

Northeastern Pennsylvania Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

August 20, 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
David Bodnar*	Carbon Co. Planning	Jason Skrimcovsky	Carbon Co. Planning
Brendan Cotter*^	CCCT/LANTA	Susan Smith*	Schuylkill Co. Planning
Steve Fisher*	PennDOT District 4-0	Matt Smoker	FHWA
Brian Funkhouser^	Michael Baker Intl.	Brian Snyder*	Pike Co. Planning
Ray Green*	PennDOT Central	Scott Vottero	PennDOT District 5-0
Doyle Heffley*	PA House of Reps.	Eric Ziegmont	Commuter Services
Vanessa Koenigkramer*	PennDOT District 5-0		
Chris Kufro	PennDOT District 5-0	Alan Baranski	NEPA Alliance
John Malinchok*	Sch. Planning Comm.	Jeff Box	NEPA Alliance
Christine Meinhart-Fritz*	Monroe Co. Planning	Nettie Ginocchetti	NEPA Alliance
Mike Mrozinski*	Pike Co. Planning	Kate McMahon	NEPA Alliance
		Daniel Yelito	NEPA Alliance

*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 July 23, 2019 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Green 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 July 23, 2019 Business Meeting

Ms. Meinhart-Fritz requested a motion from the Committee to approve the minutes from the July 23, 2019 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Green 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 Mr. Fisher presented the actions.

Action 1- SR 61/209 Intersection Improvements- increase for FD supplement to complete the ROW plans. The source is the ROW phase which was allocated off the 2017 TIP. Statewide Informational Item 1 and 2- MEC Phase 14- cash flow construction phase between 2019 and 2020. The source is the statewide TAP Reserve Line Item. Action 2- Mansion Hill Rock Slide Mitigation- increase construction phase for unforeseen rock slope stabilization discovered during cleaning and scaling operations. The sources are Hamilton West Resurface, SR 2012 over Pocono Creek and the NEPA Highway and Bridge Line Item. Interstate Informational Item 1- I-81 Bridge Preservation- increase to cover work orders during construction to cover an AUC. The source is the Interstate Preservation Line Item. Action 3- SR 6 Paving Phase 2- increase construction phase to low bid amount. The source is SR 390 over outlet Promised Land Lake. Action 4- SR 447 over Goose Pond Road- increase to meet damage claim estimate and cash flow according to anticipated need. The sources are Fritz Valley Road over Normal Creek, 3003 over Chapple Creek and PA 901 over Schuylkill River.

- b) Transit Amendments and Administrative Actions
None.

3) **Transportation Planning & Programs**

- a) Current Project Status

Mr. Fisher provided an update on highway projects in District 4-0.

Mr. Kufro provided an update on highway projects in District 5-0.

- b) 2021-2024 TIP Update

Mr. Baranski stated that we had a reveal of the financial situation at the last tech committee meeting with a presentation from Larry Shifflet. We will be taking a cut in our local TIP funding for the upcoming TIP. There is a handout in the packet that shows the base funding in the current TIP and the anticipated funding for the upcoming 2021-2024 TIP. The significant cuts occur in 2023 and 2024 with the shift of funding to the interstates. There are the numbers that the districts will be working with as they develop the draft TIP. We expect a reveal of Spike funding and Interstate projects in the next month or so.

A timeline of the TIP development process was also included in the meeting packet. We have filled in the MPO meeting dates and the target dates for milestones throughout the TIP development process. We will be working with the districts as they sort out information on current projects and anticipated projects. We anticipate meetings with the districts and county planners to discuss everything. At least compared to previous TIPs, we have more information available this time so we know what we are dealing with. Mr. Mrozinski asked about Spike funding. Mr. Baranski said that no news is available yet but we hope to receive something. Mr. Green stated that there will be Spike funding but it will be a small amount. Mr. Green stated that a draft list of Spike projects has been developed and it will hopefully be released in a few weeks. Ms. Smith asked if the drop in NHPP funding is because it is being shifted to the interstate. Mr. Green said that is correct. Mr. Smoker stated that the shift in funding it to help meet the performance measures that were adopted by the state.

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

Mr. Baranski stated that we are at the mid-point of our current UPWP. We have provided a document that outlines where we are on the priority tasks that were included in each year of the current UPWP. We will have a meeting of the UPWP Subcommittee following the business meeting. At that meeting, we

will discuss the status of the current work program and the schedule for developing the 2020-2022 UPWP. Everyone is welcome to stay and participate in the meeting. In the past, the UPWP subcommittee included the county planners, transit providers and PennDOT reps.

As we transition from year 1 to year 2 of our UPWP, we will have to revisit the budgets. We will be carrying over funds from year 1 to year 2. We are finalizing our 4th quarter numbers internally and will likely take action on the carryover funds at the September meeting. We will also need to add the supplemental planning funds for the Milford Traffic Study to our current UPWP. We will also take action on that in September.

d) NEPA MPO Long Range Transportation Plan Update

Mr. Baranski stated that Mr. Funkhouser from Michael Baker is on the phone and will provide an update on the LRTP. Mr. Funkhouser stated that he is working on getting the county outreach sessions scheduled. We are looking at the week of September 16th and September 23rd. We're hoping to leverage some existing meetings and events. Mr. Funkhouser stated that he is going to finalize the date for the Monroe County meeting and then work on the other meetings. A press release has been drafted and NEPA staff is reviewing. The press release will be used to advertise the meetings and the MetroQuest survey. Some comments on survey were received and have been incorporated. They are also working on the financial numbers for the LRTP. Financial guidance for the TIP update will be used to develop the financial plan for the LRTP.

Ms. Meinhart stated that they would likely hold their meeting at the emergency services building. Meeting space in the county is pretty limited at the moment so they will have to look at available dates for the meeting rooms there. Mr. Mrozinski stated that they were hoping to hold the meeting in Pike County in conjunction with the Pike County Road Task Force meeting and County COG meeting on September 19th. Mr. Baranski stated that the State Transportation Commission is meeting in the morning that day. The meeting will be in Carbon County at 10am that day. Mr. Vottero stated that the STC meeting is at the Hampton Inn in Lehigh.

Mr. Smoker stated that the outreach sessions should have a component that helps to education the attendees. It should be a conversation. Mr. Baranski stated that we will provide information about the PennDOT Connects process as well. Mr. Funkhouser stated that they will have a two-page fact sheets about the existing projects as well as the financial outlook. It's important to show the overall needs as well as the funding that is available to address them. Mr. Smoker stated that other sessions have had mapping exercises as part of the outreach. Mr. Baranski stated that the survey tool also allows respondents to identify needs.

Mr. Bodnar stated that the Carbon County meeting could be held in conjunction with their county COG meeting which is held in the evening. Rep. Heffley stated that it may be better to hold the meetings in the evening because many of the local elected officials work during the day and would be unable to attend. Ms. Smith stated that it will help to get the state representative and senators involved and ask them to encourage participation in the outreach sessions. Many local elected officials contact their state representative and senator about transportation needs.

e) Functional Classification Review

Mr. Baranski stated that we have a meeting set for August 29th to begin the review process in Schuylkill County. We have picked up efficiencies as we have moved through each county and we hope to move through the review in Schuylkill County quickly. Ms. Smith stated their EMA director will participate as well as a former dispatcher who knows the county very well. Once we have completed with the review with the county staff, we will meet with District 5-0 to review the changes.

f) Milford Traffic and Parking Study

Mr. Baranski stated that the funding we received will be incorporated into year two of our UPWP. We will take action at the next meeting. We are working on identifying members of the steering committee to guide the study. We will be working with Michael Baker International to refine the scope of services.

g) Jim Thorpe Parking Study

Mr. Baranski stated that the study is wrapping up. There is a steering committee with the consultants scheduled on August 27th at which we will go over the final recommendations from the study. We hope to engage the traffic unit from District 5-0 one more time as well. The initial discussion with them was productive. The final report will be issued by the end of September. Ms. Meinhart-Fritz asked if there is an implementation schedule and strategy. Mr. Baranski stated that the report identifies improvement projects and possible sources of funding for the recommendations.

h) PennDOT Connects Initiative

Mr. Baranski stated that the PennDOT Connects meetings continue. We still plan to do outreach on PennDOT Connects during the LRTP outreach efforts, if feasible.

i) Commuter Services

Ms. Scribbick stated that they are still doing new student orientations at Penn State Schuylkill. They have a presence at Hudson Bay, Walmart- in both English and Spanish, Dollar General Distribution. They are also working with the Pottsville Area Business Association, Great Wolf Lodge and Monroe CareerLink. They have also been working with the libraries since individuals without internet access will use the library to apply for jobs. They also did a Try It Day with the CareerLink in Pottsville. They met with every staff member and walked them through using the app. There was a good article in the Times News about their services. Ms. Meinhart-Fritz asked about their relationship with Kalahari. Ms. Scribbick stated that their relationship is good and they are continuing to work with them. They are also trying to get into Mount Airy to assist their employees.

4) Other Business

None.

5) Adjournment

There being no further business, the NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.