

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**RURAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**August 6, 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 August 6, 2025, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the May 7, 2025, RTTC meeting minutes as presented.
2. Recommended approval of the addition of the \$13.2M remaining earmark funding from a previous phase and just under \$11M from the statewide reserve of ADHS funding to the US 219 project, and the removal of the two Somerset County culverts from the under 8 ft. culvert contracts and return of the federal funds back to the SA Bridge & Hwy Reserve Line Item as presented.

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
RURAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
August 6, 2025  
9:00 AM  
SAP&DC  
Altoona, PA**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**I. Welcome**

The following members were present at the meeting:

- Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC
- Lee Slusser, SAP&DC
- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office
- Jim Pruss, PennDOT District 9
- Stew Neff, Warriors Mark Township, Huntingdon County
- Stephanie Clevenstine, Bedford County Planning Commission
- Rick Suder, Bedford County Planning Commission
- Julie Dovey, Fulton County Family Partnership
- Larue Nearhood, Huntingdon County Planning Commission
- Chadd Sines, Somerset County Planning Commission
- Cathie Beal, Somerset County Parks & Trails
- Anthony Molinari, Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton Area Agency on Agency
- Thomas McInroy, Bedford County Airport
- Ron Rabena, Huntingdon County Rail Authority

Others in attendance included:

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

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- May 7, 2025 RTTC Meeting Minutes
- SA RPO FFY 2025-2028 TIP Adjustments
- TASA Timeline
- TASA Guidance and Procedures
- County Construction Progress Reports and Upcoming Lets

## **II. Review and Approval of the May 7, 2025 RTTC Meeting Minutes**

Matthew Bjorkman called the meeting to order conducted roll call. He asked the committee to review the May 7, 2025, RTTC meeting minutes included in the packet.

With no further discussion, Ron Rabena made a motion to approve May 7, 2025, RTTC meeting minutes as presented. Jim Pruss seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **III. FY 2025-2028 TIP Modifications and Amendments**

Jaclyn Himmelwright noted that there have been about 26 management actions taken since the last meeting. Most were typical charges caused by low bid inspections and July updates. There are two amendments requiring approval. Anne Stich noted that the first one was the preliminary engineering phase of the US 219 project. This is the last portion of the limited access four lane new construction from Meyersdale to the Maryland border. This phase is currently an active phase with \$13.5M already obligated. PennDOT is requesting an additional \$13.2M to complete the phase. The funding will be comprised of \$2.2M from a left-over earmark from the last phase and the remaining balance, just under \$11M, will come from the statewide reserve of the Appalachian Development Highway System funds. This is currently being reviewed by PMC at their August meeting. No RPO funds are being used.

The second one is the two contracts in District 9 for under 8 ft. culverts. These projects are for pipe repairs that are above what the district maintenance department can handle. They are being let as design build contracts. One has three locations, one in Bedford County on SR 2053 and two in Somerset County on US 40. The second contract has five locations, two in Bedford County, one on PA 867 and one on SR 4019, two in Huntingdon County, one on PA 305 and one on SR 3001, and one in Blair County, which is being funded through the Blair County MPO. These have already been advertised and will be let later this month. The two culverts in Somerset County were removed from the contracts due to their size. The approval today is to remove those two culverts and return the funds back to the reserve line item.

With no further discussion, Ron Rabena made a motion to recommend approval of the addition of the \$13.2M remaining earmark funding from a previous phase and just under \$11M from the statewide reserve of ADHS funding to the US 219 project, and the removal of the two Somerset County culverts from the under 8 ft. culvert contracts and return the federal funds back to the SA Bridge & Hwy Reserve Line Item as presented. Stephanie Clevensline seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **IV. FY 2027-2030 TIP**

On August 28<sup>th</sup> the RPO and PennDOT will hold the meeting to discuss county priorities. Each county will have a timeslot with Fulton County going last as they do not yet have their county priorities submitted. PennDOT noted that if they do not have them selected by the 28<sup>th</sup>, there is no need for them to meet with PennDOT. It was also recommended that the Local Bridge Subcommittee Meeting be scheduled now so that PennDOT can move forward with the priorities they have. Matthew will reach out to the County Planning Directors and schedule the meetings. Meetings will be scheduled separately.

#### **V. Southern Alleghenies RPO Long Range Transportation Plan Update**

The current Long Range Transportation Plan was adopted in 2022. RPO staff are beginning the process for the next update as it will take approximately 2½ years to complete. Matthew is currently setting up the timeline and will be reaching out to some of the members of this committee to be on the steering committee. The kick-off meeting will be scheduled soon. The required adoption date is October of 2027.

#### **VI. Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Grant Program**

Matthew noted that some of the guidance is included in the meeting packet. This is 100% construction funding that requires no match. He reviewed the timeline with the committee noting that the application cycle opened a few weeks ago. Draft applications are due to PennDOT District 9 by September 5, 2025, with final applications due at the state level on October 31, 2025. In the interim, applicants will meet with PennDOT District 9 and SAP&DC staff to review the application. PennDOT can request a site visit if they deem it necessary.

PennDOT District 9 and the RPO are responsible for providing comments on the applications to PennDOT Central Office by January 23, 2026. Typically, the RTCC and RTTC hold a joint meeting where the applicants give presentations on their projects and answer questions. The committees then rank the projects followed by approval from the RTCC. The ranking with comments is then submitted to PennDOT Central Office. The meeting is usually held at PennDOT District 9. Matthew recommended combining the December meetings or scheduling a separate meeting in early January.

Matthew reviewed the guidance with the committee noting that over the last two cycles, the RPO has received \$5.7M for six projects. The minimum award is \$50,000 with a maximum award of \$1.5M. Higher awards can be justified on a case-by-case basis for exceptional projects. There are two rounds; the first round is for the larger MPOs and the second round is all applicants statewide. Preconstruction must be completed by the sponsor. This is a reimbursement program rather than a grant. Matthew gave some examples of past awards, adding that it is important to submit the pre-application on time. You can email a question to the contact person listed in the guidelines but submit the

application anyway. Any application submitted after that date will not be accepted. He noted that the full guidance is available online and the projects must be completed in two years.

The RPO usually uses the statewide criteria when reviewing the applications. If our own criteria is used, it will make it harder to justify the project selection. Anne noted that if you search TASA on the PennDOT website it will take you right to that page. The guidelines are available there as well as a webinar recording from July 9<sup>th</sup> including the questions and answers. She reminded the committee that you do need an account on the TASA website to submit a preapplication so don't wait until the due date to try and set one up. If using this for match on another grant, this is considered federal funding. To date, no preapplications have been submitted in the RPO.

Matthew will discuss potential meeting dates with the RTCC and get back to this committee with potential dates.

## **VII. Other Business**

### Saxton Trail Study Update

The final steering committee meeting to go over the final draft from GAI is scheduled for August 13, 2025. Final comments will be provided, and GAI will then finalize the plan for approval. Anyone who would like a copy of the Study, please let Matt know.

### TOPP Trail ARC Project Update

The TOPP Trail Project received ARC funding in April of 2023 to mill up lanes on the trail. There were some issues with the initial plan, but it is beginning to advance now. The hope is to get the project started in the next few months.

### RPO Construction Report

Construction reports for the RPO counties were included in the meeting packet. Let staff know if you have any questions. Matthew will email the electronic version out separately to each of the counties. Jim noted that if you click on the MPMS project number in the corner it will take you to the project map where additional information is provided. You can also register for an account to be able to use additional features.

### Other Business

Stew Neff asked who Warriors Mark Township should contact about signage to deter a parking issue the Township is experiencing. Some of the apartment houses in the Township don't have enough parking spaces and the additional vehicles on the street are causing difficulty for larger trucks and snow plows to navigate the streets. PennDOT told him to contact Erine Consino, District Traffic Engineer at PennDOT District 9 and provided his contact information. PennDOT noted that the Township will need to have an ordinance in place before they can place signage.

Rick Suder from Bedford County noted that one of the bridges submitted as a priority for the FY 2027 TIP, County Bridge 33 in Cumberland Valley Township, had a recent inspection and has beam issues. The engineer recommended restricted driving on the bridge with a single lane and stop signs, which is currently in place. He asked if there was any funds available to repair the bridge or if it could be eligible for retroactive reimbursement. PennDOT recommended a few possible solutions including applying for PennDOT Multimodal Funds and added that this can be discussed further at the County priorities meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Stephanie added that a member of their Planning Commission is an environmentalist and asked if PennDOT plans to treat their counties Trees of Heaven for invasive species of insects. These are the favorite food of the Spotted Lanternfly. Jim Pruss replied that they have treated in some areas and just completed treating for these on Rt. 30.

Laurie Nearhoof asked PennDOT if they plan to implement any of the projects identified in the Route 453 Study. Jim responded that there are several projects PennDOT is currently looking at. They were able to address a few intersections with the Huntingdon County Maintenance Department and may be able to add a few others to existing projects. They applied for funding to address some of the rockslides, but the new administration postponed that funding source due to a change in priority.

Stew Neff noted that there is a good bump in the road coming off the bridge on Route 453 to Waterstreet just south of Huntingdon Furnace Road. PennDOT said they have been grinding some seams down caused by slabs heaving from the heat. They will check on it.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

Frank Hampton made a motion to adjourn. Stu Neff seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM.

<p><b><u>NOTE:</u></b> The next meeting of the RTTC is scheduled for December 3, 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>
Reach out to the County Planning Directors and schedule timeslots for the individual county priority meetings with himself and PennDOT on the 28 <sup>th</sup> .	Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC	No date givne
Discuss potential meeting dates to rank the TASA projects with the RTCC and get back to this committee with potential dates.	Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC	No date given
Email the electronic version of the Construction Progress Report to each of the counties.	Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC	Following the meeting