

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RURAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

April 10, 2024

9:00 AM

SAP&DC

Altoona, PA

ACTION SUMMARY

The following are the major actions taken by the Rural Transportation Technical Committee (RTTC) at its regular meeting held on April 10, 2024, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the January 10, 2024, RTTC meeting minutes as presented.
2. Recommended releasing the FY 2025 – 2028 Draft Highway & Bridge TIP and the FY 2025 – 2028 Draft Transit TIP for a 30-day public comment period beginning May 1, 2024.
3. Recommended the two projects submitted in the RPO region to PennDOT for Multimodal funding be recommended by the RPO for funding.

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MEETING MINUTES

I. Welcome

The following members were present at the meeting:

- Rick Suder, Bedford County Planning Commission
- Tom McInroy, Bedford County Airport
- Justin Evans, Fulton County Planning Commission
- Stu Neff, Warriors Mark Township, Huntingdon County
- Ron Rabea, Huntingdon County Rail Authority
- Laurie Nearhood, Huntingdon County Planning Commission
- Chad Sines, Somerset County Planning Commission
- Anthony Molinari, Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton Area Agency on Aging
- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office
- Jim Pruss, PennDOT District 9-0
- Lee Slusser, SAP&DC
- Matt Bjorkman, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- Commissioner Brian Fochtman, Sommerset County
- Jaclyn Himmelwright, PennDOT District 9-0
- Anne Stich, 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
- RTTC January 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes
- FY 2023 – 2026 SA RPO TIP Adjustments
- FY 2023 – 2026 Fiscal Constraint Chart
- Draft SA RPO Highway and Bridge TIP
- Draft SA RPO Transit TIP

- MOU – Procedures for TIP Revisions
- EJ Maps
- PennDOT Letter on Declining CO2 Targets

II. Review and Approval of the January 10, 2024 RTTC Meeting Minutes

Matthew Bjorkman welcomed the committee to the meeting and conducted roll call. He congratulated Jim Pruss on his promotion to Asst. District Executive of Design at PennDOT District 9-0 and welcomed him to the committee.

He asked the committee to review the January 10, 2024, RTTC meeting minutes included in the packet.

With no further discussion, Stu Neff made a motion to approve the January 10, 2024, RTTC meeting minutes as presented. Ron Rabena seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. FY 2023 – 2026 TIP Modifications and Amendments

Anne Stich noted that at the last meeting, she reviewed how to read the SA RPO TIP Adjustments Spreadsheets with the committee. All modifications in the packet are administrative actions and do not require approval. If anyone has any questions, feel free to reach out to her.

IV. FY 2025 – 2028 Draft TIP

Matthew noted that PennDOT has been working on putting together the FY 2025 – 2028 Draft TIP. The public comment period begins May 1, 2024, through May 31, 2024. Hardcopies of the FY 2025 – 2028 Draft TIP will be distributed to the four counties and PennDOT District 9-0 before that date. The Draft Highway and Bridge narrative as well as the Draft Transit Narrative TIPS were included in today's meeting packet.

He reviewed the Memorandum of Understand (MOU) with the committee, which outlines the requirements of what actions need approval. Currently, the limit for administrative actions is set at \$2M. The RPO can lower this threshold or keep it the same. This is for federal funds or if it affects air quality. Frank added that you can make it more stringent but not less. The committee agreed to recommend keeping the \$2M threshold.

Matthew reviewed the Environmental Justice maps included in the packet. The maps are based on the minority and poverty thresholds in the RPO region.

With no further discussion Frank Hampton made a motion to release the FY 2025 – 2028 Draft Highway & Bridge TIP and the FY 2025 – 2028 Draft Transit TIP for a 30-day public comment period. Rick Suder seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

V. FY 2027 – 2030 TIP

Matthew informed the committee that as we wrap up the FY 2025 – 2028 TIP, it is time to begin the FY 2027 – 2030 TIP. Typically, the counties send project forms out to their municipalities for them to submit projects. Two years ago, SAP&DC staff made an online submission form for this as well to try and increase responses and make record keeping and sharing information easier. The RPO plans to do that again for this TIP. Staff have modified the survey for the 2027 outreach and will share it with the counties with a QR code to access the survey. Due to the nature of the region, 100% digital is not recommended. Staff will review and share the submissions with the appropriate county. Paper forms can be entered in the system when received. The soft deadline to submit projects is late summer or early fall. The county priority project lists are due to PennDOT by the end of the calendar year. There was some discussion about local bridge assessment. PennDOT reminded them that risk scores can still be used as a tool for selecting bridges, but it can't be the only tool.

VI. Greenhouse Gas Target Setting

The RPO received a letter from PennDOT asking the RPO to approve/disapprove the Greenhouse Gas target settings. The RPO received a second letter last week requesting this be put on hold as there is currently a lawsuit pending.

VII. PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund Comments

PennDOT has received the applications for this round of its Multimodal Transportation Fund. The RPO's role is to provide comments on the projects submitted. Staff were unable to download the applications as in the past. Matthew reviewed the two projects with the committee answering any questions they had. The projects included: Southampton Township, Bedford County – Flintstone Creek Road Bridge Rehab project; and Huntingdon Borough, Huntingdon County – Moore Street and Cold Springs Road Reconfiguration and Connectivity project. Staff highly recommends both of these projects.

With no further discussion, Ron Rabena made a motion to recommend approval of the two projects submitted in the RPO region to PennDOT for Multimodal funding. Stu Neff seconded the motion. The motion was approved with ten votes to approve. PennDOT abstained from the vote.

The comments are due by the end of May. Matthew will send the RPOs comments following the RTCC meeting at the end of the month. PennDOT submits their own comments, which are due on Friday.

VIII. Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Candidate Project Listing

Zack Lee reminded the committee that he will be requesting projects for the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Candidate Project Listing in the near future. The projects must be bicycle and pedestrian related and will be placed in one of four categories: initial development, early development, advanced development, and ongoing maintenance. Matthew will send out information asking for submissions through May.

IX. Other Business

Southern Alleghenies Regional Greenways Mini-Grant Program

Matthew informed the committee that Round 10 of the Southern Alleghenies Regional Greenways Mini-Grants program is now open. SAP&DC received \$150,000 for this round. Projects can range from \$3,000 to \$30,000 and can be submitted through May 31st. Grant guidelines and instructions on how to apply can be found on the SAP&DC website. Awards are expected to be announced in August.

Jim Pruss noted the local road closures due to the amount of rain recently in the region, specifically, one in Huntingdon County on Route 103 from a road slide. PennDOT is working as quickly as possible to implement a repair strategy. They have applied for Federal Protect funds and if any kind of Federal funding is approved, they will need approval from the RTCC via e-memo vote. A quick turn around on that vote would be appreciated. He just wanted to make the committee aware.

Tom McInroy added that there has been a lot of talk about the turnpike and Breezewood/Bedford Interchange going away. Is it this group's responsibility to try and complete I-99 down to Maryland? He referred to a \$1.3B grant received just south of Cumberland and wondered if it would be economically feasible to have I-99 run from New York to Maryland. It would definitely benefit Bedford County. Jim Pruss added that this would require special funding as the normal allocation for the Southern Alleghenies RPO would not cover the cost. There would also have to be a plan in place to pay for it before beginning the project.

X. Adjournment

Stu Neff made a motion to adjourn at 9:41 AM.

<p>NOTE: The next meeting of the RTTC is scheduled for June 16, 2024, at the SAP&DC beginning at 9:00 AM.</p>
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ACTION ITEMS

Action Items	By Whom	Due Date
Send out information asking for submissions of projects for the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Candidate Project Listing through May.	Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC	No Date Given
Send the survey for the 2027 outreach with a QR code to the RPO Counties.	Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC	Following the meeting