

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**RURAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**May 7, 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 May 7, 2025, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the February 5, 2025, RTTC meeting minutes as presented.
2. Recommended approval of the Title VI Compliance and Implementation Plan, including the Public Participation Plan and Limited English Proficiency Plan by the RTCC.
3. Recommended forwarding the three PennDOT Multi-Modal applications to PennDOT Central Office with the RPO's comments recommending approval.

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**MEETING MINUTES**

**I. Welcome**

The following members were present at the meeting:

- Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC
- Rick Suder, Bedford County Planning Commission
- Debra Clark, HCBI
- Ron Rabena, Huntingdon County Rail Authority
- Laurie Nearhoof, Huntingdon County Planning Commission
- Anthony Molinari, Huntingdon – Bedford – Fulton Area Agency on Aging
- Cathie Beal, Somerset County Parks and Trails
- Mike Villeneuve, Somerset County Transportation
- Chadd Sines, Somerset County Planning Commission
- Lee Slusser, SAP&DC
- Jim Pruss, PennDOT District 9
- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office

Others in attendance included:

- Jaclyn Himmelwright, PennDOT District 9
- Tyler Schurr, SAP&DC
- Janice Streightiff, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- February 5, 2025 RTTC Meeting Minutes
- Title VI Compliance & Implementation Plan Presentation Outline
- SA RPO FFY 2025 – 2028 TIP Adjustments
- SA RPO FFY 2025 – 2028 TIP Fiscal Constraint Chart
- PennDOT MTF Applications and RPO Review

## **II. Review and Approval of the February 5, 2025, RTTC Meeting Minutes**

Matthew Bjorkman called the meeting to order and conducted roll call. He asked for a motion to approve the February 5, 2025, meeting minutes included in the meeting packet.

With no further discussion, Ron Rabena made a motion to approve the February 5, 2025, RTTC meeting minutes as presented. Jim Pruss seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **III. Title VI Compliance and Implementation Plan Public Presentation**

Matthew noted that today serves as the public meeting for the Title VI Compliance and Implementation Plan. The 45-day public comment period ends on Friday, May 9, 2025. This plan also includes the Public Participation Plan and the Limited English Proficiency Plan. Tyler Schurr gave a presentation on the Title VI Compliance and Implementation Plan answering any questions the committee had. Jennifer Sklodowski, SAP&DC Workforce Director, is the Title VI contact. Her contact information as well as complaint procedures are listed in the Plan. Matthew added that staff will continue to monitor any other changes at the federal level to be sure the Plan aligns. Frank Hampton also recommended that the SAP&DC solicitor review the Plan to assure the language is correct.

The SAP&DC website was also updated a few months ago to make the plans easier to locate for review.

With no further discussion, Ron Rabena made a motion to recommend approval of the Title VI Compliance and Implementation Plan, including the Public Participation Plan and Limited English Proficiency Plan by the RTCC. Anthony Molinari seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Jacklyn Himmelwright reviewed the FY 2025 – 2028 TIP Modifications with the committee answering any questions they had. She noted that on the 911 Trail project, \$1.5M was added to the PE phase from the statewide line item to bridge the funding gap with SPIKE STP funds. It is a local project with Somerset County being the sponsor. The project runs from Garrett to Berlin in Brothersvalley and Summit Townships and Garrett Borough. The trail is approximately seven miles long. This was for the design of six miles of the trail including four additional pedestrian structures with some minor drainage work.

## **V. FY 2027 – 2030 TIP**

Matthew noted that he still needs the County Priorities from Somerset and Fulton Counties. He had a call with Chad Sines, the Somerset County Planning Director and he will be

meeting with the Commissioners to finalize and submit within the next week or two. Matthew is working with the new Fulton County Planning Director to get theirs. These need to be turned in as soon as possible to give PennDOT time to review the projects. As soon as all of the County Priorities are submitted, the Local Bridge Subcommittee meeting will be scheduled.

There was a problem with one of the bridges submitted in a bundle for Bedford County (County Bridge 33). Rick Suder said he believes the engineer is going to contact the RPO to see if the bridge could be completed sooner using retroactive reimbursement. The bridge is just over 50 feet and needs a new superstructure and new concrete deck.

## **VI. PennDOT MTF Applications and Comments**

Matthew informed the committee that the RPO received three applications, one in Huntingdon County and two in Fulton County. They were the T-404/SR 1007 Sight Distance Improvements – Licking Creek Township – Fulton County, the 2025 Paving Project – Union Township – Fulton County, and the 2025 Paving Project – Shirley Township – Huntingdon County. He reviewed the applications with the committee noting the comments he had added. He asked the committee for additional comments. The RPO comments are due to PennDOT on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. After the RTCC reviews the applications next week, these comments will be provided to PennDOT. Frank asked if he had numbers of foot traffic on the last two projects. No information was provided. It would be helpful to know where the buses come in and where the foot traffic travels. Debra Clark added that on the Huntingdon County Project, all the students from the Housing Project walk to the school. At drop off and pick up times, the traffic at the school is a mess. Frank added that you may be looking at sidewalks there as well. Students are walking through alleyways with the traffic.

With no further discussion, Frank Hampton made a motion to recommend the RTCC forward the three PennDOT Multi-Modal applications to PennDOT Central Office with the RPO's comments recommending approval. Rick Suder seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **VII. Other Business**

### SMART Grant Update

Matt informed the committee that this is the Emergency Lifesaving through Multi-Modal Mobility Project and it is moving along rapidly. This project will provide autonomous deliveries for medical calls in the Johnstown area and northern Somerset County. The period of performance for the project ends at the end of this year. The project received \$1.9M from US DOT to set up autonomous deliveries for certain medical emergencies.

If anyone is interested, there is an open house at the Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center the evenings of May 13 & 14, 2025. At this event, the project and how it can integrate into

the future of transportation will be discussed. Also, there will be a VIP Checkout Flight on May 30, 2025. He was not sure who all would be invited to attend that flight but if anyone is interested in either of these, notify Matthew and he will get the information. This is Phase I of the funding, and if the project is successful, SAP&DC would be eligible to apply for up to \$15M in Phase II to continue the project.

#### Saxton Trail Connectivity Study Update

The steering committee for the project will be meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup> and the final public meeting will be held in June. The project is expected to wrap up in July or early August.

#### Updates from Committee Members

Lee Slusser added that he is continuing to update the Southern Alleghenies Regional Greenway Plan. The last plan was completed in 2007 so the update was needed.

He is also working with Bedford on a potential redevelopment plan for Breezewood.

### **VIII. Adjournment**

Jim Pruss made a motion to adjourn at 10:04 AM.

<p><b><u>NOTE:</u></b> The next meeting of the RTTC is scheduled for August 8, 2025, 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>
Get information for the Open House on the evenings of May 13 & 14, 2025 at the Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center and/or the VIP Checkout Flight for the Emergency Lifesaving through Multi-modal Mobility Project on May 30, 2025 for anyone who is interested.	Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC	When Requested