

# Northeastern Pennsylvania Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

## May 17, 2022 Technical Planning Committee

### Meeting Summary and Minutes

9:30 a.m.

#### Attendees:

David Alas\*  
Dave Bekisz\*  
David Bodnar\*  
Jim Brady  
Brendan Cotter\*  
Steve Fisher\*  
Marta Gabriel  
Deborah Henson  
Crystal Heshmat  
Peggy Howarth\*  
AJ Jordan  
Vanessa Koenigkramer\*  
Chuck Leonard\*  
Christine Meinhart-Fritz\*  
Mike Mrozinski\*  
John Petrini

#### Organization:

PennDOT Central  
STS  
Carbon Co. Planning  
STV  
LANTA  
PennDOT District 4-0  
Sen. Toomey's Office  
HGR Engineering  
PennDOT Central  
MCTA  
LANTA  
PennDOT District 5-0  
PMEDC  
Monroe Co. Planning  
Pike Co. Planning  
PennDOT District 4-0

#### Attendees:

Emma Pugh  
Alfred Picca  
Mike Rebert  
Rich Roman  
Dave Rostron  
Jason Skrimkovsky  
Matt Smoker  
Brian Snyder\*  
Scott Vottero  
  
Jeff Box  
Alan Baranski  
Nettie Ginocchetti  
Kate McMahon  
Daniel Yelito

#### Organization:

PennDOT District 4-0  
Urban Engineers  
PennDOT District 5-0  
PennDOT District 4-0  
PennDOT District 5-0  
Carbon Co. Planning  
FHWA  
Pike Co. Planning  
PennDOT District 5-0  
  
NEPA Alliance  
NEPA Alliance  
NEPA Alliance  
NEPA Alliance  
NEPA Alliance

\*Technical Committee members who voted at this meeting

#### **Summary of Actions Taken by the NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee:**

During this meeting, the MPO Technical Committee voted on the following actions:

Action 1: Mr. Bodnar requested a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2022 meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Meinhart-Fritz, seconded by Ms. Howarth to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Action 2: Mr. Bodnar requested a motion from the Technical Committee to approve Amendment 1 to add the Raven Run Road over Shenandoah Creek project to the TIP. A motion was made by Mr. Cotter, seconded by Ms. Howarth. The motion passed unanimously.

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

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

##### a) Approval of minutes from the April 19, 2022 Business Meeting

Mr. Bodnar requested a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2022 meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Meinhart-Fritz, seconded by Ms. Howarth to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

## 2) TIP Amendments and Administrative Actions

### a) District 4-0 and 5-0 2021-2024 TIP Amendments and Administrative Actions

Information was included in the meeting packet which highlighted administrative actions on the 2021 TIP for District 5-0. Ms. Koenigkramer highlighted actions for District 5-0. There were no actions for District 4-0.

Interstate Informational Item 1- I-80 Reconstruction- increase Final Design phase. The source is the Interstate Contingency Line Item. Action 1- Environmental Impacts Resolution- increase for wetland mitigation site remediation. Delivery Consultant Assistance- add available 185 funds in the region. The sources are SR 715/611 Intersection, Tremont Road over Swatara Creek and the NEPA Highway and Bridge Line Item. Statewide Informational Item 1- Post & Cable Guide Rail- deobligation returning funds to the HSIP Set Aside Reserve Line Item. Action 2- 33 Resurfacing- advance construction into FFY2022. The source is the Jim Thorpe Preventative Maintenance which was combined with another project and the NEPA Highway and Bridge Line Item. Interstate Informational Item 2- I-81 NB Emergency Resurfacing- add the I-81 NB Emergency Resurfacing project. The source is the Interstate Contingency Line Item. Action 3- SR 115-Effort Corridor Improvements- increase for PE supplement. The source is the construction phase of the project. HSIP funds were swapped for STP funds because the project is capped on HSIP funds.

Amendment 1- Raven Run Road over Shenandoah Creek- advance PE onto current TIP for use of available BOF in FFY2022. The sources are Berne Drive over Red Creek Bridge which is fully carried on the 2023 TIP and the NEPA Highway and Bridge Line Item. Mr. Bodnar requested a motion from the Technical Committee to approve Amendment 1 to add the Raven Run Road over Shenandoah Creek project to the TIP. A motion was made by Mr. Cotter, seconded by Ms. Howarth. The motion passed unanimously.

### b) Transit Amendments and Administrative Actions

None.

## 3) Transportation Planning & Programs

### a) Current Project Status

Mr. Fisher provided an update on TA/MTF/FLAP projects in District 4-0. Mr. Vottero provided an update on TA/MTF/ARC projects in District 5-0.

### b) 2023 TIP Development

Mr. Baranski stated that we are in the middle of the 30-day public comment period which runs from May 2 to May 31. We completed the scheduled public hearing held immediately prior to this meeting. The STC will hold a 15-day public comment period on the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) from June 1-15. There will be a joint Technical Committee and Policy Board meeting on June 21<sup>st</sup>. At that meeting, we will take a series of actions to adopt the TIP.

### c) Eastern PA Freight Study

Mr. Baranski stated that an RFP for a consultant for the plan was issued in February and three responses were received. The MPOs did an initial scoring of the proposals and invited two consultants to be interviewed by the group. The interviews were held in late April. A meeting with the group is scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup> for the final selection of the consultant. The study will kick off in July and will run for about a year. It will be completed by June 2023.

Mr. Cotter asked if the Technical Committee has to take any action on the selection of the consultant. Mr. Baranski stated that the only action taken by the NEPA MPO committee was to transfer NEPA's portion of the matching funds to the Lehigh Valley MPO. That action occurred in December by the Technical Committee with additional action by the Policy Board and NEPA Board in January. The NEPA MPO Tech Committee will be engaged once the study is underway.

d) 2022-2023 Meeting Dates and New Technical Committee Appointments

Mr. Baranski stated that draft meeting dates for the next year have been provided. They are scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month. We will need to look at moving the October meeting because it conflicts with the Annual PennDOT Planning Partners meeting. Ms. McMahon stated that we have been asked by Pike County about holding one of the meetings in Delaware Township so committee members will have an opportunity to drive SR 2001 and understand the need for the SR 2001 reconstruction project. We are looking at either September or October. Ms. McMahon stated that she will reach out to Ms. Neufeld from Delaware Township to see what works for them. Mr. Baranski stated that new appointments to the Technical Committee need to be made. The appointments will run from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2024. Letters to the board of commissioners and transit boards will be sent out in the next few weeks. Representatives to the Policy Board will also be made by the NEPA Board of Directors in June.

**4) Other Business**

Mr. Baranski stated that additional funding opportunities from the IJA are being announced and webinars are being held. We will share information whenever we can. Some of the programs may require the engagement of a consultant to complete the application. There were two PennDOT Connects outreach sessions held over the past month in our region. The sessions highlighted a lot of information about programs available through the IJA. Since the last meeting, Multimodal Transportation Fund and Transportation Alternatives awards have been announced so there continue to be opportunities at the state level as well.

Mr. Mrozinski stated that they look forward to welcoming everyone to Pike County in the fall. They have requested that NEPA seek funding to study the SR 2001 project. Mr. Baranski stated that staff has reached out to Central Office about applying for supplemental funding to undertake the study. Mr. Mrozinski asked about the status of the functional classification review. Ms. McMahon stated it is still under review by Central Office. We did receive some follow-up questions from them about it. The central office staff who does the review is also engaged in HPMS so they have been busy with that, but we will stay on top of it.

**5) Adjournment**

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