

# Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

## **September 20, 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**

<b>Attendees:</b>	<b>Organization:</b>
David Bodnar*	Carbon Co. Planning
Brendan Cotter*	LANTA/CCT
Kerry Fields*	PennDOT District 5-0
Steve Fisher*	PennDOT District 4-0
Ray Green*	PennDOT Central
Peggy Howarth*	MCTA
Rob Mordan	Commuter Services
Michael Mrozinski*	Pike County Planning
Ryan Richards	Carbon County Planning
Susan Smith*	Schuylkill County Planning
Ron Tirpak*	Carbon Engineering
Eric Ziegmont	Commuter Services

<b>Attendees:</b>	<b>Organization:</b>
Alan Baranski	NEPA Alliance
Lee Ann Chamberlain	NEPA Alliance
Nettie Ginocchetti	NEPA Alliance
Kate McMahan	NEPA Alliance
Daniel Yelito	NEPA Alliance

### **Conference Call:**

Micah Gursky*	St. Luke's
Christine Meinhart*	Monroe County Planning

\*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 August 16, 2016 meeting. Mr. Tirpak noted his name was not included in the attendance at the August 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Green to accept the minutes with the correction, seconded by Mr. Cotter. The motion passed.

Action 2:

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

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **1) Business Items**

- a) Approval of minutes from the August 16, 2016 Business Meeting - Mr. Mrozinski requested a motion from the Committee to approve the minutes from the August 16, 2016 meeting. Mr. Tirpak noted his name was not included in the attendance at the August 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Green to accept the minutes with the correction, seconded by Mr. Cotter. The motion passed.

## 2) TIP Amendments and Administrative Actions

- a) District 4-0 2015-2018 TIP Amendments and Administrative Actions – Information was included in the meeting packet which highlighted 3 administrative actions as presented by Mr. Fisher on behalf of PennDOT District 5-0.

Administrative Action: 1) SR 0739 Shoulder Widening – Cash flow and increase funding in anticipation of 10/6/16 let date. NEPA 4-0 Highway Line Item funds returned to the regional line item. HSIP set aside reserve is used as the balancing source. 2) I-84 E&W I-4R MP 40-E46 – Increase PE for additional studies including threatened and endangered species, additional geotechnical work report, hydraulic studies, and core borings. Interstate Contingency LI is being used as the funding source to maintain fiscal constraint. 3) SR 434 SLIDE – Increase CON phase to final PS&E estimate. NEPA 4-0 Highway Line Item is used for balancing.

Mr. Baranski asked if the monies being moved from the highway reserve for SR 739 Shoulder Widening will require an amendment. Mr. Fisher replied since the funds were coming from Central Office no amendment is required.

- b) District 5-0 2015-2018 TIP Amendments and Administrative Actions - Information was included in the meeting packet which highlighted 15 administrative actions as presented by Ms. Fields on behalf of PennDOT District 5-0.

Administrative Action: 1) SD Fixed Bridges by DF (CY 17) - Start of PE phase to work on SD bridges in NEPA region. 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. 2) NEPA Br Review/Management - Advancement of PE funds to align funds with actual need. 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 2022 over Brodhead Creek - Increase to fully fund Construction phase work orders Hwy & Bridge Reserve - Source. 3) 443 Roadway Improvement - Advance and increase to meet design estimate of reimbursable activity. SR 895 Betterment - De-obligated funds returned to the region for reassignment to regional needs. District 5 AWPM FY 12-13 - De-obligated funds returned to the region for reassignment to regional needs. NEPA Cable GR #2 - De-obligated funds returned to the region for reassignment to regional needs. SR 33 over Pocono Creek - De-obligated funds returned to the region for reassignment to regional needs. SR 33 over Pocono Creek - De-obligated funds returned to the region for reassignment to regional needs. Stites Bridge - De-obligated funds returned to the region for reassignment to regional needs. Columbia Street Arch - Advance project to concur with 2017 proposed project start. PA 924 over 4030 - Advance project to align with phase programmed on the 2017 draft TIP. PA 924 over 4030 - Advance project to align with phase programmed on the 2017 draft TIP. PA 924 over 4030 - Advance project to align with phase programmed on the 2017 draft TIP. Hwy & Bridge Reserve - Balancing source. 4) NEPA BR Preserve & Repair 4 – Advancing funds to align with actual costs. SR 715/ 611 Intersection – Balancing Source CE not expected; estimate \$1.1 M addressed currently on the Draft 2017 TIP (581) PA 309-Rush Kline Twp – Balancing Source with 05-18-17 let; estimate of \$4.5M is addressed currently on the Draft 2017 TIP (NHPP) SR 309 over Back Channel – Project scope has been reduced. Remaining funds are sufficient to complete the project. BR Preserve & Repair 3 – Balancing source; align costs with actual need. 903 Resurface – Balancing source; align costs with actual need. SR 196 Resurface – Balancing source; align costs with actual need. Early Action 209&2012 – Balancing source; align costs with actual need. 61 Recon St Cl Frackville – Balancing source; align costs with actual need. 209 / 115 Intersection - Balancing Source with 04-01-21 let; estimate to \$6.9M + YOE addressed currently on the Draft 2017 TIP (NHPP/CAQ) Hwy & Bridge Reserve – Partial Source. 5) SR 209 over Reading N RR - Partial Source. Phase no longer needed. No utility agreements or reimbursement activities. SR 209 - SR 901 Intersection - Reduce to actual expenditures and aligning it with anticipated need. Hwy & Bridge Reserve - Partial Source. 6) Mady's Bridges - Increase to fully cover construction costs to date. 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 - Partial Source. 7) I-380 Median Barrier - Increase to cover AUC and fund work order amendment to scope the PS&E tasks. HSIP Set Aside Reserve - Source. 8) McCall Bridge - Increase to cover overhead adjustment invoice. Thornhurst Bridge - De-obligated funds returned to the region for reassignment to regional needs. Log Tavern Road Bridge - De-obligated funds returned to the region for reassignment to regional needs. Beaver Dam Creek Bridge. 1 - De-obligated funds returned to the region for reassignment to regional needs. 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) PA 901 over Schuylkill - Balancing Source with 12-13-18 let; increased estimate to \$3.25 M +YOE addressed currently on the Draft 2017 TIP (581) Hwy & Bridge Reserve - State Source. 9) Jim Thorpe Bridge - Advance funds from FFY 2017 and add required state

match for ability to obligate programmed federal funds. Auburn Arch - De-obligated funds returned to the region for reassignment to regional needs. SR 2030 Bridge - De-obligated funds returned to the region for reassignment to regional needs. Mady's Small Bridge - De-obligated funds returned to the region for reassignment to regional needs. 443 Roadway Improvement - Balancing Source; obligation not expected off this TIP. Estimate of 500,000 to be covered on 2017 draft TIP. Regional Bridge Review - Partial Source. Assignment of reviews being handles under the project delivery assistance line item. 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) PA 901 over Schuylkill - Balancing Source with 12-13-18 let; increased estimate to \$3.25 M +YOE addressed currently on the Draft 2017 TIP (581) Hwy & Bridge Reserve - Partial source and used to maintain fiscal constraint.10) Repair / Monitor Wetlands - Increase to cover anticipated phase cost. 61 Recon St Cl Frackville - Balancing source; align costs with actual need. Estimate of 3M not carried on the 2017 TIP. Hwy & Bridge Reserve - Line Item used as source. 11) Interstate Information SR 80-PHB ITS Monroe - Increase to cover AUC. Interstate Contingency - Line Item used as source. 12) 209-115 Intersection Imp - Increase to fully fund Final Design estimate. 209 / 115 Intersection - Balancing Source. Aligning with anticipated need. CMAQ Reserve - Partial Source. 209 / 115 Intersection - Cash flow. Balancing Source with 12-13-18 let; estimate to \$6.9M + YOE addressed currently on the Draft 2017 TIP (NHPP/CAQ) Hwy & Bridge Reserve - Line Item used to maintain fiscal constraint. NEPA 611 Corridor Phase 2 - De-obligated funds returned to the region for reassignment to regional needs. 13) Non Composite Adjacent Box Beam - Increase to meet SD bridge goals and address 0 and 1 bridges as they surface from inspection. 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) PA 901 over Schuylkill - Balancing Source with 12-13-18 let; increased estimate to \$3.25 M +YOE addressed currently on the Draft 2017 TIP (581) Hwy & Bridge Reserve - Partial source and used to maintain fiscal constraint. 14) D&L Trl-Carbon - Addition of Earmark funds balance to Construction phase to obligate all available funds. 15) 61 Recon St Cl Frackville - Increase to cover PE supplement for additional tasks such as survey, storm water management, permitting coordination, etc. Patterson Street Resurface - Obligation not expected this TIP. Estimate of \$250,000 will be addressed on 2017 draft TIP. 115 & Widening & Int Imp - Cash flow a portion of funds to match current expenses and encumbrances. PA 115 Widening - Cash flow a portion of funds to match current expenses and encumbrances. SR 209 over Reading N RR - Partial Source. Reduce per low bid. SR 209 - SR 901 Intersection - Cash flow a portion of funds to match current expenses and encumbrances. Gold Star Highway Resurface - Encumbrance no expected this TIP. Estimate of \$350,000 will be addressed on 2017 draft TIP. Hwy & Bridge Reserve - Partial source.

Ms. Fields presented one additional administrative action that was not included on the spreadsheet that was distributed. Cressona Wall Repair on SR 3004- Increase to start ROW phase to address emergency repairs to collapsed retaining wall. SR209-SR 901 Intersection, 61 Recon St. Clair Frackville & Hwy and Bridge Reserve are the source.

c) Transit Amendments and Administrative Actions – None.

### 3) Transportation Planning & Programs

- a) Recommendation for Adoption of Coordinated Transit-Human Services Plan Update – Mr. Baranski reported the final draft of the Coordinated Transit-Human Services Plan Update has been out for review since June. We conducted additional outreach through Delta. A final draft was made available on the NEPA FTP site. NEPA staff reviewed the document and made minor changes but nothing substantive. Mr. Baranski recommended the MPO Technical Committee recommend to the Policy Board the Plan be adopted. A motion was made by Ms. Howarth to request recommendation for to the Policy Board to adopt the Coordinated Transit-Human Services Plan, seconded by Ms. Smith. The motion passed.
- b) MPO Coordination and Planning Proposed Rulemaking - Mr. Baranski reported since the last meeting we have engaged our surrounding MPOs including Lehigh Valley and Scranton/Wilkes-Barre and reviewed the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) released by DOT with a comment period that expired on August 26<sup>th</sup>. The MPOs had the same sentiments that the impacts would adversely affect how we develop our projects and advance them at the local level. The rulemaking will force the coordination of MPOs that share urbanized areas and require them to develop a single planning document including a TIP and LRTP. It is unclear what the impacts will be.

NEPA has submitted a letter on behalf of the NEPA MPO. We have also submitted joint letters with Lehigh Valley and Scranton/Wilkes-Barre MPOs. We have engaged our federal delegation to make them aware of the situation. Sen. Toomey, Cong. Marino, Cong. Barletta and Cong. Cartwright have submitted letters addressing their issues with NPRM. Request for extension of the comment period was denied numerous times. When the comment period closed there were over 700 comments received. Mr. Baranski stated he has participated in several conference calls with AMPO, NARC and NADO. Requests by these professional organizations to extend the comment period were ignored. He added from what he is hearing the rulemaking will be finalized in the next few weeks. He anticipates the rule to be similar to what was originally released. There is a great deal of objection across the country.

A strategy has been discussed to address this rulemaking through appropriations. The appropriations committee could request a rider on a bill to restrict funding that no federal funding could be used toward this rulemaking initiative. Mr. Baranski added Cong. Cartwright has been appointed to appropriations committee. He also stated we were advised to make our wishes known to our congressional representatives so that their staff could work on it.

Mr. Baranski added NEPA is funded through federal monies and there are lobbying restrictions.

Mr. Mrozinski asked about next steps as a MPO committee. Mr. Baranski suggested as a committee we should generate a letter to congressional delegation to support a rider restricting funding of implementation NPRM. He stated he would contact AMPO regarding a model letter we could use. Mr. Mrozinski asked about a timeline to send the letter. Mr. Baranski replied it should be sent to congress before they recess for election so that it is in draft form when they return.

Ms. Howarth asked if some of the larger MPOs could be consolidated MPO would have the ability to choose to consolidate. Mr. Baranski replied if MPOs want to consolidate now they are able to. The proposed legislation will force consolidations. He added much of the comments were examples of how MPOs are currently working together in many different ways.

NEPA will draft a letter to be signed by both the technical committee and the policy board. The letter will be sent via email for approval via email ballot.

- c) Commuter Services – Rob Mordan reported that Commuter Services has been working with Kalahari employees. He will be attending a job/education fair in Pottsville. They are meeting with Amazon. He stated September is Try Transit Month. Mr. Baranski stated that we will work with them have a PR event to bring attention to the program later this fall.
- d) Planning and Engineering 360 Initiative – Mr. Baranski stated Planning and Engineering 360 Initiative is now PennDOT Connects. It is a policy initiative designed to engage local planners in the scope of projects. Initial meetings will be held at the District level on September 29 in King of Prussia and will discuss roles and responsibilities. Ms. McMahon mentioned they are planning training for municipalities later this year.

Mr. Mrozinski asked if there is information on their website. Ms. McMahon replied there is no information available as of yet but she will pass information along when it is available.

- e) PennDOT Grant Programs – Green Light-Go and Transportation Alternatives Program – Ms. McMahon reported the Green Light Go grant is now open. She added the match has been lowered from 50% to 20%. We are still waiting on approval of Transportation Alternatives Program projects. The announcement of the awards has been delayed because PennDOT is working to coordinate with other programs such as the Multimodal Transportation Fund Program.
- f) LTAP Annual Meeting and Fall Schedule – Ms. McMahon reported she attended the LTAP annual meeting. Provided information about what we are doing in our area. At the meeting PennDOT provided information on new classes. Ms. McMahon provided a summary of the LTAP activities for the past year. In the NEPA region we held 18 classes and averaged 17 attendees per class. Ms. McMahon also noted that we have some of the best numbers in the state. She has provided a schedule for the upcoming fall season. Mr. Mrozinski thanked Mr.

Yelito and Ms. Ginocchetti for their attendance at the Pike County Road Task Force each month and their support in securing attendees for the classes. Mr. Baranski noted that we also promote LTAP at the annual PSATS and PSAB meetings that Mr. Yelito attends.

**4) Other Business**

None.

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