

# Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

## July 6, 2016 Policy Board Meeting Summary and Minutes

2:00 p.m.

**Meeting Location:**  
NEPA Alliance Office  
1151 Oak St  
Pittston, PA 18640

**Attendees:**

Matt Connell\*  
Steve Fisher  
Ray Green\*  
Micah Gursky\*  
Kathy Henderson\*  
Matt Smoker  
Fred Suljic\*

**Organization:**

Northampton Community Col.  
PennDOT District 4-0  
PennDOT Central (via conf. call)  
St. Luke's Hosp.  
CCEDC  
FHWA  
Pike County

**NEPA Staff:**

Alan Baranski  
Jeff Box  
Nettie Ginocchetti  
Kate McMahon

NEPA Alliance  
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NEPA Alliance

\*Committee members who voted at this meeting.

### **Summary of Actions Taken by the NEPA MPO Policy Board Committee**

During the course of this meeting the NEPA MPO Policy Board Committee voted on the following actions:

Action 1: Dr. Connell requested a motion to approve the March 15, 2016 NEPA MPO Policy Board meeting minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Gursky, seconded by Ms. Henderson and passed unanimously.

Action 2: Dr. Connell requested a motion to adopt the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program as presented. A motion was made by Mr. Suljic, seconded by Ms. Henderson and passed unanimously.

Action 3: Dr. Connell requested a motion to adopt the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments & Administrative Actions Guidelines & Procedures MOU. A motion was made by Ms. Henderson, seconded by Mr. Gursky and passed unanimously.

Action 4: Dr. Connell requested a motion to adopt the NEPA MPO Self-Certification Resolution. A motion was made by Mr. Suljic seconded by Mr. Gursky and passed unanimously.

Action 5: Dr. Connell requested a motion to adopt the NEPA MPO Air Quality Conformity Resolution. A motion was made by Mr. Gursky seconded by Ms. Henderson and passed unanimously.

Action 6: Mr. Box requested a nomination of a Chairperson of the NEPA MPO Policy Board. Mr. Suljic nominated Mr. Connell, seconded by Ms. Henderson and passed unanimously.

Action 7: Mr. Box requested a nomination of a Vice-Chairperson of the NEPA MPO Policy Board. Mr. Connell nominated Mr. Suljic, seconded by Ms. Henderson and passed unanimously.

Action 8: Dr. Connell requested a motion to reappoint Mr. Sebelin, Mr. Casella, and Mr. Quandel as alternate board members. A motion was made by Mr. Gursky, seconded by Mr. Suljic and passed unanimously.

Dr. Connell called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

## Meeting Minutes

### 1) Business Items

#### a) Election of 2016-2018 NEPA MPO Policy Board Officers

Mr. Baranski requested the election of the 2016-2018 NEPA MPO Policy Board Officers be moved to the bottom of the agenda. He stated there are a number of actions that will be required of the Board during this meeting. Documents will require signatures of the Policy Board Chairperson and they have already been prepared.

There being no objections, elections will be moved to the end of the agenda for reasons stated.

#### b) Approval of Minutes from the NEPA MPO Policy Board November 18, 2015 Meeting

Dr. Connell requested a motion to approve the March 15, 2016 NEPA MPO Policy Board meeting minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Gursky, seconded by Ms. Henderson and passed unanimously.

### 2) Transportation Planning and Programs

#### a) 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program

i) Adoption of 2017-2020 TIP – Mr. Baranski gave an overview of the 2017-2020 TIP. The TIP includes the active projects that are reviewed every 2 years. The Technical Planning committee has recommended the Policy Board adopt the 2017-2020 TIP at their June 21, 2016 meeting. Following adoption by this board the TIP will be submitted to Central Office to be included in the STIP. The State Transportation Commission will then take action. The STIP and local TIP will then become effective October 2016. The value of the TIP is \$509 million.

Dr. Connell requested a motion to adopt the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program as presented. A motion was made by Mr. Suljic, seconded by Ms. Henderson and passed unanimously.

ii) 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments & Administrative Actions Guidelines & Procedures MOU – Mr. Baranski explained the MOU is based on a document between FHWA, FTA and the state. It provides guidance on how the TIP will be amended. The guidelines are passed down to the MPO and RPO throughout the state to use when the need for a project to be amended.

Dr. Connell requested a motion to adopt the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments & Administrative Actions Guidelines & Procedures MOU. A motion was made by Ms. Henderson, seconded by Mr. Gursky and passed unanimously.

iii) NEPA MPO Self-Certification Resolution – Mr. Baranski explained the NEPA MPO Self-Certification Resolution is a statement of assurances the MPO is in compliance with federal and state statutes and guidelines.

Dr. Connell requested a motion to adopt the NEPA MPO Self-Certification Resolution. A motion was made by Mr. Suljic seconded by Mr. Gursky and passed unanimously.

iv) NEPA MPO Air Quality Conformity Resolution – Mr. Baranski explained the Air Quality Conformity report is run based on the impact a project will have on air quality. The resolution states the report is in conformity with the state implementation plan.

Dr. Connell requested a motion to adopt the NEPA MPO Air Quality Conformity Resolution. A motion was made by Mr. Gursky seconded by Ms. Henderson and passed unanimously.

b) Coordinated Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan – Mr. Baranski reported Delta Development has been assisting with creating the plan. The plan evaluates the level of service between the nonprofit sectors and healthcare providers and how they could be better coordinated and provide better service more efficiently. There has been a great deal of interest. A draft plan has been prepared and is under review. The plan will be out for

public comment. The Technical Committee will take action in September. The document is available through our FTP website.

- c) Commuter Services – Mr. Baranski reported Mr. Boyer attended the stakeholder meeting for the Coordinated Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan. The type of service he provides is directly related to the plan. He added Commuter Services is funded through Air Quality Conformity dollars. Mr. Baranski also reported that Commuter Services has hired another professional to assist with outreach to large employers within our region.

Mr. Gursky stated Commuter Services has metrics they must meet. He asked if those metrics have been shared as of yet. Ms. Henderson replied she attended Commuter Services last Board meeting and that information was not available. She stated the enrollee membership has grown tremendously over the past few months. Mr. Baranski added Commuter Services has received a great amount of public relations. He also added from the beginning they knew it would take some time to get started.

- d) Final Transportation Rule on MAP-21 and FAST Act – Mr. Smoker provided the committee with an update the rules and guidelines of MAP 21 and FAST Act. He stated they established performance goal areas in safety, infrastructure, congestion, system reliability, and emissions. They added 2 new planning factors that were not involved previously. The first is to improve resiliency and reliability of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate storm water impacts of surface transportation. The second is for enhancing travel and tourism. He added this will add transparency and accountability regarding performance measures. This information can be found on the Federal Highway website. Webinars are scheduled on July 13 to provide additional information.

Mr. Gursky asked how the regulations are impacting areas that are not an MPO. Mr. Smoker replied there will not be much of an impact in Pennsylvania because PennDOT has been treating the RPOs the same as the MPOs for over 20 years. The regulations now from a Federal perspective officially recognize the rural areas.

Mr. Suljic asked how the regulations will impact Wayne County. Mr. Smoker replied it does not impact Wayne County as of now. Wayne County is not recognized as an RPO, they are treated as an independent county. Mr. Fisher added from a district perspective they would try to stay at the statewide level. He added the district is held accountable for the metrics.

### 3) Other Business

- a) **Election of 2016-2018 NEPA MPO Policy Board Officers** – Mr. Baranski explained in accordance with the NEPA MPO Policy Board bylaws at the conclusion of this meeting the first 2-year term of NEPA MPO Policy Board Officers will expire. This Board is required to elect a chair and vice chairperson and their alternates to serve for the 2016-2018 term.

Dr. Connell asked Mr. Box to chair this portion of the meeting.

- i) Mr. Box requested a nomination of a Chairperson of the NEPA MPO Policy Board. Mr. Suljic nominated Dr. Connell, seconded by Ms. Henderson and passed unanimously.
- ii) Mr. Box requested a nomination of a Vice-Chairperson of the NEPA MPO Policy Board. Dr. Connell nominated Mr. Suljic, seconded by Ms. Henderson and passed unanimously.

Dr. Connell resumed as Chairperson for the remainder of the meeting.

- iii) Dr. Connell requested a motion to reappoint Mr. Sebelin, Mr. Casella, and Mr. Quandel as alternate board members. A motion was made by Mr. Gursky, seconded by Mr. Suljic and passed unanimously.

### 4) Adjournment

Next meeting is September following the NEPA Annual Meeting.

There being no further business, the NEPA MPO Policy Board Committee meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.