

MINUTES

SHENANGO VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION COORDINATING/TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 12, 2019 – 10:30 A.M. - MCRPC Offices
Hermitage, PA

PERSONS PRESENT

Zach Miles
Ron Faull
Don Morrow
Ken Robertson
Melissa Phillips
Gary Byers
Shelli Oakes
Paul Hamill
Jasson Urey
J. R. Miller
Adam Dale
Travis Siegel
Cindy Black
Bill Anthony
Richard Stachel
Bill Klumph
Jeremy Coxe
Julie Piercy
Walter Darraugh
Heather Maurer
Chuck Weber
Brad Elder
Gary Hittle
Stephen Theiss
Tom McClelland
Brian Barnhizer
Matt Stewart
Jim Foringer
Robert F. Lark

REPRESENTING

PennDOT, District 1-4
Liberty Township
South Pymatuning Township
Sharpsville Borough
Sharon City
Citizen of Sharon
Representative Tedd Nesbit
Greenville Borough
Greenville Borough
Pymatuning Township
PennDOT
Northwest RPO
Wilmington Township
Delaware Township
Pine Township
South Pymatuning Township
Hermitage City
Senator Michele Brooks
Coolspring Township
State Representative Mark Longietti
Wolf Creek Township
Mercer County Bridge Department
Hempfield Township
Mercer County Trails Association
PennDOT
MCRPC
MCRPC
PennDOT
West Middlesex Borough

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Coxe, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. **A quorum was present.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING AUGUST 13, 2019

Mr. Coxe asked for any additions, corrections or deletions to the Minutes of the May 14, 2019 meeting. There being none, Mr. Coxe asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Klumph so moved, Mr. Hittle seconded. The motion passed.

2019-2022 TIP MODIFICATIONS

Mr. Dan Keane briefly explained the Highway/Bridge TIP Management Actions, which are for informational purposes. Next, he explained the US 62/State Street Roundabout Project noting that this administrative action was approved on 5/29/19 to increase this intersection by \$1.8 million for construction cost based on Contract Management review to cover PS&E from consultant. Mr. Stewart also noted that this project came in as a low bid, roughly \$600,000, and stated that some of the additional cost estimates will not be needed and will be returned to a line item. (A copy of the Highway/Bridge TIP Management Actions are attached to and made a part of the permanent record of Minutes.)

2020-2022 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Mr. Stewart gave a brief update noting that this document is now updated every 2 years. This UPWP spells out what MCRPC will be doing, along with PennDOT to implement the programs that are done throughout the County. The 2020-2022 UPWP will be developed earlier this time due to accelerated deadline to submit to FHWA for review, which is 30 days before adoption. The deadline to adopt is 1/30/2020. Typically the winter MPO meeting is held the 2nd Tuesday in February, but we will need to move the meeting to sometime in January 2020. He stated that there will be a modest increase of 3% to the Federal base funding. He noted that at the November 12, 2019 meeting we will talk about future planning studies or general work tasks. Currently there are 11 planning studies underway or completed. He mentioned that we have a Countywide Signal Study underway right now and we may have a consultant help with the Functional Class Count.

PROJECT STATUS UPDATES

---Transportation Alternatives and STU Project Status Reports - Mr. Stewart gave a few updates. The **City of Farrell Hamilton Avenue Project** work has been ongoing this summer with final paving taking place this week, August 12th; the Borough accepted the low bid of Combine Construction for the **Sharpsville Borough 6th and High Street Reconstruction Project** and held a pre-construction meeting on July 31st. Notice to proceed was given. Work is set to begin the end of the month on walkway and ADA ramps; the **Greenville Alan Avenue Sidewalk Project** is in the beginning design phase. The design had to be delayed by a few months due to some funding issues with the design work, but it has been sorted out; the City of Hermitage **Thornton Bike Lane/Paving Project** design has been completed and was out for public review. The project is tentatively scheduled to let in December, with construction to begin in spring 2020. Mr. Stewart noted that he did not receive any updates for the **SR 208 Multimodal Trail Phase 2 Project in Springfield Township** or the 2 projects underway in the **City of Sharon**. The **Silver Street/Sharpsville Avenue/Thornton Street** project is substantially complete, minus adding the candlesticks to the bicycle lane on Sharpsville Avenue. The **US 62 Gateway Project** had a few phone calls with PennDOT, the City of Sharon and myself to talk through the process of getting started, including procuring an engineer.

---Major Road/Bridge Projects - Mr. Brian McNulty mentioned that the **US 62/State Street Improvement Project** for a single lane roundabout at the Shenango Valley Mall entrance on US 62 in the City of Hermitage was let on July 12th with the low bidder being Kirila Contractors at roughly \$3.9 Million. (A copy of the Major Projects Activity Report is attached to and made a part of the permanent record of Minutes.)

---Planning and Data Collection Project Updates - Mr. Stewart mentioned that the **Greenville Pedestrian Circulation Study** was completed at the end of July and the plan is up on MCRPC's website for further details. From this study, improvements were broken down into 5 basic focus areas with 18 project recommendations ranging from low, medium, to high priority and costs associated with each project. Some of the issues and the main reason for this study is the Thiel College area in Greenville Borough and Hempfield Township looking at various pedestrian improvements and sidewalk and roadway alternatives in this area. Next, he mentioned that the **Route 58 Safety Study** is still ongoing, which is from Greenville to Mercer. Consultants are working on some conceptual designs for some high priority intersections and looking at some of the drainage concerns that were mentioned during the first public meeting.

Drainage items were shared with the Mercer County maintenance staff to see if there are any quick fixes that could be done, even before the study is wrapped up. Next, we are working on the **Route 62 Safety Study** from Keel Ridge Road in Hermitage to Mercer. Discussions have been ongoing regarding the preliminary alternatives and working through the details to begin scheduling and making preparations to present the detailed alternatives at the second public meeting. Next, the **Route 62 Tunnel Study** has been ongoing. The environmental constraints of various alignments are being identified and reviewed by the sub-consultant and the main consultant has been finalizing parcel information and identification and finishing up traffic counts. Next, he noted that there have been discussions regarding a future study to discuss safety concerns along **US 19 in Springfield Township**. He mentioned that this was a recommended study under our Long Range Transportation Plan. This safety study along Route 19 would start around Rachel's Roadhouse Restaurant heading south to Pennsy Road. This study will also determine ways to ease congestion and driver confusion in this area, particularly at the two intersections with Route 208. He noted that we received a general go-ahead to move forward to do this study, but need to finalize with the Township whether they would like to go forward with this study and formally submit a request. Also, he noted that District 1 is just kicking off a district-wide **Bike Study** which is just starting. Finally, a **Traffic Signal Improvement Study** has been ongoing. Mr. Ryan Gillespie, Consultant from GPD Group gave a brief update noting that their firm has completed their full inspections of the 102 signalized intersections in Mercer County and are currently reviewing so as to make recommendations for low and moderate cost improvements to equipment and prioritize. He stated that they will need to revisit a few traffic signals due to construction being completed in a few areas. Mr. Lark from West Middlesex noted that the new traffic signal was installed two weeks ago, under the Green Light Go Program, and is under a 30 day review to make sure it continues to work properly. Mr. Lowers asked about the time frame when they should have the study complete. Mr. Gillespie hoped to have a draft report available by the end of the month and hope to present the final report at the November MPO meeting.

2020-2021 PENNDOT MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION FUND ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Stewart mentioned that on September 9, 2019 the application period will open with applications due by November 8, 2019. As before, projects have to fit in one of the four categories and there is still a 30% match. The grant amount should be about the same as last year, generally between \$100k to \$3m. After we have done an internal administrative review of the applications, we will provide access to the applications for District and planning partner review at the beginning of December. We are planning to have all Central Office, District and MPO/RPO reviews completed by mid-January 2020.

PRESENTATION: 2021 FINANCIAL GUIDANCE

Mr. Stewart introduced Mr. Larry Shifflet; longtime member of PennDOT's Center for Program Development and Management and was recently promoted to Deputy Secretary of Transportation in June, upon the retirement of Jim Ritzman. Mr. Shifflet will present some very important information regarding the upcoming 2021 TIP and will explain the needs and reasons for this and talk about how the financial guidance will affect our TIP. Mr. Shifflet began by talking about a substantial increased investment in the Commonwealth's Interstate System, and how this will substantially affect each planning region's TIP across the State. He noted that there were 3 key items that they needed to consider when updating the financial guidance: 1) less overall funding available; 2) shift in investment strategies and 3) increase investment in interstates. (A copy of the Financial Guidance Report is attached to and made a part of the permanent record of Minutes.) In discussion, Mr. Morrow asked if they should take the State Police out of the Department of Transportation and make them a separate entity. Mr. Shifflet stated that they are already a separate entity; it's just a matter of where the funds come from to fund the State Police. Mr. Stewart stated that in light of all this financial guidance, we usually start discussing our upcoming TIP in November, the year before it would be due. He noted that we have a meeting with the District in September to start talking about these various items.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Stewart mentioned that the next MPO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. at MCRPC offices. Also, if anyone is interested in receiving major projects or multimodal reports, to please sign up in order to receive those. Mr. Brian McNulty introduced Greg Lindsay from California who took Tom Alison's position as the new local bridge engineer.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Lark to adjourn the meeting at 11:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel M. Gracenin,
MPO Secretary

DMG/ew