

Northeastern Pennsylvania Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

November 21, 2023 Technical Planning Committee

Meeting Summary and Minutes

9:30 a.m.

Attendees:

David Alas*
Cristie Barry
Marie Bishop
David Bodnar*
Casey Bottiger
Roger Christman*
Kerri Cutright
Nyomi Evans
Steve Fisher*
Brian Funkhouser
Micah Gursky
April Hannon
Doyle Heffley*
Mike Hummel
Julia Hurle
AJ Jordan*
Eric Kudrich

Organization:

PennDOT Central
McCormick Taylor
PennDOT District 4-0
Carbon Co. Planning
Michael Baker Intl.
Ross Township
PennDOT District 5-0
PennDOT Central
PennDOT District 4-0
Michael Baker Intl.
St. Luke's Hospital
PennDOT District 4-0
PA State Representative
Benesch
Schuyl. River Greenway
LANTA
Matamoras Borough

Attendees:

Chris Kufro
Christine Meinhart-Fritz*
Mike Mrozinski*
Lorne Possinger
Emma Pugh
Jennifer Ruth
Rich Schlameuss*
Jonathan Shaw
Brian Snyder*
Susan Smith*
Emily Stefanovic
Scott Vottero*

Alan Baranski
Nettie Ginocchetti
Kate McMahon
Daniel Yelito

Organization:

PennDOT District 5-0
Monroe Co. Planning
Pike Co. Planning
DCNR
PennDOT District 4-0
PennDOT District 5-0
MCTA
Luzerne Co. Planning
Pike Co. Planning
Schuylkill Co. Planning
Hegins Township
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: Ms. Smith requested a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2023 Technical Committee meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Mrozinski, seconded by Mr. Alas to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Action 2: Ms. Smith requested a motion from the committee to confirm the email ballot approving submission of the 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program for review by FHWA, FTA and PennDOT Central Office. A motion was made by Mr. Mrozinski, seconded by Ms. Schlameuss. The motion passed unanimously.

Action 3: Ms. Smith requested a motion from the committee to confirm the email ballot to release the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan for the 30-day public comment period. A motion was made by Mr. Alas, seconded by Mr. Mrozinski. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Smith called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Following the opening of the meeting, the committee received presentations from the project sponsors who have submitted requests for Transportation Alternatives Set Aside funding. Four applications for the Transportation

Alternatives Set Aside program were received for projects located in the NEPA MPO region.

Matamoras Safe Routes to Schools- Eric Kudrich presented on behalf of Matamoras Borough.

Tamaqua Riverwalk- Micah Gursky and Mike Hummel presented on behalf of Tamaqua Area Community Partnership.

Tri-Valley School District Flashing School Zone Signals- Emily Stefanovic presented on behalf of Hegin Township/Tri-Valley School District.

Schuylkill River Trail Mill Creek Section- Julia Hurle presented on behalf of Schuylkill River Greenways.

Ms. McMahon asked the voting committee members to fill out a score sheet for each TASA application and email them to her by November 30th. The scores will be compiled and each application will receive a score from 1-5, with 5 being the highest. The scores are due to Central Office by December 1st.

1) Business Items

- a) Approval of Minutes from the October 10, 2023 Technical Committee Business Meeting
Ms. Smith requested a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2023 Technical Committee meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Mrozinski, seconded by Mr. Alas to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
- b) Confirmation of Email Ballot to Approve Submission of 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program for review by FHWA, FTA and PennDOT Central Office
Ms. McMahon stated that the email ballot was approved by a vote of 12 yay, 0 nay. Ms. Smith requested a motion from the committee to confirm the email ballot approving submission of the 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program for review by FHWA, FTA and PennDOT Central Office. A motion was made by Mr. Mrozinski, seconded by Ms. Schlameuss. The motion passed unanimously.
- c) Confirmation of Email Ballot to Release 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan for 30-day Public Comment Period
Ms. McMahon stated that the email ballot approving the public comment period was approved by a vote of 10 yay, 0 nay. Ms. Smith requested a motion from the committee to confirm the email ballot to release the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan for the 30-day public comment period. A motion was made by Mr. Alas, seconded by Mr. Mrozinski. The motion passed unanimously.

2) TIP Amendments and Administrative Actions

- a) District 4-0 and 5-0 2023-2026 TIP Amendments and Administrative Actions
Information was included in the meeting packet which highlighted administrative actions on the 2023 TIP for Districts 4-0 and 5-0. Mr. Fisher highlighted the actions for District 4-0 and Mr. Alas highlighted the actions for District 5-0.

Statewide Action 1- Carlton Hill Road over Taylor Creek Bridge- increase PE phase to cover supplement. The source is the FD phase. Action 1- Mount Pocono Borough Pipe- Ida Permanent Repair- add ROW phase to TIP to match 971 claim damage estimate. The source is the NEPA Highway and Bridge Line Item. Action 2- SR 1021 Lincoln Drive over RBN&N Railroad- increase to cover renegotiated agreement due to additional in traffic control design for bridge closure. The source is the NEPA Highway and Bridge Line Item. Action 3- 209 Holy Cross Road to Hollow Road- increase for additional ROW, permit and utility coordination. The source is the NEPA Traffic Review Assist. Action 4- 903 over Mud Run- increase for additional H&H, ROW, utility and traffic signal work. The source is

the NEPA Highway and Bridge Line Item. Interstate Action 1- I-80 White Haven Lehigh River Bridges- increase to cover additional railroad flagging outside of the original MBP3 agreement. The source is the Interstate Contingency Line Item. Interstate Action 2- I-81 Pine Grove to Minersville Resurface- increase to cover additional concrete patching. The source is the Concrete Pavement Management Reserve Line Item. Action 5- Hollow Road Bridge- increase to cover encumbered amount. The source is the NEPA Highway and Bridge Line Item. Action 6- St. Clair to Frackville Reconstruction- increase to cover current estimate. The sources are Construction Assistance, NEPA Traffic Review Assistance, Environmental Impacts Resolution, 443 over Mill Creek and the NEPA Highway and Bridge Line Item. Action 7- SR 590 Pipes- add repurposed earmark funds. Statewide Action 2- SR 54 Barnesville Railroad Crossing- add railroad crossing project to TIP/TYP. The source is the RRX Reserve Line Item. Action 8- SR 209 Resurfacing- increase to meet low bid. The source is the Scotrun to Swiftwater Project deobligation. Interstate Action 3- I-81 Pine Grove to Minersville Resurface- increase to cover emergency bridge repairs. The source is the Interstate Contingency Line Item.

3) Transportation Planning & Programs

a) Current Project Status

Mr. Fisher stated that there was no highway report from District 4 since their projects were bid, however, the SR 590 Paving project using earmark funds is expected to bid in early 2024. Mr. Vottero provided an update on the highway projects in District 5-0. Mr. Baranski asked for an update on the bids that were received for the SR 61 St. Clair to Frackville Reconstruction Project. Mr. Vottero stated that there were 3 bids received. JD Eckman was the apparent low bidder. Their bid was 6-7% over the district's estimate. The district has been working with Central Office to request additional funds to make up the difference. The district expects to issue the notice to proceed soon. Mr. Baranski stated that overall, the outcome of the bid and discussions with Central Office have been positive.

b) NEPA MPO Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Mr. Funkhouser provided an update on the LRTP. The 30-day public comment period is now open through December 18th. A public meeting will be held on December 5th with physical meeting locations in each county. The meeting will also be available virtually. Any comments received will be documented and addressed in an appendix in the plan. The Technical Committee will consider endorsement of the LRTP at the December 19th meeting, with final approval by the Policy Board on January 3rd.

c) 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Twelve Year Program

Mr. Baranski stated that the TIP development process is ongoing. Initial meetings with the districts were held. A second meeting with District 5 was held yesterday to clarify outstanding issues and how the bid for the SR 61 Reconstruction project will be addressed on the current and updated TIP. We need to schedule a second meeting with District 4 and Pike County. The draft TIP has to be submitted to Central Office by the end of December. The draft Interstate TIP is forthcoming. Adoption of the 2025 TIP and related documents will occur next spring.

d) Eastern PA Freight Study

Mr. Baranski stated that there is no update since the last meeting. The other MPOs need to hold their outreach sessions. We expect it to come together in the next month or two. The plan will be completed by June 2024, at the latest.

e) Functional Classification Update

Ms. McMahon stated that Central Office resubmitted the functional classification changes to FHWA recently. FHWA in Harrisburg submitted the National Highway System changes for Route 6 in Pike and Wayne counties to FHWA headquarters in DC. Ms. Smith asked if this is how long it normally takes for functional classification changes to be done. Ms. McMahon stated that our changes are more complex

since they are for four counties and it has been so long since a comprehensive review was done. Mr. Baranski stated that we were required to submit all four counties together by FHWA. Mr. Fisher noted that any functional classification changes seem to take a long time to be approved.

f) 2024-2025 UPWP Development Process

Mr. Baranski stated that the draft UPWP was sent to FHWA, FTA and Central Office for their required 30-day review. We expect to see comments back from them in the next week or two. We will incorporate any changes into the UPWP for the December 19th meeting.

4) Other Business

Mr. Baranski stated that the next round of funding is available through NEVI program for electric vehicle charging stations. Several charging stations in our area were funded in the first round. This round of funding is to fill in the gaps along eligible corridors. Information weblinks were included in the meeting agenda.

Ms. McMahon stated that the Green Light Go program is open and accepting pre-applications until December 15th. Feedback will be provided by PennDOT by the end of January and the final applications will be due by the end of February. Ms. McMahon stated that information was included in the Interchanges newsletter that went out last week.

5) Adjournment

There being no further business, the NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.