

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RURAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

December 6, 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 December 6, 2023, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the August 19, 2023, meeting minutes as presented.
2. Recommended approval to submit the TSMO application for the Southern Alleghenies RPO as presented and appropriate the funding if awarded.
3. Recommended approval of the Draft FY 2025-2028 TIP as presented.
4. Recommended adopting the State Safety targets for PM1, PM2, and PM3.
5. Elected Matthew Bjorkman Chair of the RTTC for 2024.
6. Elected Lee Slusser Vice-Chair of the RTTC for the 2024 term.

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MEETING MINUTES

I. Welcome

The following members were present at the meeting:

- Stephanie Clevestine, Bedford County Planning Commission
- Rick Suder, Bedford County Planning Commission
- Donald Hedge, Broad Top Township – Bedford County
- Tom McInroy, Bedford County Airport
- Justin Evans, Fulton County Planning Commission
- Laurie Nearhood, Huntingdon County Planning Commission
- Stu Neff, Warriors Mark Township - Huntingdon County
- Ron Rabena, Huntingdon County Rail Authority
- Brad Zearfoss, Somerset County Planning Commission
- Lindsay Baer, Somerset County
- Michael Villeneuve, Somerset County Transportation System
- Vince Greenland, PennDOT District 9
- Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9
- Christy Shumac, PennDOT District 9
- Jaclyn Himmelwright, PennDOT District 9
- Ernest Cascino, PennDOT District 9
- Jennifer Mearkle, Congressman John Joyce’s Office
- Lee Slusser, SAP&DC
- Emily Osilka, SAP&DC
- Janice Streightiff, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- August 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- SA RPO FY 2023 – 2026 TIP Adjustmnts and Fiscal Constraint Charts

- MPO/RPO Statewide Target Performance Measures Letter and Chart
- Southern Alleghenies Regional Greenways Mini-Grant Program Round 9.1 Projects
- Draft FY 2025 – 2028 TIP

II. Review and Approval of the August 19, 2023 RTTC Meeting Minutes

Vince Greenland welcomed the committee to the meeting and Matthew Bjorkman conducted roll call. Vince added that last week he was officially promoted to District Executive of PennDOT District 9. His goals include removing barriers that exist and staff retention and recruitment. His former position is currently being advertised and he expects the process of filling the position to take approximately two months.

Vince asked for a motion to approve the August 19, 2023, meeting minutes included in the meeting packet.

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

III. Southern Alleghenies 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. This is a highly competitive program and there is one application being prepared for the Southern Alleghenies RPO. 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 on I-99 northbound 2.5 miles south of Exit 15 (King/Sproul). The total project cost is \$293,600 with TSMO providing \$234,880 and the 20% match coming from the Southern Alleghenies TIP.

With no further discussion, Ron Rabena made a motion to recommend submitting the TSMO application for the RPO as presented and appropriate the funding if awarded. Stu Neff 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 did want 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 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 with the committee that was provided at the meeting as a handout. A PDF version was emailed to the committee with links showing the project locations.

Each county received its #1 local bridge priority. The RTCC will review and approve the Draft FY 2025-2028 TIP next week. This is only the first approval; it is not final. The Draft FY 2025-2028 TIP will then go through a review process 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.

With no further discussion, Ron Rabena made a motion to recommend approval of the Draft FY 2025-2028 TIP as presented. Justin Evans 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 put together more stringent targets of their own to adopt. He recommended adopting the statewide targets.

With no further discussion, Laurie Nearhood made a motion to recommend adopting the State safety targets. Stephanie Clevestine seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. UPWP Update

Matthew noted that staff are in the process of updating the UPWP. This will be a one-year update from July 2024 to June 2025 to get the UPWP cycle off the TIP cycle. The UPWP is basically a 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.

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 submitted. 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. He reviewed the projects with the committee answering any questions they had.

The Quemahoning Trails Phase III (\$30,000), and the TOPP Trail Technical Assistance (\$15,000) were awarded for this supplemental round. It was recommended that the other two projects reapply next round.

IX. RTTC Composition – Election of Officers

Vince noted that he will now be the District Executive representative on the RTCC. His replacement at PennDOT will replace him on the RTTC.

He opened the floor for nominations for RTTC Chair for 2024. Lee Slusser nominated Matthew Bjorkman for Chair. There were no other nominations.

With no further discussion Lee Slusser made a motion to elect Matthew Bjorkman as Chair of the RTTC for the 2024 term. Stu Neff seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

He then opened the floor for nominations for RTTC Vice-Chair. Ron Rabena nominated Lee Slusser. There were no other nominations.

With no further discussion, Laurie Nearhood made a motion to elect Lee Slusser as Vice-Chair of the RTTC for the 2024 term. Stephenie Clevestine seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

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 has now retired. Jennifer Sklodowski, SAWDB Director, will now be the ADA Coordinator. Her contact information needs to be included in plans and correspondence for notices, for anyone with special needs.

Riverview Business Park Transportation Impact Study

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 and selected Trans Associates. An agreement has been executed to begin work and the study should be complete by the end of March. The findings can then be used to pursue an ARC LAR. This will be funded with SAP&DC UPWP funding. Matthew will be the contact on the study. Nick Shaffer is contact for Trans Associates.

2024 Meeting Schedule

Matthew reviewed the 2024 meeting dates with the committee for the RTTC. The meeting dates for the RTTC for 2024 are: January 10th, April 10th, June 12th, and October 9th. He also reviewed the RTCC meeting dates with the committee. Matthew will send out the meeting schedule to the committee members following the meeting.

Other business

The committee acknowledged Laurie Nearhood as the new Huntingdon County Planning Director and welcomed her to the committee.

The committee congratulated Vince on his promotion.

XI. Adjournment

Vince wished everyone happy holidays and asked for a motion to adjourn.

Lee Slusser made a motion to adjourn at 10:45 AM. Stu Neff seconded the motion.

NOTE: The next meeting of the RTTC is scheduled for January 10, 2024, at the SAP&DC beginning at 9:00 AM.

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ACTION ITEMS

Action Items	By Whom	Due Date
Send out the 2024 RTTC meeting schedule to the committee members.	Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC	following the meeting