

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RURAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

January 10, 2024

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 January 10, 2024, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the December 6, 2023, RTTC meeting minutes as presented.
2. Recommended approval of the Draft FY 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) as presented.

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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
- Justin Evans, Fulton County Planning Commission
- Laurie Nearhood, 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
- Tony Molinari, HU-BE-FU Area Agency on Aging
- Michael Villeneuve, Somerset County Transportation System
- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office
- Vince Greenland, PennDOT District 9-0
- Lee Slusser, SAP&DC
- Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- Jim Pruss, PennDOT District 9-0
- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9-0
- Jaelyn Himmelwright, PennDOT District 9-0
- Zack Lee, SAP&DC
- Emily Osilka, SAP&DC
- Janice Streightiff, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- December 6, 2023 RTTC Meeting Minutes
- SA RPO FY 2023-2026 TIP Adjustments
- FY 2024-2025 UPWP
- 2024 RTTC & RTCC Meeting Schedule

II. Review and Approval of the December 6, 2023, RTTC Meeting Minutes

Matthew Bjorkman welcomed the committee to the meeting and conducted roll call. He asked the committee to review the December 6, 2023, RTTC meeting minutes included in the meeting packet.

With no further discussion, Stu Neff made a motion to approve the December 6, 2023, RTTC meeting minutes as presented. Ron Rabena seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. FY 2023-2026 TIP Administrative Actions

Anne Stich reviewed the administrative actions with the committee answering any questions they had. There were no actions requiring approval.

IV. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Update

Matthew reviewed the draft FY 2024-2025 UPWP update included in the meeting packet. This is a one-time one-year update to get it off the TIP update schedule. He noted that the update outlines the tasks and deliverables for SAP&DC for FY 2025, including LTAP and Complete Streets & Accessibility. Once approved, the Draft UPWP will start July 1, 2024. There have been slight edits since the committee last saw this. Plan updates for this time period include continuing to update the Transit Plan and beginning to update the Public Participation Plan (PPP) and Limited English Proficiency Plan (LEP). Once approved by the RTCC, the plan will be sent to PennDOT and FHWA for approval. The final draft will also be sent out to this committee at that time as well.

With no further discussion, Vince Greenland made a motion to recommend approval of the Draft FY 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) as presented. Lindsay Baer seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

V. Potential Southern Alleghenies Electric Vehicle Plan

Lee Slusser informed the committee that this request came from Chris Allison and Jacob Zerby with the Johnstown MPO. He gave an overview of the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula program (NEVI Formula). The program provides funding to states to strategically deploy EV charging infrastructure and to establish an interconnected network to facilitate data collection, access, and reliability. Under the formula, Pennsylvania will receive \$171.5 million over five years to create an EV charging network across the state. The first two years of program funding, totaling \$61.9 million, has been funded by FHWA and is currently available for the Pennsylvania NEVI grant program. PennDOT is currently in round 1A of the program, which focuses on high priority interchanges to satisfy the 50-mile interval requirement. This phase focuses on the interstates and leaves out Huntingdon and Cambria Counties. Non-interstate Alternative

Fuel Corridors (AFCs) along with any remaining gaps along AFC interstates will be funded in future rounds. The PA NEVI grant program is a reimbursement grant program and applicants are required to provide a minimum 20 percent match of the eligible costs from non-federal sources.

He reviewed the potential work program noting it is to convene and engage stakeholders, research EV ownership and origin-destination travel patterns, map existing charging stations, identify gaps by location and by charging station type, evaluate potential new locations for public charging stations, assess the relevant regulations for these sites, conduct a market demand analysis, determine where the necessary electrical infrastructure exists, prioritize the identified sites, develop estimated project budgets for each new site suitable for grant applications and operations evaluations, and develop implementation guidelines for each new site. The current data is very limited. Cambria and Huntingdon Counties don't have charging stations but have the need for them. Does the RPO want to explore the possibility of a joint RPO/MPO application for the next phase? Southern Alleghenies RPO could apply for special planning funds from PennDOT and explore match options if interested. Lee will contact Frank Hampton at Central Office to discuss the possibility.

VI. SAP&DC CEDS Update

Lee informed the committee that SAP&DC is required to update its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) this year. The CEDS is a masterplan for economic development in the Southern Alleghenies Region. He reviewed the CEDS requirements and what is typically included in the plan. SAP&DC staff will be reaching out to the committee members throughout the update for input.

VII. Other Business

Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Candidate Project Listing

Zachary Lee informed the committee that this is the third year for the candidate project listing. Staff has begun soliciting projects again for the listing. The listing is always open, projects can be solicited at any time. This year, staff also plan to work with project sponsors of projects currently on the list to assist them in further developing their projects.

ARC Local Access Road Program

Zachary reminded the committee that the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is a federal agency that covers the Southern Alleghenies Region. They offer a local access road program. The funds are federally designated but this program is up to the discretion of the State DCED office. This is 100% federal funding, no match is required. The program covers construction of an access road to developable acreage as well as improvements to an access road to a business or industrial park. SAP&DC has one project for this year, access road improvements to Riverview Business Park in Huntingdon County. A Transportation Improvements Study (TIS) is currently underway, and a Local Access Road application is expected to be submitted later this year. Please reach out to staff if you know of any additional projects. Vince added that a lot of local projects over the last several years

have been very successful. SAP&DC and PennDOT staff have worked well on these. Very successful program.

Sidewalk Inventory

Emily Osilka informed the committee that she has finished digitizing the sidewalks. She also recorded the material location and condition of the sidewalks from Google Earth. She is now reaching out to municipalities to research ordinances and see who owns the sidewalks and who is responsible for maintenance. If any of the counties want the layers, she can share them. Matthew added that if anyone knows of any ordinances in their county please let staff know. Vince added that PennDOT does not have funding for sidewalks. This plan will help with that. If someone has pedestrian needs and you have this information it will be helpful. Ordinance information will be included in the data layers.

Grant Workshop

SAP&DC is holding a Grant Workshop on February 5th in Huntingdon Borough. Speakers include PennVEST, DCED, PennDOT and possibly DCNR. ARC is sponsoring a federal grant workshop February 1st at the Blair County Convention Center. ARC staff, Senator Casey, and other LDD staff will be in attendance.

Other Business

Gene Porochniak from FHWA noted that they have just published a final rule adopting the 11th Edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways (MUTCD). This will go into effect on January 18th. This document is the book for the national standard for traffic control devices that are used on all public roads, bike paths, or private roads that are open to public travel. He will put a link to the information on the new edition of the document in the Chat for Matthew to share with the committee. He also noted that there are a few NOFOs closing soon including the FY 23/24 Bridge Investment Program for small bridge projects under \$100M – deadline February 19th, RAISE Grant applications also close February 28th. He will put the links for the general resources for discretionary grants, DOT Discretionary Grants dashboard, as well as the Bill launch path in the chat. Matthew will send those links out to the committee members.

Vince noted that this is his last RTTC meeting; his replacement should be hired by the next meeting.

VIII. Adjournment Item

Vince made a motion to adjourn at 9:42 AM.

<p><u>NOTE:</u> The next meeting of the RTTC is scheduled for April 10, 2024, at the SAP&DC beginning at 9:00 AM.</p>
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ACTION ITEMS

Action Items	By Whom	Due Date
Send the final draft FY 2025 UPWP to the committee members.	Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC	When completed
Contact Frank Hampton about applying for special planning funds to match potential EV NEVI Grant application.	Lee Slusser, SAP&DC	No date given
Send link to MUTCD, general resources for discretionary grants, DOT Discretionary Grants dashboard, as well as the Bill launch path to the committee members.	Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC	Following the meeting