

# Northeastern Pennsylvania Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

## November 16, 2021 Technical Planning Committee

### Meeting Summary and Minutes

9:30 a.m.

#### Meeting Location:

NEPA Alliance Office and  
Microsoft Teams Videoconference

#### **Attendees:**

David Alas  
Marie Bishop\*  
David Bodnar\*  
Brendan Cotter\*  
Marta Gabriel  
Micah Gursky  
Doyle Heffley\*  
Kathy Henderson  
Peggy Howarth\*  
Vanessa Koenigkramer\*  
Amanda Leindecker  
Chris Kufro  
Jim Mosca\*  
Christine Meinhart-Fritz\*

#### **Organization:**

PennDOT Central  
PennDOT District 4-0  
Carbon Co. Planning  
CCCT/LANTA  
Sen. Toomey's Office  
St. Luke's Hospital  
State Representative  
CCEDC  
MCTA  
PennDOT District 5-0  
PennDOT District 5-0  
PennDOT District 5-0  
PennDOT Central  
Monroe Co. Planning

#### **Attendees:**

Mike Mrozinski\*  
John Petrini  
Emma Pugh  
Jason Skrimcovsky  
Susan Smith\*  
Matt Smoker  
Brian Snyder\*  
Scott Vottero  
  
Alan Baranski  
Jeff Box  
Kate McMahan  
Daniel Yelito

#### **Organization:**

Pike Co. Planning  
PennDOT District 4-0  
PennDOT District 4-0  
Carbon Co. Planning  
Schuylkill Co. Planning  
FHWA  
Pike Co. Planning  
PennDOT District 5-0  
  
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 September 21, 2021 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Cotter, seconded by Ms. Howarth to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Action 2: Mr. Bodnar requested a motion from the Technical Committee to confirm the October 29, 2021 Email Ballot on the UPWP Review. A motion was made by Mr. Mrozinski, seconded by Mr. Cotter. The motion passed unanimously.

Action 3: Mr. Bodnar requested a motion from the Technical Committee to adopt the 2022 HSIP targets as established by PennDOT. A motion was made by Ms. Meinhart-Fritz, seconded by Mr. Mrozinski. The motion was passed unanimously.

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

Following the start of the meeting, the committee received presentations from the consultants for the Request for

Qualifications for the MPO Strategic Plan and Consulting Services.

Brandy Rotz, Brian St. John, Michelle Goddard, Rob Watts, Lugene Keys, Lou Spaciano and Andrew Zalewski presented on behalf of McCormick Taylor.

Brian Funkhouser, Dan Szekeres, Morgan Ruziecki and Danyel Patrick presented on behalf of Michael Baker International.

## 1) Business Items

### a) Approval of minutes from the September 21, 2021 Business Meeting

Mr. Bodnar requested a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2021 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Cotter, seconded by Ms. Howarth to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

### b) Confirmation of the October 29, 2021 Email Ballot on UPWP Review

Ms. McMahon stated that the email ballot to approve submission of the draft UPWP to FHWA and Central Office for a 45-day review period was approved by a vote of 11 yays and 0 nays. Mr. Bodnar requested a motion to confirm the October 29, 2021 Email Ballot on the UPWP Review. A motion was made by Mr. Mrozinski, seconded by Mr. Cotter. 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 4-0 and 5-0. Ms. Bishop highlighted actions for District 4-0, Ms. Koenigkramer highlighted actions for District 5-0.

Statewide Informational Item 1- SR61/209 Intersection- cash flow construction phase funds over two years. The source is the HSIP Set Aside Reserve Line Item. Action 1- SR 209 over Sawkill Creek- add FLAP funding and state match. The source is the NEPA 4-0 Highway Line Item. Action 2- 209 Holy Cross Rd to Hollow Rd- increase to negotiated amount. The sources are Long Pond Road over Tunkhannock Creek, Red Rock Road over Forest Hill Run and the NEPA Highway and Bridge Line Item. Action 3- Glenbrook Road Bridge- add UTL and ROW phases to the TIP. Isaias Permanent Repair- revise FFL/581 to 90/10 pro rata to match low bid analysis. The source is the NEPA Highway and Bridge Line Item. Actions 4 and 5- align 581 funds and 185 funds for the end of the federal fiscal year. Action 6- SR 3012 over Wallenpaupack- add ROW phase per claim estimate. The source is the NEPA 4-0 Highway Line Item. Statewide Informational Item 2- Mt. Carbon Bowstring Truss Dismantle- add UTL and ROW phases to the TIP. The source is the Multimodal Reserve Line Item. Action 7- Mt Carbon Bowstring Truss Dismantle- add federal funds for construction phase to the TIP. The source is the Cementon Bridge mitigation from LVTS. Action 8- SR 390 over Bridge Creek- advance to align with actual need. The sources are SR 6 over Delaware River and the NEPA 4-0 Highway Line Item. Interstate Informational Item 1- SR 380 Tobyhanna Ramps- decrease to AC amount. The source is the Interstate Contingency Line Item. Action 9- 581 adjustments to advance design in 2022. The source is SR 715/611 Intersection. Action 10- Mt. Carbon Bowstring Truss Dismantle- toll credit mitigation funds. The source is the NEPA Highway and Bridge Line Item. Action 11- 209/115 Intersection Improvements- Phase 2- increase for additional work orders and consultant services supplement. The source is 209-Schafer School House. Interstate Informational Item 2- I-81 Pine Grove to Minersville- defer funding for intended use. The source is the Interstate Contingency Line Item. Action 12- SR 739 Paving- increase CON phase to process a work order and add FD phase. SR 590 Pipes- add final design phase. The sources are SR 6 over Wallenpaupack and the NEPA 4-0 Highway Line Item. Action 13- SR 209 over

Sawkill Creek- increase final design. The sources are SR 6 over Delaware River and NEPA 4-0 Highway Line Item.

b) Transit Amendments and Administrative Actions

None. Mr. Baranski noted that we received a copy of Carbon County Community Transportation's TAM Plan for 2021 and goals for 2022. Mr. Cotter stated that they are required to provide them to the MPO each year, but no action is needed.

**3) Transportation Planning & Programs**

a) Current Project Status

Updates on Bridge Projects and Highway Projects were provided in the meeting packet. Mr. Kufro noted that the I-80 over the Lehigh River Bridge P3 Project is moving ahead. A virtual public meeting will be held for the next 30 days and a public meeting will be held on December 8<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 7pm at Split Rock Resort.

b/c Transportation Funding Issues and 2023 TIP Development

Mr. Baranski stated that the President signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) yesterday. The bill reauthorizes transportation programs for the next five years and increases funding for bridge and highway projects. The bill also provides funding for other infrastructure including transit, rail, airports and broadband. Mr. Mosca stated that we are working with our federal partners to see how funding gets allocated. Mr. Smoker stated that a Financial Guidance Work Group meeting is scheduled for later in the week. Mr. Baranski stated that he sits on the Financial Guidance Work Group so he will participate in the discussion. We are not sure how long it will take to determine the funding allocations and whether it will affect the schedule for the 2023 TIP development. Mr. Smoker stated that there are new programs in the reauthorization bill including bridge funding, resiliency, etc. Those programs may not be determined and ready for inclusion in the 2023 TIP development. Mr. Baranski stated that we have another TIP development meeting with District 5 next week.

d) 2022-2024 UPWP Development

Mr. Baranski stated that we are again developing our two-year work program. We submitted our draft 2022-2024 UPWP to FHWA and PennDOT Central Office for the required review period as noted in the email ballot. We already received comments back from FHWA. Mr. Smoker stated that the draft UPWP is in good shape and commended the staff for their work. His comments are mainly suggestions to be consistent with the work programs of other MPOs/RPOs. Mr. Mosca stated that Central office is also reviewing the UPWP and will have comments back to NEPA soon. Mr. Baranski stated that we anticipate action by the Technical Committee at the December meeting to recommend approval of the UPWP to the Policy Board. The Policy Board is scheduled to meet on January 5<sup>th</sup>.

e) 2022 Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Performance Measures (PM-1)

Ms. McMahon stated that a letter from Central Office was included in the meeting packet about HSIP Performance Measures. The MPO has to either approve the safety targets recommended by the state or develop our own safety targets. We have taken similar action to adopt safety targets annually for several years. Staff is recommending that the MPO adopt the targets established by the state. Mr. Smoker stated that the actual 5-year averages are blank in the letter and asked if the state updates the actual averages by MPO after the fact. Mr. Mosca stated that he believes the state is providing that, but he will confirm it.

Mr. Bodnar requested a motion from the Technical Committee to adopt the 2022 HSIP targets as established by PennDOT. A motion was made by Ms. Meinhart-Fritz, seconded by Mr. Mrozinski. The motion was passed unanimously.

#### 4) Other Business

d) Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program Applications

Ms. McMahon stated that three applications were submitted to the Transportation Alternatives Set Aside program from our region. They were submitted by East Union Township in Schuylkill County, Pocono Township in Monroe County and Lehman Township in Pike County. The applicants will provide a short presentation to the Technical Committee at the December 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Unlike in the past, we are not being asked to rank the projects. Instead, we are being asked to score them qualitatively from 1-5. Ms. McMahon stated that she will provide copies of the applications and scoring sheets before the December meeting.

e) PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund

Ms. McMahon stated that the deadline for the PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) was November 5<sup>th</sup>. We have not received copies of the applications that were submitted in our region yet, but we know there are some that were under development. The review process for the MTF applications is less formal. Ms. McMahon will reach out to the county planners to review applications in their county. We provide comments on the applications to Central Office.

f) Green Light-Go Application Period

Ms. McMahon stated that the Green Light-Go program application period is now open. The deadline for the program is January 14<sup>th</sup> but applicants are required to submit a project scoping form by December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

g) Eastern PA Freight Study

Mr. Baranski stated that we secured \$280,000 in supplemental planning funds for the multi-MPO freight plan. Each MPO is providing a local match for the funding. The total match is \$70,000 and our portion is about \$14,000 and it will come out of our UPWP funding. The match is based on MPO population. The group is currently developing the RFQ/RFP for a consultant for the plan. It should be issued towards the end of the year. We anticipate the plan being completed by June 2023.

h) Milford Borough Traffic Study

Ms. McMahon stated that the consultant, Michael Baker International, recently held a municipal roundtable with officials from the borough. They are continuing to gather data and develop the plan. It will be complete by next summer.

i) Highway Performance Monitoring System

Ms. McMahon stated that the HPMS data collection is underway and will be completed by the beginning of December. In August, we had a quality assurance review with Central Office. Our data collection was found to be 98.66% accurate.

j) NEPA Program Review

Mr. Baranski stated that the program review for the NEPA MPO was held on October 14<sup>th</sup>. It is similar to a certification review that the larger MPOs go through. A formal report and findings will be issued and we will engage the Technical Committee to review a draft of the report and provide the opportunity to offer comments on it prior to it being finalized. Mr. Mosca stated that the program review is an opportunity to look at NEPA's processes and identify ways to improve it.

#### 5) Adjournment

There being no further business, the NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.