

MEMORANDUM

TO: NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee, Policy Board & Stakeholders

FROM: Kate McMahon, Sr. Transportation Services Manager

DATE: March 17, 2020

SUBJECT: March 24, 2020 Meeting Agenda

Enclosed, please find the agenda for the joint Northeastern Pennsylvania Metropolitan Planning Organization (NEPA MPO) Technical Planning Committee and Policy Board Business Meeting to be held by videoconference on **Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 9:30am**. The videoconference call information is below.

Video Conference Link: <https://zoom.us/j/4377966873>

Phone Number: 929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 437 796 6873

Please RSVP to me at (570) 655-5581, ext. 249 or kmcmahon@nepa-alliance.org by **Friday, March 20, 2020** with your attendance plans.

NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee Upcoming Meetings:

April 21, 2020 at 9:30 AM

May 19, 2020 at 9:30 AM

June 16, 2020 at 9:30 AM

Attachments:

1. NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee Business Meeting Agenda for March 24, 2020
2. NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee Business Meeting Minutes from January 21, 2020
3. NEPA MPO Policy Board Business Meeting Minutes from January 16, 2020
4. Fiscal Constraint Chart – PennDOT District 4-0 and 5-0, March 24, 2020
5. 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan
6. 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Timeline
7. 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Summary of Changes
8. 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Air Quality Conformity Resolution
9. Current Project Status Reports – Highway Projects

**NEPA MPO JOINT TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE AND POLICY BOARD
BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA
MEETING AGENDA**

Location:

Zoom Videoconference

Date & Time:

Tuesday, March 24, 2020 – 9:30 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome & Opening Introductions

Call the Meeting to Order

1) Business Items

- a) Approval of minutes from the January 21, 2020 Technical Committee Business Meeting
- b) Approval of minutes from the January 16, 2020 Policy Board Business Meeting

2) TIP Amendments and Administrative Actions

- a) District 4-0 and 5-0 2019-2022 TIP Amendments and Administrative Actions
- b) Transit Amendments and Administrative Actions

3) Transportation Planning & Programs

a) Technical Planning Committee Actions:

- i) Action to Recommend Air Quality Conformity Analysis Resolution for Adoption by the NEPA MPO Policy Board
- ii) Action to Recommend 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan for Adoption by the NEPA MPO Policy Board

b) Policy Board Actions:

- i) Action to Adopt Air Quality Conformity Analysis Resolution upon endorsement by the NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee.
- ii) Action to Adopt 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan upon endorsement by the NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee.
- c) Current Project Status Update – Highway Projects
- d) 2020-2022 UPWP Status
- e) 2021-2024 TIP Update
- f) Functional Classification Review
- g) Milford Traffic and Parking Study
- h) PennDOT Connects Initiative
- i) Commuter Services Update

4) Other Business

5) Adjournment

Additional Information on Agenda Items

NEPA MPO Air Quality Conformity Resolution

The Technical Committee and Policy Board will consider approval actions of the NEPA MPO Air Quality Conformity Resolution at the March 24th meeting. The Air Quality Conformity Resolution authorizes the adoption of the Air Quality Conformity Analysis reports for Monroe County and Carbon County. The Air Quality Conformity Analysis determined that the air quality significant projects in Monroe and Carbon counties that are included in the draft 2021-2024 TIP and 2045 LRTP conform to the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

NEPA MPO 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Update

The Technical Committee and Policy Board will consider approval actions of the 2045 NEPA MPO Long Range Transportation Plan at the March 24th meeting. The 30-day public comment period on the draft LRTP began on February 14th. A copy of the draft plan was posted on the NEPA Alliance website. Hard copies were on display at 10 locations across the region.

Notice of the public comment period was published in local newspapers, posted on the NEPA Alliance website and shared on social media including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Notice was also published in the transportation division's *Interchanges* newsletter and *NEPA Newslines* newsletter. An email was sent out to the NEPA MPO stakeholder email list as well. On March 2nd, a public meeting was held to receive comments on the draft plan. The main meeting was held at the Monroe County Transportation Authority. Additional meeting locations with remote access to the public meeting were held in Jim Thorpe, Milford and Pottsville.

Since the opening of the LRTP comment period on February 14th, we received comments on the draft Long Range Transportation Plan from several sources including the Federal Highway Administration and PennDOT Central Office. The nature of the comments required revisions to the draft plan. A synopsis of the discussions with the governing agencies and ensuing actions were presented in a Road Map Timeline which sets forth the milestones for LRTP adoption and approval. We have also developed a document which summarizes and identifies the extent of the edits and how they have been addressed in the revised LRTP document. The summary of changes and the revised LRTP document are available on the NEPA website at <http://www.nepa-alliance.org/transportation/>.

When significant changes to the draft plan occur, our public involvement plan requires an additional seven-day comment period to provide the public with an extended opportunity to comment on the revisions to the original draft LRTP document. As a result, the comment period on the LRTP was extended until Monday, March 23rd. Notice of the extended comment period was published in local newspapers, shared on social media and emailed to transportation stakeholders.

3a. Technical Planning Committee Actions:

- i) **NEPA MPO Air Quality Conformity Resolution** - As part of the LRTP adoption process, the NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee will first consider endorsement and recommendation of the Air Quality Conformity Resolution for adoption by the NEPA MPO Policy Board

- ii) **NEPA MPO 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan** – The NEPA MPO Technical Committee will then consider the endorsement and recommendation of the Long Range Transportation Plan for adoption by the NEPA MPO Policy Board.

3b. Policy Board Actions:

- i) **NEPA MPO Air Quality Conformity Resolution** - As part of the LRTP adoption process, the NEPA MPO Policy Board will first consider adoption of the Air Quality Conformity Resolution upon the recommendation of the MPO Technical Planning Committee.
- i) **NEPA MPO 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan** - The NEPA MPO Policy Board will then consider adoption of the Long Range Transportation Plan upon the recommendation by the NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee.

3c. Current Project Status- Highway Projects

District 4-0 and 5-0 and transit providers are providing the committee with an update about various project activities on a regular basis. Projects are categorized as Bridge, Highway, Major/Interstate, TAP/MTF/ARC and Transit. Projects with notable activity are reported for a single category as a regular agenda item throughout the year's meeting schedule. A handout of the report is provided in advance of the meeting when possible. At the March 24th meeting, we will review the Highway Projects in the region.

3d. 2020-2022 UPWP

During this past summer, the NEPA MPO convened the UPWP Subcommittee to review the work program and determine priority tasks for the upcoming two-year period. The first meeting of the UPWP Subcommittee was held on August 20th. A review of the current work program and the priority tasks for Year 1 and Year 2 occurred. Subsequent meetings of the UPWP Subcommittee were held on September 17th and October 10th.

At the November 19th business meeting, the NEPA MPO Technical Committee approved submission of the draft UPWP to FHWA and Central Office for review. Comments were received and were incorporated into the final document.

The NEPA MPO Technical Committee endorsed the Work Program by an email ballot closed January 15, 2020 and confirmed said endorsement at its regular business meeting of January 21, 2020. The NEPA MPO Policy Board approved the Work Program at its regular business meeting of January 16, 2020. The UPWP was formally submitted with all exhibits and required documentation to PennDOT Central Office on January 31, 2020.

A related Resolution authorizing NEPA to contract with PennDOT to perform transportation planning and programming was adopted by the NEPA Board of Directors at its March 4, 2020 business meeting. Upon notification of the UPWP approval by FHWA, the formal contracting process with PennDOT will be initiated.

3e. 2021-2024 TIP Update

Development of the next TIP update is nearing completion. The draft NEPA MPO 2021-2024 TIP and 2021-32 TYP were shared with the MPO committee members in January. The draft TYP is the basis of the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan. The draft Transit 2021-2024 TIPs and draft Interstate 2021-2032 TYP for our MPO counties were also included in the draft LRTP document. An air quality conformity analysis and environmental justice analysis were conducted in coordination with the LRTP development. The full TIP update document will be available for review later this Spring and corresponding 30-day public comment period will be held in April or May with final adoption by July 2020.

Previous committee discussions have emphasized the impacts upon project schedules due to base allocation funding cuts to the NEPA MPO. In an effort to mitigate these impacts, an application for a USDOT Infrastructure For Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant has been prepared and submitted by PennDOT to secure competitive discretionary funds toward the Rt. 61 reconstruction project in Schuylkill County. NEPA staff coordinated the generation of support letters as part of this effort.

3f. Functional Classification Review

NEPA GIS staff has completed the necessary GIS mapping for Pike, Monroe and Carbon counties and has reviewed the changes with District 4-0 and 5-0. The initial review in Schuylkill County wrapped up with a meeting on December 18th. Staff is now completing the mapping of the proposed changes. Once completed, a meeting will be set up with District 5-0 to review the proposed changes.

Once the review is complete in all four counties, the necessary documentation and mapping will be submitted to Central Office for review before submission to FHWA.

3g. Milford Borough Traffic Study, Parking Analysis and Complete Streets Evaluation

Earlier in the year, NEPA staff met with Milford Borough and Pike County officials to discuss funding for a traffic study for the borough. The study would potentially address traffic circulation and congestion issues, traffic signals and signage, pedestrian safety and parking shortages. Staff applied for Supplemental Planning Funds for the study and was subsequently approved by PennDOT central office.

PennDOT has approved \$60,000 in Supplemental Planning Funds for the project. An additional \$15,000 in local match will be secured for the project. A conference call with Pike County, Milford Borough, NEPA and Michael Baker International representatives to discuss the scope of the project was held on October 18th and the scope is being finalized. A corresponding work order with Baker International will be executed shortly. A steering committee has been identified and a kickoff meeting was held with the committee on January 21st at 3pm at the Pike County Administration Building in Milford. A next conference call with the steering committee is scheduled for March 24th.

3h. PennDOT Connects Initiative

At the direction of Secretary Leslie Richards, PennDOT has initiated a new effort to improve the project planning processes and increase local involvement in projects. PennDOT has developed a formal policy on this new effort and outreach efforts to municipalities are being held on projects on the current TIP that have not started the PE phase.

NEPA staff has been participating in many PennDOT Connects meetings with PennDOT staff, municipal officials and stakeholders for upcoming TIP projects, maintenance projects and Multimodal Transportation Fund projects. Additional meetings will be held in the coming months on current and future projects.

The next phase of the PennDOT Connects effort involves additional outreach and training for municipalities regarding project planning and engineering factors to be considered during project development. The format of the LRTP Outreach sessions was not conducive to achieving the objectives of PennDOT Connects training sessions as previously considered. Separate PennDOT Connect outreach/training meetings will be scheduled in the coming weeks.