Targets

Matthew reviewed the safety targets with the committee noting that the RPO must either adopt the State's targets or draft more stringent targets of their own to adopt. Staff recommended adopting the statewide targets.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Alan Frederick made a motion to accept the States PM1 2024 Safety Targets. Steve Howsare seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Update

Matthew noted that staff is in the process of updating the UPWP. This will be a one-year update from July 2024 to June 2025 to get the UPWP updates off the TIP cycle. The UPWP is basically SAP&DC's work program for PennDOT funding. The update is almost completed, and once the financials are worked through, staff will send it to PennDOT District 9, PennDOT Central Office, and FHWA for review. The plan is expected to be fully adopted at the January meeting before being sent to PennDOT District 9, PennDOT Central Office, and FHWA for final approval. Once approved, he will send it out to the committee. It will go into effect July 1, 2024.

VIII. Southern Alleghenies Regional Greenways Mini-Grant Program

Matthew informed the committee that following Round 9 of the Southern Alleghenies Regional Greenways Mini-Grant Program there was \$52,000 remaining. Another supplemental round was held, and four applications were received. They were:

- Quemahoning Trails Phase III - \$ 30,000
- Shuster Way Heritage Trail North Extension \$19,945
- TOPP Trail Technical Assistance \$15,000

Jonathan Love Memorial Park Upgrades \$10,000

The Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) met on November 6, 2023, to review and rank the projects. The Quemahoning Trails Phase III (\$30,000), and the TOPP Trail Technical Assistance (\$15,000) were awarded for this supplemental round. He reviewed the projects with the committee. It was recommended that the other two projects reapply next round. Matthew plans to request that the remaining \$7,000 be rolled into Round 10, which has been awarded \$150,000. He added that if the committee knows of any qualifying projects between \$3,000 and \$30,000 to let them know about the program. Information on Round 10 will be released around the end of February or beginning of March.

IX. RTCC Composition – Election of Officers

Currently, the RTCC does not have a chair due to staffing changes at PennDOT. Matthew asked for nominations for Chair of the RTCC. Steve Howsare nominated Vince Greenland for Chair and Commissioner Jeff Thomas for Vice-Chair. There were no other nominations.

With no further discussion, Steve Howsare made a motion to elect Vince Greenland Chair and Commissioner Jeff Thomas Vice-Chair of the RTCC for the 2024 term. Commissioner Colleen Dawson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Matthew noted that he was elected Chair of the RTCC for the 2024 term and Lee Slusser was elected. Vice-Chair. Vince's position on the RTCC will remain vacant until a replacement is hired.

X. Other Business

ADA Coordinator

The SA RPO received word from the State that we need to have an ADA Coordinator. This used to be Debbie Shaffer, who retired in September. Jennifer Sklodowski, Director of the Southern Alleghenies Workforce Development Board, will now be the ADA Coordinator for the RPO. Her contact information will need to be posted on plans and meeting announcements for those with special needs. The information can be updated on current plans without doing an update. The plans will need to be presented to the committees so that everyone is aware of the change.

Riverview Business Center TIS

Matthew noted that SAP&DC and PennDOT staff have been in discussion with Huntingdon County, HCB&I, and businesses within the Riverview Business Park. There is going to be some expansion within the park as well as several open parcels and they are interested in an ARC Local Access Road (LAR) Grant. They will first need to do a traffic impact study (TIS). SAP&DC put out an RFP for the TIS and selected Trans Associates. An agreement has been executed to work has begun. The study should be complete by the

end of March. The findings can then be used to pursue an ARC LAR. The TIS was funded with SAP&DC UPWP funding.

2024 Meeting Schedule

Matthew reviewed the dates of the 2024 RTCC meeting with the committee.

Other Business

Commissioner Jeff Thomas noted that Commissioners Alan Frederick, Barry Dallara, and Colleen Dawson are retiring at the end of the year. He thanked them for their service to the RTCC and wished them all well.

XI. Adjournment

Commissioner Alan Frederick made a motion to adjourn at 11:05 AM. Commissioner Colleen Dawson seconded the motion.

NOTE: The next meeting of the RTCC is scheduled for January 24, 2024, at the SAP&DC beginning at 10:00 AM.

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ACTION ITEMS

Date Issued	Action Items	By Whom	Due Date
	There were no action items at the meeting.		