

Northeastern Pennsylvania Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

November 21, 2017 Technical Planning Committee Meeting Summary and Minutes **9:30 a.m.**

Meeting Location:
Jim Thorpe Memorial Hall
101 E. 10th Street
Jim Thorpe, PA 18229

Technical Planning Committee

Attendees:	Organization:	Attendees:	Organization:
Cristie Barry	PennDOT District 5-0	John Malinchok*	Schuylkill Planning Comm.
Dave Bekisz*	STS	Christine Meinhart*	Monroe Co. Planning
Marie Bishop*	PennDOT District 4-0	Michael Mrozinski*	Pike Co. Planning
David Bodnar*	Carbon Co. Planning	Ryan Richards	Carbon Co. Planning
Matt Boyer	Commuter Services	Susan Smith*	Schuylkill Co. Planning
Brendan Cotter*	CCCT/LANTA	Brian Snyder	Pike Co. Planning
Christine Dettore	DCNR	Ron Tirpak*	Carbon Engineering
Steve Fisher	PennDOT District 4-0	Scott Vottero	PennDOT District 5-0
Ray Green*	PennDOT Central		
Micah Gursky*	St. Luke's Hospital	Alan Baranski	NEPA Alliance
April Hannon	PennDOT District 4-0	Annette Ginocchetti	NEPA Alliance
Peggy Howarth*	MCTA	Kate McMahon	NEPA Alliance
Vanessa Koenigkramer*	PennDOT District 5-0	Daniel Yelito	NEPA Alliance
Chris Kufro	PennDOT District 5-0		

*Committee members who voted at this meeting.

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: Mr. Mrozinski requested a motion from the Committee to approve the minutes from the October 19, 2017 meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Smith to accept the minutes, seconded by Ms. Meinhart. The motion passed unanimously.

Action 2: A motion was made by Ms. Howarth, seconded by Mr. Gursky, to support the recommended state targets for safety. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mrozinski called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Following the start of the meeting we received presentations from the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program Applicants.

Carbon County Parking Lot Trail Connection

David Bodnar and Claire Sadler presented the project “Carbon County Parking Lot Trail Connection.”

Ms. Howarth asked if the project request is just for the construction costs? Mr. Bodnar replied yes, the request is just for construction. The local funding was used to pay for the engineering. Ms. Howarth asked if there is access to the river? Mr. Bodnar replied that there is a boat launch nearby and the trail would connect into it. Mr. Kufro asked where the proposed trail connects into the current D&L trail? Mr. Bodnar stated that it connects under where the old 903 bridge used to be. It currently stops at the end of the county parking lot. Ms. Smith asked if they have any funding identified for it now? Mr. Bodnar stated that they do not have construction costs but the county commissioners have committed county funds for the match. Mr. Mrozinski asked about the current capacity of the lot. Mr. Bodnar stated that they are losing 31 parking spots. Currently, there are spots that are blocked by the construction of the pedestrian bridge and they will open back up when it is completed.

Jim Thorpe 10th Street to Germantown Road/Memorial Hall Stormwater Project

Matthew Boggs and Maureen Sterner presented the project “10th Street to Germantown Road/Memorial Hall Stormwater Project.”

Ms. Howarth asked how long the trail would be? Mr. Boggs stated that it is about 200 feet. Mr. Bekisz asked how much the request is? Mr. Boggs stated that it is about \$380,000. Mr. Gursky asked about the residents that live at the bottom of the hill, how many people are there? Mr. Boggs stated that there are about 50 homes in that neighborhood. Ms. Sterner stated that there are several homes that are directly impacted by the water runoff and are concerned about losing property. Mr. Mrozinski asked if there is any recreation access at the bottom of the hill? Mr. Boggs stated that there is trail access near the reservoir but it is not established. Mr. Kufro asked if the easements are already in place and if they are included in the cost? Mr. Boggs stated that they are in place and included in the estimate.

Lehighon South First Street Improvements

Nicole Beckett presented the project “Lehighon South First Street Improvements.”

Ms. Howarth asked about the outdoor center. Ms. Beckett stated that the outdoor center is currently under construction and is slightly behind schedule but should open soon. Ms. Howarth asked what is a tree grate? Ms. Beckett stated that it will protect the tree and make sure there is not a tripping hazard. Ms. Howarth asked about the project total and whether the project could be done in phases? Ms. Beckett stated that the project could occur in phases if that is how the funding occurs. Mr. Gursky asked which parts of the project would occur if it is partially funded? Ms. Beckett stated that sidewalks would be the priority. Mr. Tirpak asked if the easements are in place? Ms. Beckett stated that they are not but they have the processes in place from the project at the other end of First Street.

Lehman Township McDade Trail-Bushkill Bridge

William Collins presented the project “McDade Trail-Bushkill Bridge.”

Ms. Howarth asked the location of the bridge. Mr. Collins stated that the bridge connects Monroe County and Pike County. Mr. Collins stated that it is an area of congestion. Mr. Malinchok asked about the bridge and whether combining the pedestrian bridge could be incorporated? Mr. Collins stated that it is not possible to attach it to the current bridge. Mr. Kufro asked about the delineators on the bridge. Mr. Collins stated that they are there to indicate that pedestrians currently use the 209 bridge. Mr. Kufro asked who owns the 209 bridge? Mr. Collins stated that it is a Park Service bridge. Mr. Vottero asked about rights of way? Mr. Collins stated that it is Park Service land so there are no easement issues. Mr. Collins stated that the Park Service has been a partner and has technical capability to do the design and environmental work in house. Mr. Collins stated that the engineering would be done by the end of 2018 and the environmental would be done by the end of 2019. The schedule would also allow them time to bring in supplemental funding if necessary. Ms. Hannon asked

who will own and maintain the bridge? Mr. Collins stated that the Park Service would. Lehman Township is the eligible sponsor of the project but it is a partnership.

Middle Smithfield Township Route 209 Sidepath-Phase I

Jerry Jameson and Annette Atkinson presented the project “Route 209 Sidepath-Phase I.”

Mr. Kufro asked about the right of way needed for the project? Mr. Jameson stated that there appears to be adequate right of way. Ms. Smith asked if there are any other PennDOT projects planned in that area? Mr. Jameson stated that PennDOT is doing a redesign of an intersection so they decided to pick that as a starting point. Mr. Kufro stated that they have projects identified but they are not funded currently. Ms. Howarth asked if the project could be phased? Mr. Jameson stated that they picked two segments of 209 but they would just do one segment.

Tobyhanna Township Pocono Hike and Bike Trail Project

Jason Fitzgerald and John Jablowski presented the project “Pocono Hike and Bike Trail Project.”

Mr. Howarth asked how long is the project? Mr. Jablowski stated that it is 13 miles. Mr. Kufro asked if it is shovel-ready? Mr. Jablowski stated that it is.

Business Meeting Minutes

1) Business Items

a) Approval of minutes from the October 19, 2017 Business Meeting

Mr. Mrozinski requested a motion from the Committee to approve the minutes from the October 19, 2017 meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Smith to accept the minutes, seconded by Ms. Meinhart. The motion passed unanimously.

2) TIP Amendments and Administrative Actions

a) District 4-0 and 5-0 2017-2020 TIP Amendments and Administrative Actions

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

1) Gordon Mountain Road Truck Signing- increase to fully fund construction for widening of detour. The source is the 209 Mt. Nebo to Municipal construction phase and the Safety Line Item. 2) and 3) NEPA AWMP and SR 2030 Ramp bridge over I-80- increase to fully fund construction phase. The sources are SR 2022 over Brodhead Creek and the NEPA Highway and Bridge Line Item. 4) Tobyhanna Creek Bridge II- low bid adjustment to the construction phase. The source is the US209 over Wabash Creek utility phase and the NEPA Highway and Bridge Line Item. 5) NEPA BP&R #4- swap 581 and 185 funds- the sources are Fritz Valley Road over Normal Creek, the Stites Tunnel Bridge, SR 1001 over Mill Creek and Pine Creek Bridge. 6) 7) and 8) Additional state funding adjustments for the listed bridges. The sources are Tobyhanna Creek Bridge II, 209 over Wabash Creek Arch and SR4004 over Pocono Creek. Informational Item #1) Schuylkill Local Bridge Bundling- add all phases. The source is the Statewide Local Bridge Bundling Line Item. 9) SR2003 over Pine Creek- Advance utility and ROW phase to align with anticipated need. The source is the NEPA Highway and Bridge Line Item. 10) Schuylkill County Bridge # 114 Zimmerman Bridge- add all phases due to Schuylkill County’s participation in the RoadMaP program.

Ms. Smith asked why they have to swap out 185 funds and 581 funds. Ms. Koenigkramer stated that it’s due to available funds in the region. If they started with 581 funds so they have to continue that same way. Mr. Kufro stated that the balancing of funds allows projects to keep moving forwards. The 185

and 581 funds are state funds. The funding types that are letters are federal funds. 581 funds can be used for bridges or highway projects. 185 funds can only be used for bridge projects.

b) Transit Amendments and Administrative Actions

Mr. Cotter presented administrative actions on behalf of Carbon County Community Transit (CCCT). Van/Minibus Purchase- reduce funding by \$78,000 in FFY2017. Revise funding to increase Federal share by \$273,600 and reduce State share by \$351,600. Project is being funded by Federal Section 5310 and State Section 1516 CTC. Replace Lynx Bus- Lynx bus was not replaced during FFY2017. Computer System Upgrade- increase finding by \$5,000 in FFY2017 for purchase of on-board camera equipment and hardware. Funding is State Section 1516 CTC funds.

3) **Transportation Planning & Programs**

a) Current Project Status

Mr. Kufro provided an update on the interstate and major projects in District 5-0 (See attached summary document)

Ms. Bishop provided an update on the interstate and major projects in District 4-0 (See attached summary document)

b) 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program Update

Mr. Baranski stated that the TIP update work continues. The districts met with Central Office and FHWA to review the project status, available funding, etc. Mr. Green stated that the TIP and Twelve Year Plan is a needs-based program. The Investment Plan requires us to address our SD bridges and deficit pavements, as well as safety projects and those priorities are reflected in the draft TIP. The draft TIP is in good shape. The districts will meet with the MPO and the counties. District 5-0 will meet with Carbon, Monroe and Schuylkill Counties on November 28th in Allentown. District 4-0 will meet with Pike County in Dunmore on December 6th. Mr. Green stated that at the December 19th MPO meeting, the districts will present the draft TIP and it will be submitted to Central Office by December 31st. The Transit TIP will not be due until the New Year.

c) Highway Safety Improvement Program Update

Mr. Baranski provided an overview presentation on the Highway Safety Improvement Program. (see attached presentation).

Mr. Baranski stated that it has been recommended that we support the state targets for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). Ms. Smith asked when we will begin the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update? Mr. Baranski stated that since we are in a non-attainment area for Air Quality, we have to update the plan every four years so we will begin the LRTP update next year.

A motion was made by Ms. Howarth, seconded by Mr. Gursky, to support the recommended state targets for safety. The motion passed unanimously.

d) PennDOT Connects Initiative

Mr. Baranski stated that we have been continuing to attend PennDOT Connects meetings with the districts and complete the project initiation forms as necessary.

e) Functional Classification Review

Mr. Baranski stated that we met with Monroe County to kick off the functional classification review process. As we did in Pike County, we have asked the county planning staff to give a cursory local perspective review the current functional classification and use their local knowledge to determine if changes may be warranted. NEPA staff will work to compile the rationale for any changes that are requested and prepare the GIS mapwork. Mr. Mrozinski asked if there is any way to expedite the process? Is it possible to begin the process in all of the remaining counties? Mr. Baranski stated that if the other counties would like to move forward sooner, we can do that. Ms. Smith stated that she will not be able to begin the process until the New Year due to other commitments. Mr. Baranski stated that the objective is to get the changes submitted by the end of 2018 so it is in place for the next TIP update.

f) Jim Thorpe Parking Study/Complete Streets Analysis

Mr. Baranski stated that the Steering Committee received proposals for the project. Nine firms submitted and it was reduced to four finalists. This afternoon, we will receive presentations from the four finalists firms. Following the presentations, the Steering Committee will select a firm and a contract will be executed with the selected firm.

Ms. Meinhart asked about a news story about new parking meters in Jim Thorpe. Mr. Bodnar stated that the new parking meetings and kiosks were planned before the parking study was initiated. Mr. Baranski stated that it all ties into the study. Mr. Baranski extended an invitation to the committee members to attend the presentations at the afternoon meeting.

g) US Bike Route Designation

Mr. Mrozinski stated that we discussed this at the last meeting and Roy Gothie from Central Office presented. Mr. Mrozinski stated that we are still working with our neighbors in New Jersey to see what bike route connections can be made.

h) Commuter Services Update

Mr. Boyer stated that they have done events with Great Wolf, Tyson Foods, Amazon and Lowes Distribution Center. Mr. Boyer stated that two individuals from Commuter Services were recognized at the national level as being in the top 40 Under Forty in the transportation demand management industry. Commuter has gotten approval to update their rideshare software. The new software will have some new incentives. It will allow anyone that uses an alternative mode of travel; they can log in and track their trips. The trips will generate points and allow the user to select rewards for those points.

Mr. Boyer stated that a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the MPO in 2015. Commuter Services got boots on the ground in the NEPA region in December 2015 so the program has been in operation for about two years. In that time, over 500 meetings were held, 1,500 people have signed up for the rideshare database and participated in ridesharing opportunities. Commuter Services has also established networking opportunities with the chambers of commerce and economic development groups. Mr. Boyer stated that the program started in 2004 and two of the initial counties have now reached attainment for air quality and no longer qualify for CMAQ funding. Those counties have decided to use TIP funding to continue the Commuter Services program within their county.

Mr. Boyer stated he attended a meeting with PennDOT and the TMAs in the Philadelphia region from DVRPC. The TMAs will now have to show their outputs due to performance measures. Commuter Services is already tracking their outcomes and they exceed the outputs from the TMAs. Mr. Boyer stated that there may be other ways to use CMAQ funds. If there are other opportunities such as transit studies, please let them know. They complete transit studies for other MPOs. Commuter Services would welcome the opportunity to discuss ways to use CMAQ funding.

i) Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Project Application Recommendations

Mr. Baranski stated that if anyone has their TA Set Aside rankings complete, we will take them now. Otherwise, they can be completed on your own time and submitted to NEPA prior to the December meeting. Then we can take an action on it at the December 19th meeting. Ms. Howarth asked how much funding is available? Ms. McMahon stated that we go into the statewide round of TA funds and we have typically gotten our top ranked project funded. Ms. McMahon stated that there were issues with FTP site so if anyone was not able to review the applications and would like to, please let her know as we will work to get them to you in another way.

4) Other Business

Mr. Baranski stated that the safety performance measures are just the first set of measures that we will have to deal with. In 2018 and 2019, the performance measures for highway, bridge and freight will be required. The performance measures will have to be reflected in the LRTP update. We already have an Investment Plan with PennDOT and it will tie into the performance measures.

Mr. Baranski stated that the work program update is coming. Last time, we had a work group that met to review the work program and see what we want to accomplish. The last time, the work group was the four county planners, Mr. Green and Mr. Smoker. If anyone else would like to join, please let us know. We would like to meet after the December 19th MPO meeting.

5) Adjournment

There being no further business, the NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

**NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA ALLIANCE
MAJOR PROJECTS/INTERSTATE PROJECTS STATUS REPORT
MEETING NOVEMBER 21, 2017
PIKE COUNTY**

I-84 (450) I-84 E&W I-4R Wayne - E26

MPMS 76861 – est let April, 2018

- Project currently in Final Design phase.
- PS&E Developed
- Permits under review at DEP

I-84 (494) I-84 E&W I-4R MP 40 - E46

MPMS 85766 – est let February, 2019

- Project started Final Design phase.
- Line & Grade, Design Field View and TS&L's all Approved

I-84 (495) I-84 E&W I-4R E26 to E34

MPMS 87795 – est let February, 2020

- Project currently in Preliminary Engineering phase.
- Line & Grade, TS&L's Approved

**NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA ALLIANCE
MAJOR PROJECTS STATUS REPORT
MEETING NOVEMBER 21, 2017**

SR 61-14M – Resurface St. Clair - Frackville (C-K. Oszeyczik)

MPMS 96470 – est let April 1, 2021 – Schuylkill County

- Line and Grade submission and meeting held on October 17, 2017
- Geotechnical drilling contract #2 - active November/December 2017
- Utility meeting held August 30, 2017
- TS&L development continues
- Environmental investigations almost complete
- Bat investigation on-going
- Next submission: Safety Submission - Spring 2017

SR 80-05S – I-80/Exit 308 Realignment (I. Nathaniel)

MPMS 57921 – est let May 9, 2019 – Monroe County

- Project is in final design phase
- Advance acquisition of GAP ROW plans in process
- Status meeting held

SR 80-17M – I-80 Reconstruction (I. Nathaniel)

MPMS 76357 – est let October 6, 2022 – Monroe County

- Developing Alternatives
- Status meeting held

SR 443-02S – Roadway Safety Improvements (C-K. Oszeyczik)

MPMS 66296 – est let February 13, 2020 – Carbon County

- LET moved to 2020 for funding reasons but continuing to progress design toward previous LET date (March 2019)
- Met with Mahoning Township Supervisors - October 2017
- Conference call with Lehighon Boro - September 2017
- Slope Retention/Mud Sill field meeting w/ agencies - November 7, 2017
- Revised HOP Driveways submission - November 6, 2017
- Utility coordination meeting #2 held in Lehighon Boro Office in November 2017
- Signed Final ROW Plans expected December 2017
- ROW acquisitions expected to start early 2018
- Permit submission to agencies expected early 2018
- Final structure plans expected early 2018

SR 715-03S – 715/611 Intersection Safety Improvements (C-J. Wolfe)

MPMS 79473 – est let January 28, 2021 – Monroe County

- Continuing adjustment of proposed Stormwater basins
- Submitted Technical and Price Proposals for Supplement 2
- Directed Dawood to move proposed borings to avoid Health and Safety Plan (HASP) for drilling operations
- Continue drafting of Safety Review Report
- Forwarded cross-sections with benching to Dawood on May 23, 2017 to assist in preparation of Subsurface Exploration Planning Submission (SEPS).
- Line & Grade approval issued on May 31, 2017
- Review of Brodhead Creek Regional Authority (BCRA) Utility HOP & forwarded potential/definite conflicts to Glace Associates on June 5, 2017
- Communication with Skelly & Loy pertaining to schedule requirements for bog turtle surveys being done
- Prepared exhibits and Stormwater Management summary tables for meeting with PA Department of Environmental Protection
- Meeting held on November 8, 2017 with Senator Scavello to discuss the design alternatives study. A second meeting is being planned with the Senator and FHWA in early 2018 to discuss the potential 4f impacts.

**NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA ALLIANCE
MAJOR PROJECTS STATUS REPORT
MEETING NOVEMBER 21, 2017**

SR 2024-01B – Ridgeway Street Bridge Replacement (C-T. Boccutto)

MPMS 67265 – est let August 22, 2019 – Monroe County

- Project currently in Preliminary Design phase.
- Railroad – held preliminary meeting.
- Foundation – core boring performed in early November 2017
- Hazardous Waste – research studies accepted by Department
- Environmental Clearance – Bridge Rehabilitation Analysis (alternative) report under review
- Structure – TS&L on hold pending alternative selected
- Plans – Design Field View on hold pending alternative selective

SR 2030-02B – Ramp Bridge over I-80 (C-J. Wolfe)

MPMS 11851 – est let December 7, 2017 – Monroe County

- Project advertised on November 7, 2017

SR 8024-01B – I-80 Bridge Ramp (C-J. Wolfe)

MPMS 76371 – est let December 7, 2017 – Monroe County

- Project advertised on November 7, 2017



MPO Safety Performance Measures

NEPA MPO Tech Committee
Meeting

NOVEMBER 21, 2017

➤ Performance Management – Why & Who

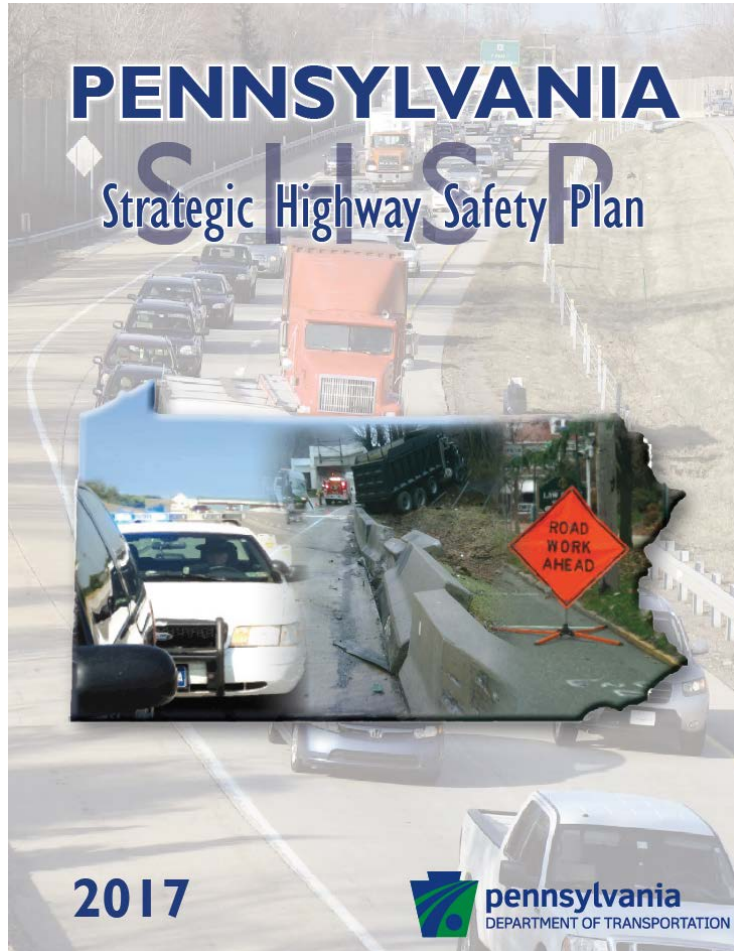
- As part of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) a federal rule making (23 CFR 490) was established to enact national performance management requirements to ensure that State DOTs and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) choose the most efficient investments for Federal transportation funds.

▶ Performance Management - What

To address this 5 performance measures to assess performance and carry out the Highway Safety Improvement Program were established:

1. Number of fatalities
2. Rate of fatalities per 100 Million VMT
3. Number of serious injuries
4. Rate of serious injuries per 100 Million VMT
5. Number of combined non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries

2017 Strategic Highway Safety Plan



- The goal established in the SHSP was to reduce fatalities and serious injuries by 2% annually
- This would result in a PA specific SHSP goal to reduce 120 fatalities and 305 serious injuries over 5 years

[http://www.penndot.gov/TravelInPA/Safety/Documents/PA%20SHSP%202017-02-15%20\(HRRR%20Errata\).pdf](http://www.penndot.gov/TravelInPA/Safety/Documents/PA%20SHSP%202017-02-15%20(HRRR%20Errata).pdf)

➤ Considerations for Performance Goal

- PA data has shown a 1% fatality reduction based on historical state data
- Based on all these considerations a 2% reduction goal was established to continue to push numbers downward to support national goals. The Department felt this was a stretch goal but still obtainable based on PA's current data.

Performance Management - Statewide

Performance Measure	5-year Rolling Averages		
	BASELINE	TARGET	ACTUAL
	2012-2016	2014-2018	2014-2018
Number of Fatalities	1,220.20	1,177.60	
Fatality Rate	1.22	1.161	
Number of Serious Injuries	3,434.00	3,799.80	
Serious Injury Rate	3.433	3.746	
Number of Non-motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries	602.4	654.4	

For each of the 5 measures the State will be using a 2% annual reduction as our target.

▶ Performance Management - When

Based on the Federal regulation, MPOs must establish targets for each performance measure for the same calendar year within 180 days of PennDOT establishing targets.

PennDOT's targets were effective on August 31, 2017.

MPOs must establish their targets by February 27, 2018.

▶ Performance Management - How

MPOs have two choices for establishing its targets:

- Support the State targets
- Establish its own quantifiable targets, including a defined methodology

Most MPOs are adopting the State targets.

Performance Management – NEPA MPO

Performance Measure	5-year Rolling Averages		
	BASELINE	TARGET	ACTUAL
	2012-2016	2014-2018	2014-2018
Number of Fatalities	68.6	63.5	
Fatality Rate	1.626	1.498	
Number of Serious Injuries	177	192.5	
Serious Injury Rate	4.186	4.54	
Number of Non-motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries	16.8	20.9	

For planning purposes the MPO should consider the above values to support the State in meeting the 2% annual reduction target.

▶ Performance Management

Coordination With Other Plans

Long-range statewide transportation plans (LRSTPs) and Metropolitan Transportation Plans (MTPs) updated on or after May 27, 2018 must include safety performance measures and targets.

Statewide Transportation Improvement Programs (STIPs) and Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) updated on or after May 27, 2018 must include a description of how the STIP/TIP contributes to achieving the performance targets in the LRSTP/MTP.

Language is being developed to help describe how STIP/TIP contributes to achieving performance targets.

RECOMMENDATION

- **Suggested motion:**

The NEPA MPO Technical Committee agrees to support the state targets by planning and programming projects that contribute to meeting or making significant progress toward the established PennDOT safety targets, and authorizes the President or Vice President of NEPA to provide written concurrence of the same to PennDOT.

QUESTIONS.....