

Northeastern Pennsylvania Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

June 21, 2022 Joint Technical Planning Committee and Policy Board

Meeting Summary and Minutes

9:30 a.m.

Meeting Location:

NEPA Alliance Office and
Microsoft Teams Videoconference

Attendees:	Organization:	Attendees:	Organization:
Chris Barrett^	PMVB	John Petrini	PennDOT District 4-0
David Bodnar*	Carbon Co. Planning	Alfred Picca	Urban Engineers
John Christy*	Monroe Co. Comm.	Emma Pugh	PennDOT District 4-0
Brendan Cotter*	LANTA	Dave Rostron	PennDOT District 5-0
Steve Fisher*	PennDOT District 4-0	Susan Smith*	Schuylkill Co. Planning
Brian Funkhouser	Michael Baker Intl.	Matt Smoker	FHWA
Micah Gursky^	St. Luke's Hospital	Scott Vottero	PennDOT District 5-0
Kathy Henderson ^	Carbon Chamber		
Crystal Heshmat	PennDOT Central		
Peggy Howarth*	MCTA	Alan Baranski	NEPA Alliance
Amanda Leindecker*	PennDOT District 5-0	Jeff Box	NEPA Alliance
Christine Meinhart-Fritz*	Monroe Co. Planning	Nettie Ginocchetti	NEPA Alliance
Jim Mosca*	PennDOT Central	Kate McMahon	NEPA Alliance
Mike Mrozinski*	Pike Co. Planning	Daniel Yelito	NEPA Alliance
Kristin Mulkerin^	PennDOT Central		

*Technical Committee members who voted at this meeting

^Policy Board members who voted at this meeting

Summary of Actions Taken by the NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee and Policy Board:

During the course of this meeting the MPO Committees voted on the following actions:

Action 1: Ms. Henderson requested a motion from the Policy Board to nominate a Chairperson. A motion was made by Mr. Gursky to nominate Ms. Henderson as Policy Board Chairperson. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mulkerin. The motion passed unanimously.

Action 2: Ms. Henderson requested a motion from the Policy Board to nominate a Vice-Chairperson. A motion was made by Ms. Mulkerin to nominate Mr. Gursky as Policy Board Vice-Chairperson. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gursky. The motion passed unanimously.

Action 3: Ms. Henderson requested a motion from the Policy Board to approve the minutes from the January 5, 2022 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Gursky, seconded by Ms. Mulkerin. The motion passed unanimously.

Action 4: Mr. Bodnar requested a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2022 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Mosca, seconded by Mr. Cotter. The motion passed unanimously.

Action 5: Mr. Bodnar requested a motion from the Technical Committee to recommend the NEPA MPO Air Quality Conformity Resolution for approval by the Policy Board. A motion was made by Ms. Howarth, seconded by Mr. Cotter. The motion passed unanimously.

Action 6: Mr. Bodnar requested a motion from the Technical Committee to recommend the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program for adoption by the Policy Board. A motion was made by Mr. Cotter, seconded by Mr. Mrozinski. A roll call vote was held:

Mr. Bodnar- Yes
Mr. Christy- Yes
Mr. Cotter- Yes
Ms. Howarth- Yes
Ms. Meinhart-Fritz- Yes
Mr. Mrozinski- Yes
Ms. Smith- Yes
District 4- Yes
District 5- Yes
Central Office- Yes

By a vote of 10-0, the motion passed.

Action 7: Mr. Bodnar requested a motion from the Technical Committee to recommend the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments and Administrative Actions Guidelines and Procedures MOU for adoption by the Policy Board. A motion was made by Mr. Cotter, seconded by Ms. Howarth. The motion passed unanimously.

Action 8: Mr. Bodnar requested a motion from the Technical Committee to recommend the NEPA MPO Self-Certification Resolution for adoption by the Policy Board. A motion was made by Mr. Mrozinski, seconded by Mr. Cotter. The motion passed unanimously.

Action 9: Ms. Henderson requested a motion from the Policy Board to approve the NEPA MPO Air Quality Conformity Resolution as recommended by the Technical Planning Committee. A motion was made by Mr. Gursky, seconded by Ms. Mulkerin. The motion passed unanimously.

Action 10: Ms. Henderson requested a motion from the Policy Board to approve the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program as recommended by the Technical Planning Committee. A motion was made by Mr. Gursky, seconded by Ms. Mulkerin. A roll call vote was held:

Ms. Henderson- Yes
Mr. Barrett- Yes
Mr. Gursky- Yes
Ms. Mulkerin- Yes

By a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

Action 11: Ms. Henderson requested a motion from the Policy Board to approve the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments and Administrative Actions Guidelines and Procedures MOU as

recommended by the Technical Planning Committee. A motion was made by Mr. Gursky, seconded by Ms. Mulkerin. The motion passed unanimously.

Action 12: Ms. Henderson requested a motion from the Policy Board to approve the NEPA MPO Self-Certification Resolution as recommended by the Technical Planning Committee. A motion was made by Mr. Gursky, seconded by Ms. Mulkerin. The motion passed unanimously.

Action 13: Mr. Bodnar requested a motion to approve Amendment 1. A motion was made by Mr. Mosca, seconded by Mr. Mrozinski. The motion passed unanimously.

Action 14: Mr. Bodnar requested a motion to approve the 2022-2023 Technical Committee meeting dates as proposed. A motion was made by Ms. Howarth, seconded by Mr. Mrozinski. The motion passed unanimously.

Action 15: Ms. Henderson requested a motion to approve the 2022-2023 Policy Board meeting dates as proposed. A motion was made by Ms. Mulkerin, seconded by Ms. Henderson. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bodnar and Ms. Henderson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

1) Business Items

a) Nomination/Election of Policy Board Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Ms. Henderson requested a motion from the Policy Board to nominate a Chairperson. A motion was made by Mr. Gursky to nominate Ms. Henderson as Policy Board Chairperson. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mulkerin. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Henderson requested a motion from the Policy Board to nominate a Vice-Chairperson. A motion was made by Ms. Mulkerin to nominate Mr. Gursky as Policy Board Vice-Chairperson. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gursky. The motion passed unanimously.

b) Policy Board Approval of minutes from the January 5, 2022 Business Meeting

Ms. Henderson requested a motion from the Policy Board to approve the minutes from the January 5, 2022 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Gursky, seconded by Ms. Mulkerin. The motion passed unanimously.

c) Technical Committee Approval of minutes from the May 17, 2022 Business Meeting

Mr. Bodnar requested a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2022 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Mosca, seconded by Mr. Cotter. The motion passed unanimously.

2) 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program Adoption Actions

a) Technical Planning Committee Actions

Mr. Baranski stated that we have been developing the 2023-2026 TIP over the past year. Considerable collaboration has occurred between the PennDOT districts, NEPA and the county planners to develop the TIP. It required additional effort to incorporate the funding from the IJA into the TIP but it was a good problem to have. We held a 30-day comment period on the draft TIP from May 2nd to May 31st. We also held a virtual public hearing on May 17th during the comment period. We received two comments during the public comment period. The first was from Jane Neufeld in Delaware Township regarding the SR 2001 Reconstruction Project and a detour for work on a bridge on SR 2001. A response was developed in consultation with District 4 and sent to Ms. Neufeld. It is in the TIP documentation. We also received a technical correction from David Alas at Central Office regarding five projects from Monroe County Transit Authority. The projects were within fiscal constraint and were added to the draft transit TIP which has been posted to the website. A formal response acknowledging the technical

correction was sent to Central Office. We also received some suggestions from Mr. Smoker regarding the Administrative Actions Guidelines & Procedures document in regard to the amendment threshold and generic references to MPOs. The suggestions will be addressed.

Mr. Baranski stated that there are four actions to be taken by the Technical Committee, in recommendation to the Policy Board.

i) Action to Recommend TIP Air Quality Conformity Analysis Resolution for Adoption by the NEPA MPO Policy Board

Mr. Bodnar requested a motion from the Technical Committee to recommend the NEPA MPO Air Quality Conformity Resolution for approval by the Policy Board. A motion was made by Ms. Howarth, seconded by Mr. Cotter. The motion passed unanimously.

ii) Action to Recommend 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program for adoption by the NEPA MPO Policy Board

Mr. Bodnar requested a motion from the Technical Committee to recommend the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program for adoption by the Policy Board. A motion was made by Mr. Cotter, seconded by Mr. Mrozinski. A roll call vote was held:

Mr. Bodnar- Yes
Mr. Christy- Yes
Mr. Cotter- Yes
Ms. Howarth- Yes
Ms. Meinhart-Fritz- Yes
Mr. Mrozinski- Yes
Ms. Smith- Yes
District 4- Yes
District 5- Yes
Central Office- Yes

By a vote of 10-0, the motion passed.

iii) Action to Recommend 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments & Administrative Actions Guidelines & Procedures MOU for Adoption by the NEPA MPO Policy Board

Mr. Bodnar requested a motion from the Technical Committee to recommend the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments and Administrative Actions Guidelines and Procedures MOU for adoption by the Policy Board. A motion was made by Mr. Cotter, seconded by Ms. Howarth. The motion passed unanimously.

iv) Action to Recommend NEPA MPO Self-Certification Resolution for Adoption by the NEPA MPO Policy Board

Mr. Bodnar requested a motion from the Technical Committee to recommend the NEPA MPO Self-Certification Resolution for adoption by the Policy Board. A motion was made by Mr. Mrozinski, seconded by Mr. Cotter. The motion passed unanimously.

b) Policy Board Actions

i) Action to Adopt 2023-2026 TIP Air Quality Conformity Analysis Resolution upon endorsement by the NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee.

Ms. Henderson requested a motion from the Policy Board to approve the NEPA MPO Air Quality Conformity Resolution as recommended by the Technical Planning Committee. A motion was made by Mr. Gursky, seconded by Ms. Mulkerin. The motion passed unanimously.

ii) Action to Adopt 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program upon endorsement by the NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee

Ms. Henderson requested a motion from the Policy Board to approve the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program as recommended by the Technical Planning Committee. A motion was made by Mr. Gursky, seconded by Ms. Mulkerin. A roll call vote was held:

Ms. Henderson- Yes

Mr. Barrett- Yes

Mr. Gursky- Yes

Ms. Mulkerin- Yes

By a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

iii) Action to Adopt 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments & Administrative Actions Guidelines & Procedures MOU upon endorsement by the NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee

Ms. Henderson requested a motion from the Policy Board to approve the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments and Administrative Actions Guidelines and Procedures MOU as recommended by the Technical Planning Committee. A motion was made by Mr. Gursky, seconded by Ms. Mulkerin. The motion passed unanimously.

iv) Action to Adopt the NEPA MPO Self-Certification Resolution upon endorsement by the NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee

Ms. Henderson requested a motion from the Policy Board to approve the NEPA MPO Self-Certification Resolution as recommended by the Technical Planning Committee. A motion was made by Mr. Gursky, seconded by Ms. Mulkerin. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Baranski thanked everyone for the effort in adopting the 2023 TIP. It will be put together into one TIP package and submitted to Central Office. It will then get combined with other TIPs from across the state into the STIP and adopted by the State Transportation Commission. It will be submitted to FHWA and FTA and will go into effect on October 1, 2022.

3) 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. Mr. Fisher presented the actions for District 4 and Ms. Leindecker presented the actions for District 5.

Action 1- NEPA Systemic Safety Improvements- add construction phase to the TIP for design/build project to meet safety goals. The sources are the 209 Holy Cross Rd to Hollow Rd and 209-Schafer

School House. Action 2- Hollow Road Bridge- increase construction phase for low bid adjustment. The source is the NEPA Highway and Bridge Line Item. Statewide Informational Item 1 and 2- Summit Avenue RRXing Upgrade- returning funds to the RRX State Action Plan Line Item as they are no longer needed on project in 2022. Action 3- 61 Resurface Pottsville to Schuylkill Haven- increase to match PS&E estimate. The sources are the UTL and ROW phases of the project and the SR 715/611 Intersection project. Statewide Informational Item 3- Coaldale Hospital Ped Facilities and Orwigsburg Industrial Park Access Road- add ARC projects to TIP to process the reimbursement agreement. Action 4- SR 447 over Goose Pond Run- increase to cover guiderail and graffiti work and close out project. The sources are 611 Retaining Wall Repairs, SR 715/611 Intersection and the NEPA Highway and Bridge Line Item. Action 5- Long Pond Road over Tunkhannock Creek- increase for low bid adjustment. The source is the County Br #12 over Mud Run which was reduced due to low bid savings. Action 6- Monroe County Bridge #12- add PE, FD, UTL, ROW and CON phases to the TIP. The source is county Act 13 funds. Statewide Informational Item 4- SR 115- Effort Corridor Improvements- aligned with anticipated need and carried on 2023 TIP. Funds are returned to the HSIP Set Aside Reserve Line Item. Action 7- 209 Holy Cross Road to Hollow Road- increase to cover current shortfall. The source is the NEPA Highway and Bridge Line Item. Action 8- SD Fixed Bridges by DF- increase PE for remaining design for BR Key 27054. The source is the NEPA Highway and Bridge Line Item.

Amendment 1- SR 6 Paving- advance construction phase to bid project early. The source is the SR 6 over Delaware River and NEPA 4-0 Highway Reserve Line Item. Mr. Bodnar requested a motion to approve Amendment 1. A motion was made by Mr. Mosca, seconded by Mr. Mrozinski. The motion passed unanimously.

- b) Transit Amendments and Administrative Actions
None.

4) **Transportation Planning & Programs**

- a) Current Project Status

Mr. Fisher provided an update on bridge projects in District 4-0.

Mr. Mrozinski asked if the district is still coordinating with New York State on the SR 6 over the Delaware River project? Mr. Fisher stated that they are. Originally, they planned to do an internal design for the project but there were concerns about whether the abutments could handle a concrete deck so they will have a consultant finish the design.

Mr. Vottero provided an update on bridge projects in District 5-0.

Ms. Henderson asked about the new bridge at SR 902 and SR 443 and what the completion date is. Mr. Vottero stated that the bridge work is part of the SR 443 widening project and he will have to check on the completion date.

Mr. Mrozinski asked about the Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Bridge Investment Program. It's part of the IJA and there are three categories of funding. It allows for funding of bridge bundling projects. Mr. Mrozinski stated that 4-0 has done PE on a lot of bridges in Pike County so there may be an opportunity to apply for construction funding. Mr. Baranski stated that the deadlines for the Bridge Investment Program are really tight, but we plan to meet with the districts soon to discuss candidate projects. Mr. Christy asked if the SR 33 over Appenzell Creek might be a candidate for funding. Ms. Mulkerin stated that there are a lot of new funding opportunities through IJA. PennDOT is trying to work through the information and look at what projects may be eligible. Mr. Baranski stated that we will follow up with the districts to identify projects. Mr. Christy asked for a summary of the program's

requirements. Mr. Mrozinski stated that he has developed a short summary of the program and will share it.

b) Eastern PA Freight Study

Mr. Baranski stated that the consultant selection process is complete. WSP USA, Inc. was selected as the consultant. They have experience in the New York City Metro area and have done a lot of freight work. The contracting with them is underway and the plan will kick off in July. We will share the final scope of services for the plan once it is complete.

c) Milford Borough Traffic Study

Mr. Funkhouser presented on the Milford Borough Traffic Study. A copy of the presentation is attached.

5) Other Business

a) 2022-2023 Proposed Technical Committee Meeting Dates

Mr. Baranski stated that proposed meeting dates for the upcoming year have been provided. We typically set meetings for the third Tuesday of every month; however, we cancel meetings when there is no pressing business for the committee. Mr. Baranski stated that there we moved the October meeting date because there was a conflict with the PennDOT Planning Partners Meeting. Mr. Bodnar requested a motion to approve the 2022-2023 Technical Committee meeting dates as proposed. A motion was made by Ms. Howarth, seconded by Mr. Mrozinski. The motion passed unanimously.

b) 2020-2021 Proposed Policy Board Meeting Dates

Mr. Baranski stated that the proposed meeting dates for the Policy Board have been provided. Mr. Cotter asked if the reason for the joint Technical Committee and Policy Board meeting next June is because we expect to adopt the Long Range Transportation Plan. Ms. McMahon stated that we expect the freight plan to be complete by next June and we will have a presentation on it at the June meeting. Ms. Henderson requested a motion to approve the 2022-2023 Policy Board meeting dates as proposed. A motion was made by Ms. Mulkerin, seconded by Ms. Henderson. The motion passed unanimously.

6) Adjournment

There being no further business, the NEPA MPO Joint Technical Planning Committee and Policy Board meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.