

Northeastern Pennsylvania Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

February 19, 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:
David Bekisz*	STS	Michele Scribbick	Commuter Services
Marie Bishop*	PennDOT District 4-0	Susan Smith*	Schuylkill Co. Planning
David Bodnar*	Carbon Co. Planning	Matt Smoker	FHWA
John Christy*	Monroe Co. Comm.	Brian Snyder*	Pike Co. Planning
Steve Fisher*	PennDOT District 4-0	Scott Vottero	PennDOT District 5-0
Brian Funkhouser	Michael Baker Intl.	Tiana Williams*^	CCCT/LANTA
Chuck Gould*	Chestnuthill Twp.	Eric Ziegmont	Commuter Services
Ray Green*	PennDOT Central		
Doyle Heffley*	PA House of Reps.	Alan Baranski	NEPA Alliance
Peggy Howarth*	MCTA	Annette Ginocchetti	NEPA Alliance
Vanessa Koenigkramer*	PennDOT District 5-0	Kate McMahan	NEPA Alliance
Jamie Lemon	Michael Baker Intl.	Daniel Yelito	NEPA Alliance
Christine Meinhart-Fritz*	Monroe Co. Planning		
Mike Mrozinski*	Pike Co. Planning		

*Committee members who voted at this meeting.

^ Participated via 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 January 15, 2019 meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Howarth to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Bodnar. The motion passed unanimously.

Action 2: Ms. Meinhart-Fritz requested a motion from the Committee to confirm the email ballot from January 29, 2019. A motion was made by Mr. Gould, seconded by Mr. Christy. The motion passed unanimously.

Action 3: Ms. Meinhart-Fritz requested a motion from the Committee to approve the amendment for SR 6 Paving Phase 2. A motion was made by Mr. Green, seconded by Ms. Howarth. The motion passed unanimously.

Action 4: Ms. Meinhart-Fritz requested a motion from the Committee to approve the MCTA amendments. A motion was made by Mr. Green, seconded by Mr. Christy. 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 January 15, 2019 Business Meeting

Ms. Meinhart-Fritz requested a motion from the Committee to approve the minutes from the January 15, 2019 meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Howarth to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Bodnar. The motion passed unanimously.

b) Confirmation of the January 29, 2019 Email Ballot

Ms. McMahon stated that an email ballot was requested for the bridge project on SR 940 mentioned by Mr. Rebert at the January meeting. It was approved by the committee by a vote of 10-1. Ms. Meinhart-Fritz requested a motion from the Committee to confirm the email ballot from January 29, 2019. A motion was made by Mr. Gould, seconded by Mr. Christy. 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 Mr. Fisher presented the administrative actions.

1) I-81 Wayfinding- increase the PE phase of the project to finish the PS&E package. The source is the construction phase. Statewide Informational Item #1- Post & Cable Guide Rail- increase to finish design work. The source is the HSIP Set Aside Reserve. 2) 903 over Mud Run- advance PE funds to align with anticipated need. The source is the Stites Tunnel Bridge and the NEPA Highway & Bridge Line Item. Interstate Informational Item #1- I-80/Exit 308 Realignment- increase FD to cover additional work due to extension of retaining wall. The source is the Interstate Contingency Line Item. Statewide Informational Item #2- SR 739 Shoulder Widening- increase to FD phase of the project. The source is the HSIP Set Aside Reserve. 3) SR 209 over Sawkill Creek- deobligation of funds returned to the NEPA 4-0 Highway Line Item. 4) I-80 Wayfinding- increase to cover internal charges. The source is the construction phase. 5) SR 6 over Delaware River- add PE phase to begin design. The source is the NEPA 4-0 Highway Line Item. 6) SR 6 over Delaware River- switch PE phase from 100% state to 100% federal funding per eligibility. The source is the NEPA 4-0 Highway Line Item. 7) Mansion Hill Rock Slide Mitigation- increase construction phase for the low bid adjustment. The sources are Marshalls Creek and McCall Bridge deobligations, I-80 Bridge Ramp to SR 8024 and the NEPA Highway and Bridge Line Item. 8) 309 Pavement Reservation II- increase to cover inspection, asphalt adjustments and diesel adjustments. 309 Resurface- Loft Hill to McAdoo- increase construction phase to meet PS& E estimate. The sources are the I-80 Bridge Ramp to SR 8024 and the NEPA Highway and Bridge Line Item.

Ms. Bishop presented an additional action and amendment for Pike County. 1) SR 739 and SR 2001 Paving- advance funds in 2019 and 2020. The source is the Milford to Matamoras Betterment- 6/408 which was fully funded on the 2018 TIP. Amendment 1) SR 6 Paving Phase 2- add second phase of SR 6 paving to the TIP in 2019 and 2020. The source is the NEPA 4-0 Highway Line Item and Milford to Matamoras Betterment- 6/408 which was fully funded on the 2018 TIP.

Ms. Meinhart-Fritz requested a motion from the Committee to approve the amendment for SR 6 Paving Phase 2. A motion was made by Mr. Green, seconded by Ms. Howarth. The motion passed unanimously.

b) Transit Amendments and Administrative Actions

Ms. Howarth presented two amendments for MCTA. Amendment 1) Operators/Mechanics Training Program- add project to the 2019 TIP. The source is MCTA 5307 funds. Amendment 2) Maintenance Test and Training Station- add project to 2019 TIP. The source is MCTA 5307 funds.

Ms. Meinhart-Fritz requested a motion from the Committee to approve the MCTA amendments. A motion was made by Mr. Green, seconded by Mr. Christy. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Green presented one administrative action for Pike County Transportation. 1) Bus Rev Rolling Stock Purchase- the source is the 5310 Elder & Handicap Statewide Transit Funds.

3) **Transportation Planning & Programs**

a) Current Project Status

Ms. Bishop provided an update on Highway Projects in District 4-0.

Mr. Vottero provided an update on Highway Projects in District 5-0.

b) PennDOT Connects Initiative

Mr. Baranski stated that there is a new PennDOT Connects platform. It combines the PennDOT Connects form with the Linking Planning and NEPA system. That platform will be used when new projects are initiated and moved onto the LRTP and to the TIP. We still have outreach meetings on our radar with the idea of having at least two meetings in our region. We had some recent conference calls with our fellow planning partners and based on their feedback, we think it makes sense to tie the PennDOT Connects training with our LRTP outreach. Combining the outreach will make it more relevant to our target audience. Other planning partners had issues with low attendance at their outreach sessions so we think it makes sense to tie-in the Connects training to other outreach efforts. Mr. Baranski stated that PennDOT Connects project meetings continue to be conducted. We have several meetings on Multimodal Transportation Fund projects coming up.

c) Functional Classification Review

Ms. McMahon stated that we are moving along with our functional classification review. We have completed our review in Carbon County. It only took two meeting to complete the review. Nettie is mapping the changes and we will review them with Carbon County once they are complete. We met with PennDOT District 4-0 staff to go over the changes in Pike County to get their concurrence. The submission package for Pike County is done. We also met with District 5-0 to go over the changes in Monroe County. There were concerns about having logical end points for any changes. We also discussed the funding eligibility for some of the changes and we have decided not to go ahead with a few changes since it would impact the district's flexibility for funding sources. Mr. Vottero stated that some of the district staff struggled with the purpose of the functional classification review and that as planning tool and programming tool, it should consider future development. Once we were all on the same page, it went smoothly. Mr. Vottero stated that some of the functional classification changes are consistent with the way they are treating recent roadway improvements. SR 33 projects have been designed for a higher classification and now it will match up. Ms. Smoker stated that the functional classification should consider the way the roadway is used and what traffic it serves, and should not be based solely on funding considerations. It should be based on the federal criteria. Mr. Baranski stated that the process we went through was from a planning perspective and funding wasn't really discussed. It came up more when we met with the districts since it has impacts for them. Rep. Heffley stated that they are running into issues with restrictions on roadways and impacts upon businesses. More roads are getting posted and it impacts goods movement. Mr. Baranski stated that we consider business parks and look at future

planning development and how it will impact a roadway. Ms. McMahon stated that once we are done with Carbon County, we will meet with District 5-0 again to go over those changes and then we will move on to Schuylkill County. We hope to complete the functional classification review by the summer.

d) Jim Thorpe Parking Study/Complete Streets Analysis

Mr. Baranski stated that the study is wrapping up. There have been a few events recently including Winter Fest. They had some serious congestion with that event. The steering committee and borough council will meet shortly. A meeting with PennDOT District 5-0 will also be held to review some of the recommended treatments. The study should wrap up in April and a presentation will be held during a Technical Committee meeting.

e) Commuter Services Update

Ms. Scribbick stated that they are doing on-campus events at Penn State Schuylkill. They have also attended open houses at Alvernia College. They did presentations to the Schuylkill YMCA and the Schuylkill County Career Link. They also attended the MAEA Roundtable on economic development. They have partnered with STS on Free Fare Friday events. They have worked with Walmart Distribution Centers for their new employee events. They are there 3-4 times a month. They presented to the Tamaqua Chamber of Commerce as well and have partnered with Lehigh-Carbon Community College. They also held an event at the Schuylkill County Courthouse to promote their services to the county employees. They met with Johnson & Johnson and Synergy Staff, as well as Great Wolf Lodge in Monroe County.

4) Other Business

Mr. Baranski stated that at the last meeting we had an action for Ms. McMahon to attend the Freight Academy and she was approved for the program. It is a six-day intensive program with freight field visits beginning of April. Mr. Baranski also stated that we will submit an application for supplemental planning funds for a traffic study for Milford Borough by the end of the month.

Commissioner Christy stated that Monroe County did a commodity flow study. It was completed by a consultant and it is very thorough. It includes all the freight that is moving through the county. It includes chemicals that are moved as well as stored in the county. Commissioner Christy stated that they are required to complete the commodity flow study for emergency management purposes, but this is more extensive than their previous studies.

5) Adjournment

There being no further business, the NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.