

Northeastern Pennsylvania Metropolitan Planning Organization

Transportation Programming for the Counties of: Carbon ✧ Monroe ✧ Pike ✧ Schuylkill

October 10, 2019 Technical Planning Committee Meeting Summary and Minutes **9:30 a.m.**

Meeting Location:
NEPA Alliance
1151 Oak Street
Pittston, PA 18640

Technical Planning Committee

Attendees:	Organization:	Attendees:	Organization:
Marie Bishop*	PennDOT District 4-0	Mike Mrozinski*	Pike Co. Planning
David Bodnar*	Carbon Co. Planning	Morgan Ruziecki^	Michael Baker Intl.
Matt Boyer^	Commuter Services	Jason Skrimcovsky	Carbon Co. Planning
Brendan Cotter*	CCCT/LANTA	Susan Smith*	Schuylkill Co. Planning
John Frankosky	PennDOT District 4-0	Matt Smoker	FHWA
Brian Funkhouser^	Michael Baker Intl.	Brian Snyder*	Pike Co. Planning
Chuck Gould*	Chestnuthill Twp.	Scott Vottero	PennDOT District 5-0
Ray Green*	PennDOT Central		
Doyle Heffley*^	PA House of Reps.	Alan Baranski	NEPA Alliance
Peggy Howarth*	MCTA	Jeff Box	NEPA Alliance
Vanessa Koenigkramer*	PennDOT District 5-0	Nettie Ginocchetti	NEPA Alliance
Amanda Leindecker	PennDOT District 5-0	Kate McMahon	NEPA Alliance
Christine Meinhart-Fritz*	Monroe Co. Planning		

*Committee members who voted at this meeting.

^Participated by phone

Summary of Actions Taken by the NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee:

During the course of this meeting the MPO Committee voted on the following actions:

Action 1: Ms. Meinhart-Fritz requested a motion from the Committee to approve the minutes from the August 20, 2019 meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Howarth to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Meinhart-Fritz called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

1) Business Items

a) Approval of minutes from the August 20, 2019 Business Meeting

Ms. Meinhart-Fritz requested a motion from the Committee to approve the minutes from the August 20, 2019 meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Howarth to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

2) TIP Amendments and Administrative Actions

a) District 4-0 and 5-0 2019-2022 TIP Amendments and Administrative Actions

Information was included in the meeting packet which highlighted combined administrative actions on the 2019 TIP for District 4-0 and 5-0. Ms. Koenigkramer and Ms. Bishop presented the actions.

Action 1- SD Fixed Bridges by DF- increase to cover PE supplement for bridge removal on SR 209. The source is Tremont Rd over Swatara Creek. Action 2- Columbia St. Arch Bridge- advance and increase utility money to align with actual need. The source is the NEPA Highway and Bridge Line Item. Interstate Action 1- I-80/Exit 308 Realignment- increase to cover project limit revisions and changes in design. The source is the Interstate Contingency Line Item. Action 3- 940 over Beaver Creek- increase to meet low bid. AWPM NEPA D5- advance to meet low bid. 924 over 4030, RR and Mahanoy Creek- increase funds to align with actual need. The sources are the TA Project Management, Patterson St. Resurface, 903 over Mud Run and the NEPA Highway and Bridge Line Item. Actions 4 & 5- Mansion Hill Rock Slide Mitigation, Beckville Rd/W. Br. Schuylkill River and Tobyhanna Crk Br. II- federal fiscal year close out. The sources are 309 McAdoo, SR 447 over Brodhead Creek, SR 1099 & 3026 Super Deck Replacement, Manor Dr over McMichaels Creek, Lincoln Driver over C&S Railroad and the NEPA Highway and Bridge Line Item. Interstate Item 2- 380 Tobyhanna Ramps and I/C- adding PE funds for FWD testing and MPT. The source is the Interstate Contingency Line Item. Action 6- Mansion Hill Rock Slide- advance funding to better align with actual need. The sources are Hamilton West Resurf (Lesh to 33), Hamilton West Resurface 33 to 80, SR 2012 over Pocono Creek, and the NEPA Highway and Bridge Line Item. Action 7- 924 over 4030, RR & Mahanoy Creek- increase to cover work orders. The source is Construction Assistance, TOC Operator and the NEPA Highway and Bridge Line Item. Action 8- Delivery Consultant Assistance- advance and increase to encumber funds in FFY 2019 and anticipate 2020 need. The sources are 309 McAdoo and the NEPA Highway and Bridge Line Item. Action 9- 2019/115 Int. Imp- Phase 2- increase to add available FFY 2019 HSIP funds toward revised estimate. The sources are SR 61/209 Intersection Imp. and NEPA High Friction Surface 2019. Statewide Item 1- Kutz Road Replacement- add MTF to approved project. Village of Pocono Summit Imp- add LOC match to approved project. The source is the Multimodal Reserve Line Item. Interstate Item 3- I-80 Rehabilitation- advance funding to align with actual need. The source is the Interstate Contingency Line Item. Interstate Item 4- I-81 Gordon to Frackville- advance funding to align with actual need. The source is the Interstate Contingency Line Item. Statewide Action 2- Zimmerman Bridge/ LL Swatara Crk- Aligning final design with anticipated need. The source is the LaSeR Initiative Line Item. Action 10- SR 2002 Slide- add FD phase to process agreement. The source is the SR 739, SR 1003 Paving project. Action 11- 443 Roadway Improvements- project aligned with anticipated need and cash flowed. The source is the 209/115 Int. Imp. Phase 2 project.

- b) Transit Amendments and Administrative Actions
None.

3) **Transportation Planning & Programs**

- a) Current Project Status

Ms. Bishop provided an update on highway projects in District 4-0.

Ms. Leindecker provided an update on highway projects in District 5-0.

- b) 2021-2024 TIP Update

Mr. Baranski stated that we had a meeting in District 5-0 to review our current TIP projects and determine which projects will wrap up on this TIP and which will carry over onto the next TIP. We have a follow up meeting scheduled for October 29th to continue the discussion. We will work out how the projects will fit into the TIP financial structure. We also have a meeting scheduled with District 4-0 on November 4th and we will go through a similar process. We will then have a meeting with the two

districts to reconcile the projects and funding into one TIP. The financial constraints have made aligning the projects difficult. We are looking to submit the draft TIP to Central Office by the end of the year. Mr. Baranski asked about Spike funding. Mr. Green stated that we anticipate those decisions soon but there is only a small amount of Spike funding available so we should not expect much. Mr. Baranski stated that there is a statewide Planning Partners meeting later this month so we will get more information and will share it with the committee as we continue to develop our TIP. Mr. Smoker stated that the meeting that was held in 5-0 was very productive. We also need to develop the transit TIPs. Ms. Howarth stated that they are working on developing the transit TIPs. Ms. Leindecker stated that we need to come up with some dates for the combined TIP meeting so we can get it on the calendar.

c) 2018-2020 UPWP Revision and 2020-2022 UPWP Development

Mr. Baranski stated that we are reconciling the amount from the first year of our UPWP to carry over to the second year. We will also add the Milford Borough Traffic Study to our current UPWP. For the 2020-2022 UPWP, we will have a UPWP subcommittee work session following this meeting. We have conducted two UPWP meetings so far. The current draft of the UPWP has incorporated the suggestions from the last meeting. We shared the updated draft of the UPWP prior to this meeting. By the next meeting, we will have a full draft with budget numbers. We will be looking for an approval from the committee at the November meeting so we can submit it to FHWA for their review and comments before we take final action on it.

d) NEPA MPO Long Range Transportation Plan Update

Mr. Baranski stated that Mr. Funkhouser and Ms. Ruziecki from Michael Baker are on the phone and will provide an update on the LRTP. Mr. Funkhouser stated that the listening sessions were held in all four counties at the end of September. We had good turnout at all of the sessions. Mr. Funkhouser provided an update on the MetroQuest online survey. We had 133 total participants and we would like to see those numbers go up a bit. The survey was launched on September 9th and is still open. We will determine the best time to take the survey down. Maintenance, preservation and safety were all identified as top topics. We will have more information at the LRTP Steering Committee meeting in November. Ms. Ruziecki provided an update on the listening sessions. There were 71 total attendees and 33 surveys were completed at the listening sessions. Problem areas were identified at the meetings. Any demographic groups that were not engaged at the listening sessions will hopefully be engaged through the survey. The Steering Committee is tentatively scheduled to meet again on November 19th. We plan to have a summary of the public engagement process. We will also take a first look at the investment plan and candidate projects. We will also discuss the revenue forecast for the next 25 years based on the financial guidance that was received during the TIP process. Ms. Howarth asked how long the survey should be open and asked for the link to the survey. Mr. Smoker asked if the link is on the NEPA website. Ms. McMahan stated that it is on there but is difficult to navigate. They have an MCTA anniversary event coming up and they can hand something out there. Ms. Meinhart-Fritz asked if the postcard can be revamped without the information about the outreach sessions so we can continue to hand them out. Mr. Funkhouser stated that they will revamp the postcard and resend it. Ms. Smith asked if they can breakdown the surveys by county. Ms. Ruziecki stated that not everyone gave their zip code when they completed the survey so it may be difficult. Ms. Smith stated that they have a township association meeting coming up and they could hand out the postcards. Ms. McMahan stated that we will have staff at that meeting, and we can bring the postcards and paper copies of the survey with us. Mr. Funkhouser stated that we can keep the survey open until at least the end of the month.

e) Functional Classification Review

Ms. McMahan stated that we are still working through Schuylkill County. We had one meeting so far and have been incorporating those changes into the map. We need to schedule another meeting in Schuylkill County to continue the review. Ms. Smith asked that we get proposed dates to them soon so we can get something on the calendar.

f) Milford Traffic and Parking Study

Mr. Baranski stated that are working to schedule a meeting with borough and county officials and Michael Baker so we can refine the scope for the project. Mr. Snyder provided us with a list of participants for the steering committee.

g) Jim Thorpe Parking Study

Mr. Baranski stated we have a complete draft prepared by Chance Management and their subcontractors. It is undergoing internal review between the consultants and NEPA. We anticipate sharing it with the steering committee for final review shortly. There are a lot of recommendations in the study and hopefully it will be embraced by the borough. It will also provide some good information as we develop the Milford study. Mr. Mrozinski asked to see a copy of the study when it is available. Mr. Heffley also requested a copy of the study.

h) PennDOT Connects Initiative

Mr. Baranski stated that the PennDOT Connects meetings continue. We had a few this month in Monroe and Carbon counties. We had hoped to incorporate PennDOT Connects training during our LRTP outreach efforts but the format didn't allow for it. We still plan to engage the municipal officials on PennDOT Connects in the future.

i) Commuter Services

Mr. Boyer stated that over the past month, Commuter Service had their Walk Like a Boss month. It was a walk to work event. Employees were able to track their mileage in the app. There are a lot of health and benefit fairs this time of year. A growing number of employers are offering credits to their health insurance if they use the app to track their trips. The outreach team has met with Walmart Distribution Center, Hudson's Bay, Amazon and Northeast Prestressed. They had a contest among the CareerLinks as well. They are also playing for the New Year and putting out their annual performance measurements.

4) Other Business

Mr. Smoker asked about the safety reviews that FHWA is advocating versus the LTAP Road Safety Audits. Mr. Baranski stated that we have an LTAP tech assist on road safety audits scheduled with Mr. Snyder. Mr. Smoker stated that they are not the same thing. The LTAP road safety audits look at a specific location and identify solutions for safety issues. FHWA is advocating that MPOs/counties sit down with the district traffic engineers to identify locations with high crash rates and go look at those locations in the field. Then, they rank them as high, medium or low and come up with a plan to address those areas. Several MPOs and RPOs have done them including Lackawanna-Luzerne, Northern Tier, SEDA-COG, etc. Mr. Smoker stated that the full blown safety audit is more intensive and often uses a consultant. It's a multi-day review of a roadway that identifies high cost projects and solutions. The LTAP road safety reviews are less intensive. Ms. Meinhart-Fritz asked if there are any liability issues with the road safety audit if the recommendations aren't completed immediately. Mr. Smoker stated that from a court perspective, if there is a systematic way to address safety issues and engage the public in that process, there is not a liability issue. They recognize that every issue cannot be addressed at once.

5) Adjournment

There being no further business, the NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.