

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

**May 14, 2025**

**1:00 PM**

**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 May 14, 2025, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the February 19, 2025, RTCC meeting minutes as presented.
2. Approved the Title VI Compliance and Implementation Plan including the Public Participation Plan and the Limited English Proficiency Plan as presented.
3. Approved the \$3.9M cost increase on the US 219 Jennerstown to Cambria County Project as presented.
4. Recommend approval by PennDOT of the three Multi-Modal applications submitted in the RPO.

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**MEETING MINUTES**

**I. Welcome**

The following members were present at the meeting:

- Commissioner Mike Stiles, Bedford County (Alternate)
- Commissioner Jeff Thomas, Huntingdon County
- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office (Alternate)
- Vince Greenland, PennDOT District 9
- Steve Howsare, SAP&DC
- Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- Jim Pruss, PennDOT District 9
- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9
- Jaclyn Himmelwright, PennDOT District 9
- Kevin Lehner, PennDOT District 9
- Josh Lee, PennDOT District 9
- Jennifer Mearkle, Congressman John Joyce's Office
- Lee Slusser, SAP&DC
- Tyler Schurr, SAP&DC
- Janice Streightiff, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- February 19, 2025 RTCC Meeting Minutes
- Title VI Compliance & Implementation Plan Presentation Outline
- FFY 2025-2028 SA RPO TIP Adjustments
- FFY 2025-2028 TIP Highway & Bridge Fiscal Constraint Chart
- PennDOT Multi-Modal Applications and Comments
  - T-404/SR 1007 Sight Distance Improvements
  - 2025 Paving Project – Huntingdon County
  - 2025 Paving Project – Fulton County

## **II. Review and Approval of the February 19, 2025 RTCC Meeting Minutes**

Vince Greenland called the meeting to order and Matthew Bjorkman conducted roll call. Vince introduced two new PennDOT Engineer trainees, Kevin Lehner and Josh Lee, that were attending the meeting. He also noted the damage from yesterday's flooding. Somerset County had the most damage including a bridge over the Casselman River that was compromised. The detour will be 49 miles for the trucks; locally it won't be as long. They are talking with a contractor now but will have to wait for the water to recede to further examine the bridge.

He asked the committee to review the February 19, 2025, meeting minutes included in the meeting packet.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Jeff Thomas made a motion to approve the February 19, 2025, RTCC meeting minutes as presented. Stave Howsare seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Tyler Schurr gave a presentation on the Title VI Compliance and Implementation Plan. This plan includes the Public Participation Plan and the Limited English Proficiency Plan. The public comment period ended last Friday; no comments were received. There have been some changes on the federal level concerning what is to be included and those changes have been made.

With no further discussion, Frank Hampton made a motion to approve the Title VI Compliance and Implementation Plan including the Public Participation Plan and the Limited English Proficiency Plan as presented. Matthew Bjorkman seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Vince noted the adjustment to the US 219 Jennerstown to Cambria County Project, which is currently in the design phase. Due to the condition of the pavement, it has been recommended that the pavement be broken up with an overlay over top, creating a cost increase. Anne Stich reviewed the proposal for funding the \$3.9M increase on the project. The current project is funded with a mix of Federal and State Highway Funding. The SA RPO received a little over \$1.4M from the Federal Surface Transportation Program Funds in redistribution of the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act. The Fiscally Responsible Highway Act of 2024 redistributed \$1.8B nationally among the states. Pennsylvania received \$74.5M, with the SA RPO receiving \$1.4M. The remainder of the funds will come from the SA Bridge and Highway Reserve Line Item. The project is expected to be let in September of this year.

With no further discussion, Steve Howsare made a motion to approve the \$3.9M cost increase on the US 219 Jennerstown to Cambria County Project as presented. Commissioner Stiles seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Jaclyn Himmelwright reviewed the administrative actions with the committee noting that most of them came from regular project updates.

## **V. FY 2027 – 2030 TIP**

PennDOT will soon receive financial guidance to begin building the FY 2027 – 2030 TIP. Matthew noted that the RPO has received the county priorities from three of the four counties. He is working with the fourth, Fulton County, to get their priorities. They recently hired a Planning Director and Matthew will be reaching out to her. After all the county priorities have been received, a meeting of the Local Bridge Subcommittee will be scheduled to select bridge projects. Anne noted that this meeting needs to take place by the end of June.

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

Vince noted that there were three Multi-Modal applications submitted to PennDOT. Matthew reviewed the applications with the committee answering any questions they had and explaining that the RPO provides comments on the applications, but the funding decisions are made by PennDOT. He reviewed the comments with the committee and asked for any additional comments.

With no further discussion, Steve Howsare made a motion to recommend approval by PennDOT of the three Multi-Modal applications submitted in the RPO. Commissioner Jeff Thomas seconded the motion. Frank Hampton and Vince Greenland from PennDOT abstained from the vote. Commissioner Stiles and Matthew Bjorkman voted affirmatively. The motion passed.

## **VII. Other Business**

### SMART Grant Update

Matthew noted that the SMART Grant, which is the Emergency Life Saving Through Multi-Modal Mobility, was for \$1.9M to purchase drones for emergency use in Cambria and Somerset Counties. Most of the software development is in place and they are currently getting the physical equipment in place. Soon they will be beginning to get drones in the air for test runs. This is Phase 1 of the project. Phase II will allow the project to be rolled out to wider areas. If Phase 1 is successful, the RPO will be eligible to apply for up to \$15M in Phase II.

A few upcoming events of interest are on May 30<sup>th</sup> the team will be holding a VIP flight demonstration in Cambria County. Matthew was not sure of the exact time or location but let him know if you are interested and he will get the information to you when he receives it. There is also an open house tonight at 6 PM at the Pasquerilla Center in Johnstown to discuss the project.

#### Saxton Trail Connectivity Study Update

This study, which looks at connecting the trails in northern Blair County to southern Huntingdon County, is expected to be completed in late July or early August. The public outreach has been completed, and GAI is in the process of putting the study together. There is a Steering Committee meeting tomorrow to determine which routes are the most favorable before presenting them to the public in early June for public comment. Vince asked if the local municipalities were interested in participating in the project. Matthew said that information will be part of the study. Commissioner Stiles asked for an invitation for the virtual connection for tomorrow's meeting. Matthew will send that out to him.

#### Updates from Committee Members

Lee Slusser mentioned that there will be a meeting with the Bedford County Commissioners next Wednesday to discuss the potential of a strategic plan for the redevelopment of the Breezewood area. The Turnpike Commission will be releasing a substantial amount of real estate, and business will be changing in that area. Lee added that they will need a consultant to look at the real estate and see what the potential may be.

### **VIII. Adjournment**

Commissioner Jeff Thomas made a motion to adjourn at 1:50 PM. Commissioner Mike Stiles seconded the motion.

<p><b><u>NOTE:</u></b> The next meeting of the RTCC is scheduled for August 20, 2025, at the SAP&amp;DC beginning at 10:00 AM.</p>
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**ACTION ITEMS**

<b>Action Items</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Send Commissioner Stiles the virtual connection for tomorrow's Saxton Trail Connectivity Study Steering Committee meeting.	Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC	Following the meeting