

Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

August 16, 2016 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:
Dave Bekisz*	Schuylkill Co. Transit	Alan Baranski	NEPA Alliance
David Bodnar*	Carbon Co. Planning	Jeff Box	NEPA Alliance
Matt Boyer	Commuter Services	Lee Ann Chamberlain	NEPA Alliance
Brendan Cotter*	LANTA/CCT	Nettie Ginocchetti	NEPA Alliance
Ray Green*	PennDOT Central	Kate McMahon	NEPA Alliance
Kerry Fields	PennDOT District 5-0	Daniel Yelito	NEPA Alliance
Peggy Howarth*	MCTA		
Chris Kufro*	PennDOT District 5-0	Conference Call:	
Christine Meinhart*	Monroe County Planning	Steven Fisher*	PennDOT District 4-0
Michael Mrozinski*	Pike County Planning	John Frankosky	PennDOT District 4-0
Tony Prudenti*	West Penn Township	Micah Gursky*	St. Luke's
Ryan Richards	Carbon County Planning		
Susan Smith*	Schuylkill County Planning		
Matt Smoker	FHWA		
Ron Tirpak	Carbon Engineering		

*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: Ms. Smith requested nominations for Chairperson. Ms. Meinhart nominated Mr. Mrozinski, seconded by Mr. Bodnar. The motion passed.

Action 2: Mr. Mrozinski requested nominations for Vice-Chairperson. Ms. Smith nominated Ms. Meinhart contingent upon Monroe County Commissioners appointing her as a committee member, seconded by Ms. Howarth. The motion passed.

Action 3: Mr. Mrozinski requested a motion from the Committee to approve the minutes from the June 21, 2016 meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Green. The motion passed.

Action 4: Mr. Mrozinski requested a motion to put forth the comments of the Commonwealth, send them out to the members and by email will take a ballot to endorse sending those comments by the deadline of August 26. A motion was made by Ms. Howarth, seconded by Ms. Smith. The motion passed.

Ms. Smith called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

1) Business Items

- a) Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of NEPA MPO Technical Committee
 - i) Ms. Smith requested nominations for Chairperson. Ms. Meinhart nominated Mr. Mrozinski, seconded by Mr. Bodnar. The motion passed.

Mr. Mrozinski chaired the meeting from this point forward.

- ii) Mr. Mrozinski requested nominations for Vice-Chairperson. Ms. Smith nominated Ms. Meinhart contingent upon the receipt of the Monroe County Commissioners designating her as a committee member, seconded by Ms. Howarth. The motion passed.
- b) Approval of minutes from the June 21, 2016 Business Meeting - Mr. Mrozinski requested a motion from the Committee to approve the minutes from the June 21, 2016 meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Green. The motion passed.

2) TIP Amendments and Administrative Actions

- a) District 4-0 2015-2018 TIP Amendments and Administrative Actions – None.
- b) District 5-0 2015-2018 TIP Amendments and Administrative Actions - Information was included in the meeting packet which highlighted 18 administrative actions and one amendment as presented by Ms. Fields on behalf of PennDOT District 5-0.

Administrative Action: **1) (1)** - SR 1009 Superstructure Deck Replacement - Combine funding from SR 3026 Bridge since they are ready to be let at the same time. SR 3026 Superstructure Replacement - Move funds to 1009 Bridge since they will be let together per Central Office request to assign one FPN. **(2)** - McCall Bridge - Reposition state funds prior to expiration of state fiscal year as federal funds have been de-obligated by CO in May 2016. Patterson Street Resurface - Move state match for flexibility to reassign if phase reduced or no longer needed; SR 534 over Swamp Rd - Adjust FFY 15 to cover actual expenditures to date; SR 534 over Swamp Run - Reduce state match to current obligated amount of 5000 required match of 1250; SR 534 over Swamp Run - Cash flow unobligated portion of programmed funds to FFY 2016 for potential work orders and adjustments; NEPA Bridge Review Mgt - Commitments to date; all other consultant assistance captured under MPMS # 83087; Fritz Valley Rd Normal Ck - Increase to fully cover expenditures to date; Stites Tunnel Bridge - Reposition state match to FFY 16 to reassign if environmental clearance not obtained prior to the 2015 TIP expiration; PA 390 o Leavitts Branch - Increase to fully cover expenditures to date; PA 390 o Leavitts Branch - Increase to fully cover expenditures to date; PA 390 over Leavitts Branch - Align with actual expenditures to date; SR 715 over Pocono Creek - CE not anticipated this TIP. Cash flow; estimate \$360,000 addressed currently on the Draft 2017 TIP (BOF/185); Cherry Creek Bridge I - Increase and bring forward to cover actual expenditures to date; 2011 over Big Meadow - Align with actual expenditures to date; 2011 over Big Meadow - Align with actual expenditures to date; 2011 over Big Meadow - Align with actual expenditures to date; SR 2022 over Bodhead Creek - increase to address construction work orders to date for unforeseen field conditions and differing site conditions; SR 2030/I-80 Bridge - Cash flow a portion of funds to match current expenses and encumbrances; SR 2030/I-80 Bridge - Cash flow a portion of funds to match current commitments and internal expenses; SR 2030/I-80 Bridge - Balancing source with 01-19-17 let ; increased estimate to \$7 M addressed currently on the Draft 2017 TIP (STP); SR 3003 over Chapple Creek - Align with actual commitments and internal charges to date; SR 3003 over Chapple Creek - Align with actual expenditures to date; SR 3003 over Chapple Creek - Cash flow unobligated portion of programmed funds to FFY 2016 for potential work orders and adjustments; SR 3003 over Chapple Creek - Retain committed out and cash flow remainder out to next FFY; Tobyhanna Ck Bridge II - Align with actual commitments and internal charges to date; Tobyhanna Ck Bridge II - Cash flow unobligated portion of programmed funds to FFY 2016 for potential work orders and adjustments; I-80 Bridge Ramp - Cash flow unobligated portion of programmed funds to FFY 2016 for potential work orders and adjustments; I-80 Bridge Ramp - Cash flow unobligated portion of programmed funds to FFY 2016 for potential work orders and adjustments; SR 209 over Reading N RR - Cash flow unobligated portion of programmed funds to FFY 2016 for

potential work orders and adjustments; SR 209 over Wabash Creek - Cash flow unobligated portion of programmed funds to FFY 2016 for potential work orders and adjustments; SR 209 over Wabash Ck Arch - Cash flow a portion of funds to match current expenses and encumbrances; SR 209 over Wabash Ck Arch - Cash flow unobligated portion of programmed funds to FFY 2016 for potential work orders and adjustments; SR 209 over Wabash Ck Arch - Cash flow unobligated portion of programmed funds to FFY 2016 for potential work orders and adjustments; SR 309 over Back Channel - Funding increase needed to cover actual expenditures to date; 309 over Back Channel - Phase remains fully funded. Partial source - SR 309 over Back Channel - Project scope has been reduced. Remaining funds are sufficient to complete the project. 901 over I-81 Beam Replacement - Increase needed. Pottsville St Bridge Replacement - Align with actual commitments and internal charges to date. SR 3005 over Schuylkill WB - Cash flow unobligated portion of programmed funds to FFY 2016 for potential work orders and adjustments; SR 3005 over Schuylkill WB - Cash flow unobligated portion of programmed funds to FFY 2016 for potential work orders and adjustments; Hwy & Bridge Reserve - Line Item used to maintain fiscal constraint. **(3)** - SR 3010 over Pohopoco Creek - Advancement of PE and correction of 80/20 split. Hwy & Bridge Reserve - Line Item used to maintain fiscal constraint. **(4)** - NEPA BRIDGE Preserve & Repair 4 - Adjustment per low bid. Off Network bridges in PM 4 - Increase per low bid. Pine Creek Bridge - Increase to fully funds UTL phase. Cherry Creek Bridge - Reduce to meet phase need. Cherry Creek Bridge - Reduce to meet phase need. Hwy & Bridge Reserve - Line Item used as source and to maintain fiscal constraint. **(5)** - PA 924ovr SR4030 RR & Creek - Increase to fully cover PE supplement. Hwy & Bridge Reserve - Line Item used as source and to maintain fiscal constraint. **(6)** - SR 209 over Wabash Ck Arch - Increase to fully fund FD phase. SR 2030/I-80 Bridge - Balancing source with 01-19-17 let; increased estimate to \$7 M addressed currently on the Draft 2017 TIP (STP). Hwy & Bridge Reserve - Line Item used as source and to maintain fiscal constraint. **(7)** - PA 115 Widening - Increase to fully fund ROW phase. SR 309 over Back Channel - Project scope has been reduced. Remaining funds are sufficient to complete the project. **(8)** - I-80 Bridge Ramp - Reduce to need & convert split from 80/20 to 90/10 per direction from 4232 authorization request based on part of the interstate system; I-80 Bridge Ramp - Convert split from 80/20 to 90/10 per direction from 4232 authorization request based on part of the interstate system; I-80 Bridge Ramp - Reduce to need & convert split from 80/20 to 90/10 per direction from 4232 authorization request based on part of the interstate system; PA 309-Rush Kline Twp. - CE not anticipated this TIP. Cash flow; estimate \$30,000 + YOE addressed currently on the Draft 2017 TIP (NHPP/581); PA 309-Rush Kline Twp. - CE not anticipated this TIP. Cash flow; estimate \$20,000 + YOE addressed currently on the Draft 2017 TIP (NHPP/581); 209 / 115 Intersection - Cash flow. Balancing Source with 04-01-21 let; estimate to \$6.9M + YOE addressed currently on the Draft 2017 TIP; (NHPP/CAQ); Hwy & Bridge Reserve - Reserve line item utilized to balance and maintain overall fiscal constraint. **(9)** - SR 1003 over Broadhead Creek - Start of ROW phase for parent MPMS #94898 NEPA on Demand Bridge contract due to community involvement to reopen structure. Hwy & Bridge Reserve - Source. **(10)** - SR 191 over Cherry Creek - Increase to meet low bid amount. SR 940 over Wagners Run - Reduce to meet low bid amount. Hwy & Bridge Reserve - Source. **(11)** - PA 115 Widening - Increase to PE to cover agreement estimate. 115 & Widening & Int Imp - Increase to FD to cover agreement estimate. SR 309 over Back Channel - Project scope has been reduced. Remaining funds are sufficient to complete the project. **(12)** - 61 Safety Imp_Sch Haven - Increase to cover approved to date work orders and estimated need to complete construction contract. PA 309-Rush Kline Twp - Source with 05-18-17 let; estimate of \$4.5M is addressed currently on the Draft 2017 TIP (NHPP); 61 Recon St. Clair/Frackville - Source with let in FFY 2021; estimate of \$70M partially addressed currently on the Draft 2017 TYP (NHPP); 61 Recon Haven-St. Clair - Source with PE phase to start in FFY 2020 addressed currently on the Draft 2017 TYP (NHPP/581) **(13)** - Patterson St Resurface - Increase to fully cover FD supplements. Hwy & Bridge Reserve - Source. **(14)** - 2011 over Big Meadow - Increase to fully cover UTL estimate. Hwy & Bridge Reserve - Source. **(15)** - PA 54 Curve - Increase to cover AUC to cover phase encumbrances. Hwy & Bridge Reserve - Source. **(16)** - SR 4004 Over Pocono Creek - Addition of PE phase to 2015 TIP to begin project design. SR 2030/I-80 Bridge - Balancing source with 01-19-17 let ; increased estimate to \$7 M addressed currently on the Draft 2017 TIP (STP); Hwy & Bridge Reserve - Source. **(17)** - SR 1009 Superstructure Deck Replacement - Low bid adjustment and inspection and consultation. SR 2030/I-80 Bridge - Balancing source with 01-19-17 let ; increased estimate to \$7 M addressed currently on the Draft 2017 TIP (STP); Hwy & Bridge Reserve - Source. **(18)** - Gordon Mountain Rd Signing - Increase to cover low bid and inspection. Scotrun - Swiftwater - Balancing Source; Programmed to cover anticipated AC conversion on the 2017 TIP. Safety Reserve - Source.

Ms. Smith asked what is the change in action #11? Mr. Kufro replied it was originally scheduled to be replaced but the stream is no longer there and the bridge has been removed and back filled.

3) Transportation Planning & Programs

- a) 2017-2020 TIP Update – Ms. McMahon reported the NEPA MPO Policy Board took action to adopt the 2017-2020 TIP and all related documents. The documents have been submitted to Central Office. Next the STC will act on it and then send it to FHWA for approval. Mr. Smoker added they received and approved the document. It is now awaiting approval from EPA on the air quality performance. Ms. McMahon added the TIP documents are available on the NEPA website.

Mr. Mrozinski asked if the public comments were incorporated into the final document. Ms. McMahon replied that the comments were responded to and they were included the document. Most of the comments were referred to the Districts for comments. Ms. Smith asked if there were any additional replies from the District? Mr. Green added they should be included and he will send them to FHWA and EPA for inclusion.

- b) Coordinated Transit-Human Services Plan Update – Ms. McMahon stated there is a link to the Coordinated Transit-Human Services Plan on the NEPA FTP website. She asked that everyone review the document to take action at the September meeting. If the Technical Committee recommends the Plan to the Policy Board, they will take action at their September meeting. She added the information from the outreach meetings has been added to the document.
- c) Commuter Services – Mr. Boyer introduced Eric Zygmunt as the newest employee in our region. Mr. Mordan provided an update on his activities for the past few months. Mr. Boyer provided some statistics on how many miles were removed from the roadways. May was Ride Your Bike to Work Month. 73 cyclists registered their rides with Commuter Services. 8,451 miles were removed from the highways by those 73 cyclists. In August identified 4 businesses were identified as the “Best Workplaces for Commuters”. The number of miles removed from the highways by individuals using Commuter Services is 240 million miles.
- d) Repurposing Earmarks – Ms. McMahon stated there has been an effort to repurpose earmarks that have not been used in over 10 years. There are 6 projects in our area that have been repurposed. 1) Interstate 80-Exits 298-299 Renovation Project and I-80 Exit at Stoney Hollow Road are being repurposed to Scotrun – Swiftwater. Safety improvements at Liberty Street with intersection with PA Rt. 61 in W. Brunswick & N. Manheim Township, Replace Stossertown Bridge (Main Street) over West Creek in Branch Township, Replace bridge over Little Mahantongo Creek at intersection of Hepler & Valley Roads in Upper Mahantongo Twp., and Replace Union Street Bridge over Middle Creek in the borough of Tremont are being repurposed to I-81 Merge Lanes.
- e) Planning and Engineering 360 Initiative – Mr. Baranski reported during the annual Planning Partners Meeting, an initiative was introduced by Sec. Richards. The initiative will bring the planning process to incorporate local input. This would ensure that local concerns are addressed in the planning process. It would be similar to the Linking Planning & NEPA process. Mr. Green added the Secretary has plans to attend an MPO meeting in each planning region to discuss the initiative. The plan will bridge the gap between the counties and the departments. Mr. Mrozinski asked if there is information in print that could be distributed. Mr. Smoker added PennDOT is working on a draft policy that should be released in September.
- f) MPO Coordination and Planning Proposed Rulemaking – Mr. Baranski reported a new rulemaking was issued by the US DOT on MPO coordination. The public comment period began at the beginning of July and continues until August . The rulemaking concerns the coordination of MPOs that are adjoining and have overlapping urbanized area boundaries. If the rulemaking is implemented, MPOs that cover the same urbanized area would have to adopt joint planning documents or potentially join together as a larger MPO. MPOs that are affected have concerns on the impact of the planning processes. He added the Commonwealth is preparing a list of comments to submit. AMPO and other transportation organizations are also concerned. NEPA staff has reviewed the comments and would be willing to submit a letter on behalf of the MPO. Mr. Mrozinski requested a motion to put forth the comments of the Commonwealth, send them out to the members and by email will take a ballot to endorse sending those comments by the deadline of August 26. A motion was made by Ms. Howarth, seconded by Ms. Smith. The motion passed.
- g) FTA Final Rule on Transit Asset Management – Ms. McMahon reported FTA final rule on transit asset management that defines the term State of Good Repair. It requires transit providers to set performance targets for their capital assets and report on the condition of their assets.

Ms. Howarth added there has been an initiative through the state to provide a capital assets planning tool. Transit systems would load their capital assets into varied categories into a database that would tie into forecasting statewide. It is a tool that has been developed to better track assets.

4) Other Business

Mr. Baranski reported there has been a staffing change at NEPA. Mr. Hollister has moved on to another organization. NEPA will be reviewing the needs and skill set to determine how the vacancy will be filled.

Ms. Smith asked if there was information on the TAP grants. Mr. Green replied no.

Mr. Mrozinski asked for an update on the work plan at future meetings.

Mr. Mrozinski asked about the meeting locations. The November meeting will be held in Pike County. Mr. Baranski replied that the locations of the meetings for this year have been advertised with the disclaimer to check the website for any changes in location or inclement weather.

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