

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

January 24, 2024

10:00 AM

SAP&DC

Altoona, PA

ACTION SUMMARY

The following are the major actions taken by the Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee (RTCC) at its regular meeting held on January 24, 2024, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the December 13, 2023, RTCC meeting minutes as presented.
2. Approved the Draft FY 2024-2025 UPWP as presented.

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MEETING MINUTES

I. Welcome

The following members were present at the meeting:

- Commissioner J. R. Winck, Bedford County
- Commissioner Hervey Hann, Fulton County
- Commissioner Jeff Thomas, Huntingdon County
- Commissioner Brian Fochtman, Somerset County
- Andrea Bahoric, PennDOT Central Office
- Vince Greenland, PennDOT District 9-0
- Steve Howsare, SAP&DC
- Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office
- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9-0
- Jaclyn Himmelwright, PennDOT District 9-0
- Dhruv Patel, PennDOT District 9
- Michele Ivory, Senator Judy Ward's Office
- Lee Slusser, SAP&DC
- Zachary Lee, SAP&DC
- Emily Osilka, SAP&DC
- Janice Streightiff, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- December 13, 2023 RTCC Meeting Minutes
- SA RPO FY 2023-2026 TIP Adjustments
- Draft FY 2024-2025 UPWP
- 2024 Meeting Schedule

II. Review and Approval of the December 13, 2023 RTCC Meeting Minutes

Vince Greenland called the meeting to order and introduced himself to the new board members. He asked everyone to introduce themselves. Matthew Bjorkman conducted roll call. Vince asked the committee to review the December 13, 2023, meeting minutes included in the meeting packet.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Jeff Thomas made a motion to approve the December 13, 2023, RTCC meeting minutes as presented. Steve Howsare seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. FY 2023-2026 TIP Administrative Actions

Anne Stich reviewed the TIP administrative actions sheets for the new committee members. PennDOT typically doesn't review all of the administrative actions but are always available to answer any questions the committee members have. She then reviewed a few of the administrative actions. She explained some of the things that can cause these administrative actions and the MOU that allows PennDOT to move ahead with minor actions and what makes it require a vote. Vince noted that anything new being put on the TIP or adjustments over \$2M must be approved.

IV. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Update

Matthew explained that the UPWP is the work program for SAP&DC staff and details the PennDOT funding. He reviewed the draft FY 2024-2025 UPWP update included in the meeting packet. This is a one-time one-year update to remove it from 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. 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 this committee, the UPWP will be sent to PennDOT and FHWA for approval.

He informed the committee that SAP&DC has five traffic counters that are available for special counts. He noted that we also have trail counters at several trails in the region. He reviewed the LTAP and noted that with the Complete Streets & Accessibility program, staff have been working on a sidewalk inventory.

There is a match requirement that comes from the counties for the UPWP funds. It is calculated on a base fee plus a percentage based on population. A bill is sent out every year. Matthew will send this information out to the committee members following the meeting so they can review it. This match is eligible to be paid out of liquid fuels funds.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Jeff Thomas made a motion to approve the Draft FY 2024-2025 UPWP as presented. Commissioner Hervey Hann 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 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. This funding would require match from the counties.

There is no vote required on this today. Lee just wanted to make the counties aware and get their input. There was some discussion on who would own the charging stations and be responsible for maintenance. PennDOT is currently working on an update that includes 36 charging stations.

VI. SAP&DC CEDS Update

Lee informed the committee that SAP&DC is required to update its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) every five years, with the next update being due 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, noting that the CEDS must be in place for the Region to apply for EDA funding. SAP&DC staff will be reaching out to the committee members for recommendations on stakeholders and input on the plan.

VII. Other Business

Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Candidate Project Listing

Matthew informed the committee that one of the plans that SAP&DC is responsible for is the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. In the last update, a candidate project listing was incorporated into the plan. Over the five-year life of the plan, the goal is to add projects by name that meet the spirit and goals of the plan so the applicant can use that when applying for funding. There are four categories in the list, initial, early developmental, advanced developmental and maintenance. Zachary Lee added that with this list, staff can work with the projects to help move them up the listing. The plan opens every six months for the addition of new projects. It will open again this spring in late February or early March for two months. This committee will be asked to approve the addition of any new projects. If you are aware of any projects, please let staff know.

ARC Local Access Road Program

Vince noted that this is a very successful program as it captures additional funds for projects across the Southern Alleghenies Region. SAP&DC staff have been very successful securing these grants through cooperation with PennDOT District 9 early in the process, which makes our projects look very favorable in the program. Zachary gave some background on ARC. SAP&DC receives administrative funding to work on these projects with the counties. The Local Access Road program (LAR) is 100% federally funded with no match required. SAP&DC staff provide assistance with applications for LAR and Local Development projects. These projects are approved by the SAP&DC Board of Directors in July, preapplications are submitted in August, and full applications in October or November, if invited. Typically, awards are in the spring. The Southern Alleghenies Region typically receives one to two awards a year. If you have any potential projects in mind, let staff know. Steve Howsare added that to give the committee some perspective on that success, ARC covers 52 to 67 counties in Pennsylvania. Up until the last few years, Pennsylvania received a \$3M allocation for the program. Our Region received \$1.5M in one year. Last year it was raised to \$5M and the Region received a project award of \$2.2M. Zachary agreed to send out a list of past projects to the committee.

Sidewalk Inventory

Emily Osilka informed the committee that the RPO received special funds for Complete Streets and Accessibility, and she conducted a sidewalk inventory. She is now working on ownership of the sidewalks and creating a record of who is responsible for maintenance. She is also checking to see what municipalities have sidewalk ordinances. Once completed, this data will be shared with the counties and PennDOT. This is a living inventory and will continue to change. Vince noted this will also identify potential gaps in sidewalks.

Vince asked for any additional other business. There was none.

VIII. Adjournment

Steve made a motion to adjourn at 11:00 AM. Frank Hampton seconded the motion.

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

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January 24, 2024**

ACTION ITEMS

Action Items	By Whom	Due Date
Send information on the UPWP match to the committee members.	Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC	Following the meeting
Sent a list of past LAR projects funded in the region.	Zachary Lee, SAP&DC	Following the meeting