

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**RURAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**June 12, 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 June 12, 2024, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the April 10, 2024, RTTC meeting minutes as presented.
2. Recommended approval of the FY 2025 – 2028 Draft TIP as presented.

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**City, State**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**I. Welcome**

The following members were present at the meeting:

- Stephanie Clevenstine, Bedford County Planning Commission
- Don Hedge, Broad Top Township, Bedford County
- Justin Evans, Fulton County Planning Commission
- Julie Dovey, Fulton County Family Partnership, Inc.
- Laurie Nearhood, Huntingdon County Planning Commission
- Anthony Molinari, Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton Area Agency on Aging
- Stewart Neff, Warriors Mark Township, Huntingdon County
- Ron Rabena, Huntingdon County Rail Authority
- Chadd Sines, Somerset County Planning Commission
- Michael Villeneuve, Somerset County Transportation Services (Tableland)
- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office (first half of meeting)
- Dean Roberts, PennDOT Central Office (alternate second half of meeting)
- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9 (Alternate)
- Lee Slusser, SAP&DC
- Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- Brian K. Fochtman, Somerset County Commissioner
- Jaclyn Himmelwright, PennDOT District 9
- Janice Streightiff, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- April 10, 2024 RTTC Meeting Minutes
- RTTC Committee Membership List
- SA RPO FFY 2023-2026 TIP Adjustments
- FFY 2023 – 2026 TIP Highway & Bridge Fiscal Constraint Charts

- Draft FY 2025 – 2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Public Comment Summary

## **II. Review and Approval of the April 10, 2024 RTTC Meeting Minutes**

Matthew Bjorkman welcomed the committee to the meeting and took roll call. He asked the committee to review the April 10, 2024, meeting minutes included in the meeting packet.

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

## **III. RTTC Committee Composition**

Matthew informed the committee that Lindsay Baer, who was the non-motorized transportation representative on the committee, has taken a position with DCNR. This position on the committee will need to be filled. He asked for recommendations from the committee to the RTCC for a replacement. He would like the representative to come from Somerset County to keep the county representation on the committee the same. He will also be getting input from the RTCC. If anyone has any suggestions let him know. The position will need to be filled by the end of the year. Anne Stich suggested Matt Price from Huntingdon County CVB as he is involved in the Huntingdon County Active Transportation Committee. Chadd Sines recommended Kathy Beal who replaced Lindsay Baer at Somerset County. Anne asked what the terms are in the By Laws. Matthew said he believes it is two years. Lee also noted that the SAP&DC needs someone from Somerset County on the CEDS Committee.

## **IV. FY 2023 – 2026 TIP Modifications and Amendments**

Anne noted that the FY 2023 – 2026 TIP modifications since the last meeting were included in the meeting packet. Also included were the memo votes to add Federal Protect funds for two slide projects that came up since the last meeting. She briefly reviewed the slide amendments with the committee answering any questions they had. One was for the PA 103 slide and the other was on PA 601 outside of Holsopple. She noted that if anyone has any questions on the modifications to please let her know.

There was one amendment that is not included in the packet that the RTCC will be voting on at their upcoming meeting. On Rt. 219 in Somerset County the new section between Meyersdale and Salisbury Road, PennDOT plans to move \$3.5M from the final design phase into the preliminary engineering phase. There is currently \$10M obligated for that phase. Final design can't move forward until the environmental review is completed. These are Federal Appalachian Development Highway System Funds and are not part of the TIP

base allocation. These funds have a limited scope of what corridors they can be used for. PennDOT did not have time to prepare a handout for today but wanted the committee to be aware. Let Anne know if anyone has any questions.

## **V. FY 2025 – 2028 Draft TIP**

Matthew informed the committee that the 30-day public comment period for the FY 2025 – 2028 Draft TIP was just completed. The only comments received were at the public meetings and were addressed at those meetings. A public comment summary was included in the meeting packet. He is asking the committee to recommend approval of the FY 2025 – 2028 Draft TIP to the RTCC.

With no further discussion, Mike Villeneuve made a motion to recommend approval of the FY 2025 – 2028 Draft TIP as presented. Stephanie Clevenstine seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Matthew thanked PennDOT staff for all the hard work they put into the Draft TIP.

## **VI. Other Business**

### TA Set-Asides Awards

Matthew recapped the three TA Set Aside Awards in the RPO, which included our top ranked project. Broad Top Township received \$429,924 to construct the final trail extension of approximately one mile in length. The extension will be 50 feet wide with a ten-foot-wide trail base from H&BT Rail Trail at "Red Cut" and continuing north to the Township line and creating a tie-in to Warriors Path State Park in Saxton, Pa, Liberty Township. Alexandria Borough Council received \$1,022,897 to install traffic calming improvements on Main Street in Alexandria Borough to address the critical safety issues. Juniata College received \$998,000 to install 5-foot-wide concrete sidewalks on 17th Street, Scott Street, Oneida Street, and 16th Street. The scope of work will also feature installation of ADA-compliant curb ramps with detectable warning surfaces and crosswalks. The region received just under \$2.5M. PennDOT has scheduled kick off meetings for these projects at the end of this month or early July.

Don Hedge gave an update on the Broad Top Township TA Set-Aside project. The engineering has been completed and the Kick-Off meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2024. They are also working closely with DCNR as the last phase is connecting to a State Park.

Matthew informed the committee that the SAP&DC has released an RFP for the Saxton Trail Connectivity Study. SAP&DC received a \$45,000 DCNR grant last year to fund the study. Staff hope to have a consultant approved at the July Board meeting and start the project this summer. Matthew also noted that he may reach out to members of this committee to participate in the steering committee for this project. The project will be Bedford and Huntingdon County focused.

Bedford County just started their Trail Master Connectivity Study. They also have a Peer Grant and hope to hire a circuit rider after the study to work on connecting the trails. Matthew and Stephanie can share trail and sidewalk data. Somerset County expressed interest in linking their trails with Bedford County trails.

Lee Slusser added that SAP&DC is updating its greenway plan next year. There was some discussion about identifying trail gaps. Matthew informed Commissioner Fochtman that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan approved in 2021 is available on our website and contains a section on what was considered the highest priority trail gaps at the time. Matthew will send him the plan.

#### ARC Local Access Road Projects

Matthew reminded the committee that the deadline to submit ARC Local Access Road projects for funding is in August. There is one project that staff are working on at the Huntingdon County Business Park. If anyone knows of any potential project, please let staff know. Anne asked for the status of the TIS at Riverview Business Park. Matthew responded that the TIS was completed and approved on May 31, 2024, and they have almost completed the design phase that will be used for the ARC LAR application.

Ron Rabena asked Anne if she knew what they plan to do about the rock slide on Rt. 829. Anne responded that it is outside of the scope of what the county maintenance department can do so they have approval to extend the limits on the 522 project. This will allow the contractor for that project to do the work on the rockslide as well. Anne was not sure of the timeframe and did not know any details on the design.

## **VII. Adjournment**

Don Hedge made a motion to adjourn at 9:30 AM.

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

<b>Action Items</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Send Commissioner Fochtman the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.	Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC	Following the meeting.