

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RURAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

February 5, 2025

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 February 5, 2025, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the October 9, 2024, meeting minutes as presented.
2. Recommended approval of the amendments on the Interchange Lighting Project, US 219 Jennerstown to the Cambria County Line Project, and PA 56 Reynoldsdale Road to Red Oak Road Project to the RTCC as presented.
3. Recommend the adoption of the PM1 Statewide Target Performance Measures to the RTCC as presented.
4. Recommend the RTCC release the Title VI Compliance and Implementation Plan for a 45-day public comment period.

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MEETING MINUTES

I. Welcome

The following members were present at the meeting:

- Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC
- Stephanie Clevestine, Bedford County Planning Commission
- Rick Suder, Bedford County Planning Commission
- Tom McIlroy, Bedford County Airport
- Donald Hedge, Broad Top Township, Bedford County
- Laurie Nearhoof, Huntingdon County Planning Commission
- Debra Clark, Huntingdon County Business & Industry
- Anthony Molinari, Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton Area Agency on Aging
- Ronald Rabena, Huntingdon County Rail Authority
- Cathy Beal, Somerset County Parks & Trails
- Michael Villeneuve, Somerset County Transportation System
- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office
- Jim Pruss, PennDOT District 9-0
- Lee Slusser, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- Michele Ivory, Senator Judy Ward's Office
- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9-0
- Jaclyn Himmelwright, PennDOT District 9-0
- Tyler Schurr, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- October 9, 2024 RTTC Meeting Minutes
- SA RPO FY 2025 – 2028 TIP Adjustments
- FY 2025 – 2028 TIP Highway & Bridge Fiscal Constraint Chart
- MPO/RPO Performance Measures Target Settings
- FY 2025 – 2027 UPWP

II. Review and Approval of the October 9, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Matthew Bjorkman called the meeting to order and conducted roll call. He asked the committee to review the October 9, 2024, meeting minutes included in the meeting packet.

With no further discussion, Ron Rabena made a motion to approve the October 9, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. Frank Hampton seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. FY 2025 – 2028 TIP Modifications and Amendments

Anne Stich reviewed the highlights of the modifications made since the last meeting, noting that these are the adjustments made to match cost estimates and the addition of the Multimodal and Transportation Alternative Set Aside project awards that were added to the TIP.

Jaelyn reviewed the amendments answering any questions the Committee had. The first one was the Southern Alleghenies Interchange Lighting project. The construction phase was added using \$1,760,000 in Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funds from the FFY 2025 – 2026 SA CRP line item. The project let date is October 9, 2025. There are three locations, two in Bedford County at the Cessna and Turnpike interchanges of I-99 and one in Somerset County at SR 219 and the Jerome Interchange.

The second one is a resurfacing project along with a few other repairs on Route 219 in Jennerstown, Cambria County. The amendment is to move \$2.2M in National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) Federal Funds from the reserve line item onto the project. The project will be let as a design build project, meaning that the design cost will be incorporated into the construction phase creating the increase. The construction phase of the project is currently estimated at \$18,614,063. The let date is July 10, 2025.

The third project was let in September of last year and was programed on the 2023 TIP. The 2025 TIP began in October and there were some additional funds on the project that were not converted to regular federal authority and will need to be added now. The project is the PA 56 Reynoldsdale Road to Red Oak Road in Bedford County; and \$2,222,748 in NHPP funding from the SA Line Item is being added to the project. The project also included another contract on PA 56 from PA 96 to Staterock 4032 for a total of approximately \$4.5M.

With no further discussion, Donald Hedge made a motion to recommend approval of the amendments on the Interchange Lighting Project, US 219 Jennerstown to the Cambria County Line Project, and PA 56 Reynoldsdale Road to Red Oak Road Project to the RTCC as presented. Rick Suder seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. FY 2027 – 2030 TIP

Matthew reminded the committee that at the last meeting, county priorities were discussed. He has received Bedford and Huntingdon Counties priorities to date. Fulton County currently does not have a County Planner. Matthew has spoken with the Fulton County Commissioners and will follow up with them to get their priorities. He will also reach out to Somerset County. Following submission of the priorities, the Local Bridge Subcommittee meeting will be scheduled to discuss the bridge projects. Target date for that meeting is sometime in April.

V. Transportation Performance Measures

The PM1 targets were included in the meeting packet. As in the past, the RPO needs to either adopt the statewide targets or make its own, which must be more stringent than the statewide targets and the RPO would need to demonstrate why it set those targets. In the past, the committee has elected to adopt the statewide targets. The two MPOs in the region have also adopted the statewide targets.

With no further discussion, Matthew Bjorkman made a motion to recommend the adoption of the PM1 Statewide Target Performance Measures to the RTCC as presented. Ron Rabena seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

PM2 & PM3 do not require a vote but they were provided in the packet for the committee's review.

VI. Title VI Compliance and Implementation Plan

Tyler Schurr, the Transportation Planner, has been working on putting this plan together. SAP&DC has a Title VI Compliance Plan, but PennDOT requested one be drafted that is specific to transportation. This document is not just the Title VI policy and procedures but also includes the Public Participation Plan (PPP) and the Limited English Proficiency Plan (LEP). They are listed as Appendices 5 & 6. Matthew asked the committee to review the plan today and then recommend to the RTCC it be put out for a 45-day public comment period.

Tyler reviewed the document with the committee answering any questions they had. He noted the documents were combined following PennDOT and Federal guidelines. He does plan to add a section on disadvantaged business enterprise. Matthew reviewed some of the PPP guidelines, which have not been updated since 2020.

Frank Hampton noted that the Trump Administration has completed several Executive Orders including Justice 40 and Executive 12898, which have revoked Environmental Justice (EJ). FHWA is working on an official response to this and PennDOT is looking into it as well. You can continue as normal if you would like until there is formal paperwork telling you to do otherwise. Kenana Zejdovic added that FHWA is still waiting for

guidance from US DOT and FHWA on the Executive Orders, but feel free to reach out to her with any questions.

With no further discussion, Donald Hedge made a motion to recommend the RTCC release the Title VI Compliance and Implementation Plan for a 45-day public comment period. Tom McInroy seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. Other Business

FY 2025-2027 UPWP Submission

Matthew informed the committee that the FY 2025-2027 UPWP was approved by the RTCC via e-memo vote in January.

SMART Grant Update

Matthew reminded the committee that this is the automated drone delivery service of medical supplies in Cambria County. SAP&DC has begun working with the contractor and are working with US DOT on the payments. Staff will keep this committee updated on the project's progress.

Committee Update

Matthew welcomed Cathy Beal who is the new Director of Parks and Trails in Somerset County. She is also the new Non-Motorized Transportation Representative on the RTTC. Cathy gave the committee a brief overview of her history.

Other Business

Michele Ivory from Senator Judy Ward's office informed the committee that they just started a new two-year State Legislative Session and Senator Ward has received her committee assignments. She will be chairing the Senate Transportation Committee. Nolan Ritchie, who has been running that committee for many years, has joined their staff in Harrisburg to provide that expertise. They are very excited about this opportunity and if the RPO needs any assistance, the staff will be happy to help.

Stephanie Clevestine was contacted by Everett Borough about the Waterstreet Bridge Project that was on the FY 2025 TIP. They wanted to know if there was anything they needed to do as they hadn't heard anything. Anne responded that the project is being done as a retroactive reimbursement. Someone should have been assigned as the project manager. PennDOT will have someone reach out to the Borough.

VIII. Adjournment

Frank Hampton made a motion to adjourn at 9:35 AM.

<p>NOTE: The next meeting of the RTTC is scheduled for May 7, 2025, at the SAP&DC beginning at 9:00 AM.</p>
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ACTION ITEMS

Action Items	By Whom	Due Date
Contact Everett Borough about the status of the Waterstreet Bridge Project in Bedford County.	PennDOT	No date given