

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

**October 23, 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 October 23, 2024, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the June 26, 2024, meeting minutes as presented.
2. Appointed Cathie Beal, the Somerset County Parks and Trails Director in Somerset County, the non-motorized transportation representative and reappointed Anthony Molinari the Public Transportation Representative, Dr. Thomas McInroy the Aviation Representative, Ronald Rabena the Rail Representative, and Jeff Eisaman the Ex-Officio – Freight Representative for a two-year term on the Rural Transportation Technical Committee.
3. Retained Vince Greenland as Chair and Commissioner Jeff Thomas as Vice Chair of the RTCC for the 2025 term.
4. Approved Matthew Bjorkman as Chair and Lee Slusser as Vice Chair of the RTCC for the 2025 term.

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**MEETING MINUTES**

**I. Welcome**

The following members were present at the meeting:

- Commissioner J. R. Winck, Bedford County
- Commissioner Randy Bunch, Fulton County (alternate)
- Commissioner Scott Walls, Huntingdon County (alternate)
- Andrea Bahoric, PennDOT Central Office
- Vince Greenland, PennDOT District 9-0
- Steve Howsare, SAP&DC
- Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC (RTTC Chair)

Others in attendance included:

- Kenana Zejcirovic, FHWA
- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office
- Jim Pruss, PennDOT District 9-0
- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9-0
- Jaclyn Himmelwright, PennDOT District 9-0
- Lee Slusser, SAP&DC
- Tyler Schurr, SAP&DC
- Janice Streightiff, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- June 26, 2024, RTCC Meeting Minutes
- SA RPO FFY 2023 – 2026 TIP Adjustments
- FFY 2023 – 2026 TIP Highway/Bridge Fiscal Constraint Chart
- RTTC Membership List
- RTCC Membership List
- UPWP and Statewide Planning and Research (SPR) Work Program Development Timeline
- Scope of Work to update *Connections in Our Landscape: The Southern Alleghenies Greenways and Open Space Network Plan*.

## **II. Review and Approval of the June 26, 2024, RTCC Meeting Minutes**

Vince Greenland welcomed the committee to the meeting and Matthew Bjorkman conducted roll call. Vince then asked the committee to review the June 26, 2024, RTCC meeting minutes included in the meeting packet.

With no further discussion, Commissioner J. R. Winck made a motion to approve the June 26, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. Matthew Bjorkman seconded the motion. Commissioner Scott Walls abstained as he was not at that meeting. The motion was approved with six yes votes and one abstain.

## **III. FY 2023-2026 TIP Modifications**

Jaelyn Himmelwright reviewed the FY 2023-2026 TIP modifications with the committee noting that these are the actions taken since the last meeting. The multimodal funds are listed here but are not but are not part of the TIP funding. There were three projects, the Middle Taylor Township Paving Project, the Hammer Road Bridge Project, and the Juniata Gap Lighting Project.

Anne Stich reminded the committee that every year at end of the fiscal year, there is a redistribution to make sure that District 9 is using all of its obligation authority. They can also request authority not used by other regions and States. This year Pennsylvania received an extra \$400M in obligation authority not used by other states. The Southern Alleghenies RPO share of this is on a line item on the chart on page 30 of the meeting packet. Sometimes they will take a project that is being funded over two years and fully fund it in one year. She reviewed the PA – 31 Barn Swallow Road to the Somerset Borough Line project as an example. These projects do not require a vote but were included for the committee's information. There are other projects that will need to be carried to the 2025 TIP that will require a vote and will be covered in upcoming memo votes.

## **IV. FY 2025-2028 TIP Modifications**

Anne noted that there are not any modifications at this time for the FY 2025-2028 TIP modifications as they are still working on them. Any actions requiring a vote will be conducted via memo vote.

## **V. FY 2027-2029 TIP**

Matthew introduced Tyler Schurr, the new Transportation Planner, who started in July and is attending his first RTCC meeting. He noted that the RPO is a few months into the county solicitation process for new projects. Matthew is currently sending the counties their submissions from the last two years. He reviewed the solicitation process for the new commissioners noting that the county priorities need to be submitted to PennDOT by the

end of January. The local bridge subcommittee will look at the list of bridges and make recommendations for what bridges should be placed on the TIP and determine the source of the match. Vince offered to come to the county offices to discuss the process with anyone who wanted. Anne noted that the county priorities are approved by the Board of Commissioners before being submitted to PennDOT. Matt added that the RPO staff will also send out a project solicitation mailing and email. They also solicit for projects when attending the Township Officials Conventions in the RPO.

## **VI. 2025 RTTC Composition**

The RTTC membership is currently at the end of its two-year term. Matthew reviewed the makeup of the committee. Municipal and at-large representatives are determined by the County Commissioners. He recommended that Fulton and Somerset County select a new municipal representative for the next two-year term. There is currently a vacancy for the non-motorized transportation representative. At the previous meeting, Commissioner Fochtman recommended Cathie Beal, Somerset County Parks and Trails Director.

With no further discussion, Matthew Bjorkman made a motion to appoint Cathie Beal, the Somerset County Parks and Trails Director in Somerset County, the non-motorized transportation representative and to reappoint Anthony Molinari the Public Transportation Representative, Dr. Thomas McInroy the Aviation Representative, Ronald Rabena the Rail Representative, and Jeff Eisaman the Ex-Officio – Freight Representative for a two-year term on the Rural Transportation Technical Committee. Commissioner Randy Bunch seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

At the recent RTTC meeting, Matthew Bjorkman and Lee Slusser were reelected as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively for the 2025 term. The current chair of the RTCC is Vince Greenland and the Vice Chair is Commissioner Jeff Thomas. Vince opened nominations for the election of officers for the 2025 term.

With no further discussion, Steve Howsare made a motion to retain Vince Greenland as Chair and Commissioner Jeff Thomas as Vice Chair of the RTCC for the 2025 term. Commissioner Scott Walls seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously,

With no further discussion, Commissioner J. R. Winck made a motion to approve Matthew Bjorkman as Chair and Lee Slusser as Vice Chair of the RTTC for the 2025 term. Commissioner Randy Bunch seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Matthew reviewed tentative dates for the 2025 RTTC and RTCC meetings. He asked the committee to review the dates and let him know if there are any conflicts.

## **VII. FY 2025-2027 UPWP**

Matthew informed the committee that staff is currently developing the FY 2025 – 2027 UPWP. The UPWP is basically the services SAP&DC provides and our role in these committees. Matthew reviewed the development schedule with the committee. There is a 45-day review period for PennDOT District 9, PennDOT Central Office, FHWA, and FTA to review and submit their comments. The final UPWP must be submitted to PennDOT by January 31<sup>st</sup> so a memo vote by the RTCC will be required.

Another part of the UPWP is match for the federal and state funds. Federal funds require state and/or local match. The way this has been calculated in the past is by starting with an equal share of the base match and then the remaining match is population-based contributions. The amounts are slightly more than last year due to the increase in funding. This will be approved with the final UPWP to give the County Commissioners time to discuss with the rest of their Board of Commissioners. This is for FY 2025 – 2026, not this year. Matthew will send the table out to the committee members.

## **VIII. Other Business**

### Greenways Plan Update

Lee Slusser informed the committee that the Southern Alleghenies Greenways and Open Space Network Plan, “Connections in Our Landscape” was created in 2007 and needs to be updated. Tyler put together a scope of work and staff got a few cost estimates. DCNR made a presentation to the SAP&DC Board of Directors on the need for the update in July and staff presented funding options to them in September. Before applying to DCNR for funding, match needs to be secured. Options such as local funds or other grant applications are currently being considered. Some of the counties recommended updating the Regional Comprehensive Plan, “Alleghenies Ahead”, at the same time as it is also due to be updated. Only five counties are interested in the regional comprehensive plan; Somerset County will be doing their own. DCED is on board for both updates, but DCNR has some reservations. The pricing for the Greenways Plan was approximately \$100,000 to \$300,000. The combined plan will be higher. The DCNR grant will require a 50% match. This requires no action and is just provided for the committees’ information.

### SMART Grant Update

Matthew reminded the committee that SAP&DC received a grant from US DOT through their Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program for autonomous drone delivery. This is the second year of the program, which will deliver lifesaving drugs or equipment such as blood, Narcan, or a defibrillator before first responders arrive. This is Phase I of the pilot program. SAP&DC currently has an agreement with US DOT and staff are developing an RFP for Cambria and Somerset Counties. Matthew will continue to provide updates on the Program to the committee.

### PennDOT Multimodal Grant Round Open

Matthew just wanted to remind the committee that the current PennDOT Multimodal Grant cycle closes November 5<sup>th</sup>. If you know of any potential project sponsors, please let them know as the deadline is quickly approaching. Commissioner J. R. Winck asked for information on the PennDOT Multimodal Grant Program. Matthew will send the information to the committee members.

### Other Business

Someone asked what the notification process is for a state road with major issue. Vince replied that they can talk to him or Jim Pruss with any concern or question via phone or email. Projects that are not emergencies can be submitted as part of the County priorities via the process discussed earlier for possible inclusion on the TIP. The first step is to inform PennDOT of the issue. If possible, they will handle it with their maintenance department. If more serious they can handle it from a capital standpoint. Vince asked what the issue was and where it was located. Just off old Route 126 just before Crystal Springs on the right there is a fairly busy road that is caving in creating a hazard. Motorists are going into the other lane to avoid the drop. Vince will have Jim Pruss contact him to get more details and they will go an look at it. He will check with the county maintenance office as well to make sure they are aware.

## **IX. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner J. R. Winck at 10:48 AM.

<p><b><u>NOTE:</u></b> The next meeting of the RTCC is scheduled for February 19, 2025, at the SAP&amp;DC beginning at 10:00 AM.</p>
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**RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

**October 23, 2024**

**ACTION ITEMS**

<b>Action Items</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Send the UPWP match table out to the RPO counties.	Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC	Following the meeting
Send information on the PennDOT Multimodal Grant Program to the committee members.	Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC	Following the meeting