

MINUTES

SHENANGO VALLEY METROPOLITAN
PLANNING ORGANIZATION COORDINATING/TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 13, 2018 – 10:30 A.M. - MCRPC Offices
Hermitage, PA

PERSONS PRESENT

Dennis DeSilvey
Gary Hittle
Stephen Theiss
David A. Mansel
Don Morrow
Jasson Urey
Gary R. Lowers
Cindy Black
Heather Maurer
Chuck Weber
Kim A. DiCintio
Laura Moore
Bob Fiscus
Melinda Gosser
Richard Stachel
Jeremy Coxe
Sam Bellich
Scott Boyd
Bill Finley
Brian McNulty
Robert Lark
Brad Elder
Walter Darraugh
Dan Keane
Dan Gracenin
Matt Stewart

REPRESENTING

Shenango Township
Hempfield Township
Citizen of Sharon
MCTA
South Pymatuning Township
Greenville Borough
Pymatuning Township
Wilmington Township
Representative Mark Longietti
Wolf Creek Township
Mercer County Regional COG
Representative Tedd Nesbit
City of Sharon
Senator Michele Brooks
Pine Township
Hermitage City
MCAAA
Mercer County
Mercer Borough
PennDOT
West Middlesex Borough
Mercer County
Coolspring Township
PennDOT
MCRPC
MCRPC

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING JULY 10, 2018

Mr. Hittle asked for any additions, corrections or deletions to the Minutes of the July 10, 2018 meeting. There being none, Mr. Hittle asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Morrow so moved, Mr. Lowers seconded. The motion passed.

2019-2022 TIP MODIFICATIONS

Mr. Dan Keane, via telephone, explained 1 Highway/Bridge TIP Administrative Action, which is over \$1 million. This administrative action is combining US 19 Corridor Improvements Project with the US 19 Segment-Venango Street Project, increasing the US 19 Corridor Improvements Project \$1.5 million with state 581 funds in FFY 2022 and using the US 19 Segment-Venango Street as the fund source. (A copy of this report is attached to and made a part of the permanent record of Minutes.)

TARGET SETTING FOR PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Mr. Stewart gave a presentation regarding the U.S. DOT Transportation Performance measures. He explained that federal rulemaking requires MPOs and Departments of Transportation to set performance measures that set, monitor, and report on our progress toward meeting targets. To this end, FHWA and PennDOT have worked together to develop several targets in three categories: safety measures, pavement/bridge condition, and travel time and CMAQ. These are referred to as the PM-1, PM-2 and PM-3 measures, respectively.

PM-1 (safety) measures have been discussed before, and the MPO agreed to support the state PM-1 targets back in November of 2017. Mr. Stewart gave a brief recap of the safety measures and noted that the board would be considering today an annual reauthorization of supporting the statewide targets.

Mr. Stewart explained the **PM-2 (pavement/bridge condition) measures** in more detail. He explained how condition of both roadways and bridges are calculated, what factors are measured, and how Mercer County's numbers compare with statewide averages. The presentation included information on roadway faulting, cracking and rutting as well as bridge condition analysis that assigns scores to a bridge's deck, superstructure and substructure.

The **PM-3 (travel time) measures** were also explained by Mr. Stewart. He noted that, for now, we are only considering travel time reliability. This is measured for National Highway System (NHS) routes using INRIX data, similar to what was utilized for the recent Congestion Management Processes (CMP) update. In short, Mercer County's routes are far more reliable than the statewide averages.

After explaining these three performance measures and the statewide targets, Mr. Stewart noted that the MPO would require three separate motions for consideration. The board needs to agree to one of two scenarios: (1.) support the state targets for each performance measure by planning and programming projects that contribute to meeting or making significant progress toward the established PennDOT performance target. (2.) commits to establishing their own quantifiable targets and attach their methodology. Mr. Stewart noted that, to his knowledge, all other planning partners (MPOs) across the Commonwealth have decided to adopt the statewide targets, and this would be his recommendation due to limited staff capacity to develop their own.

With that, Mr. Lark made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stachel to support the statewide targets for the safety performance measures. The motion passed.

Mr. Morrow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stachel to support the statewide targets for the pavement/bridge condition performance measures. The motion passed.

Ms. DiCintio made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stachel to support the statewide targets for the travel time and CMAQ performance measures. The motion passed.

PROJECT STATUS UPDATES

---Transportation Alternatives and STU Project Status Reports - Mr. Stewart briefly reviewed the most recent STU and Transportation Alternative Projects: 1) **Phase I for the SR 208 Multimodal Walkway, in Springfield Township** has been completed; 2) the **Mercer Borough Streetscape Project on South Diamond Street** has been going on these past several months and is almost finished with construction; 3) the **City of Sharon Bike Lane Project along Sharpville Avenue/Thornton Avenue (resurfacing) and new curbs and sidewalks on Silver Street** is moving along and was bid out again. Some of the work from that project was moved to another contract since the City received another grant; 4) the design is about 50-60% complete for the **City of Hermitage Thornton Avenue Bike Lane/Paving Project** and are working on submitting their PS&E package to the District soon; 5) the **North 6th Street/West High Street Improvement Project in Sharpville Borough** received STU funds since they pretty much had a project design ready and they just received their utility clearance last week. The let date is scheduled for April 11, 2019; 6) the **US 62 Gateway Project in the City of Sharon** received STU funding and is like an enhancement type project and are planning the scoping field view in spring 2019 and the project will be let January 14, 2021; 7) the **Greenville Borough Alan Avenue sidewalk project** has a let date of December 5, 2019 and is moving along pretty well; 8) **Phase II for the SR 208 Multimodal Walkway in Springfield Township** will continue where Phase I of the path ended, which is moving along well and is looking at a let date of January 16, 2020; and 9) the **City of Farrell Hamilton Avenue Reconstruction Project** notice to proceed was issued on November 8, 2018.

---Major Road/Bridge Projects - Mr. Brian McNulty noted that they are moving forward on the **US 62/State Street Improvement Project** for intersection improvements at the Shenango Valley Mall entrance on US 62 in the City of Hermitage where a single lane roundabout is proposed. A let date was moved from December 2018 to February 2019 with construction to be completed in 2019. The **State Street Pedestrian Improvement Project** from Boyd Drive to SR 18 will include the addition of sidewalks along State Street and some on North and South Buhl Farm Drive. A let date is scheduled sometime in 2020. The **Mercer Avenue Intersection Project (SR 418 & SR 518) and (SR 518 & Roemer Blvd. SR 3006)** design work is just getting started for signal rebuilds/replacements, ADA curb ramps, sidewalks and look at the traffic signal phasing to make it more efficient and will be let sometime in 2020.

---Planning and Data Collection Project Updates - Mr. Stewart gave a brief update on three projects. The first study is for the **Greenville Pedestrian Circulation Study**, which is about 60% complete. This study has been moving along pretty well. A walking tour was done of various sites and the consultants are working through sidewalk alternatives in the school area. A property owners meeting will be held this week, basically for anyone who could be an affected property owner. A stakeholders meeting will be held next week and the consultants are working on a sidewalk inventory and condition mapping. The second study is for the **SE Mercer County Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan** has been sorting out the final details and the final draft is complete. Since then, he began working with Springfield Township regarding how to implement the recommendations which came from the study and hopefully line them up for funding. He hopes to work with Grove City and Pine, at their request. The third project is an update for the **2018 Traffic Counts** which Brian completed 71 counts for PennDOT and was mostly done in July and August. Also, we finished with all the municipal requests and equipment repairs were done to the counter units.

DRAFT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN, TITLE VI PLAN, AND LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN

Mr. Stewart, Senior Planner, noted that this document will be going out for a 45-day public comment shortly and basically is a three part plan. He noted that some changes were made to the Public Participation Plan which looks at how we are engaging with the public and different agencies and making sure it is as effective as possible and there are Federal regulations that dictate on how we are to do that. Some changes were made to

the Title VI Plan which spells out how to deal with complaints, if they would ever arise and to make sure we have a plan in place. The Limited English Proficiency Plan would improve access to develop and implement a system to ensure meaningful access for Limited Proficiency persons to information and services provided by the MPO.

FUNDING UPDATES – MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION FUND AND GREEN LIGHT GO

Mr. Stewart, Senior Planner, stated that the Multimodal Transportation Fund application period has been open and applications are being accepted until November 15, 2018 by 5:00 p.m. If anyone is interested, they are encouraged to contact PennDOT or himself so we can discuss their potential project and review cost estimates.

Next, the Green Light Go applications are also being accepted between October 15, 2018 and January 11, 2019. A lot of communities have found this to be a great source of funding their signal improvements. He noted that prior to application submission; applicants now must complete and submit a Pre-Application Project Scoping Form to the appropriate Department Engineering District; in our case, Greg Maser at District 1-0. Mr. Maser can also give your several suggestions for making your applications stand out. Mr. Stewart noted that this program is increasing in popularity and is more competitive. Applications are only eligible for existing full traffic signals; no flashing beacons, etc. and funding is still an 80/20 match. Mr. Maser stressed that the Central Office is looking for things that are going to improve the efficiency and safety of the intersection, as opposed to shiny new equipment. New/revised timing would help a lot towards that but that means hose counts and turning movement counts or recorded by video would need to be taken and having a consultant coming up with new timings.

UPCOMING LTAP COURSES

Mr. Stewart, Senior Planner, mentioned that currently there are no local LTAP courses in our area, but made committee members aware of courses outside our area, if they would be interested.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. DiCintio, Director from Shenango Valley COG/Transit mentioned that they are required to create a Statewide Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan to address safety, security and equipment failures. Because they are a Tier II system, they were able to create the TAM Plan and are able to be a part of the State Plan. She noted that there is a page in the agreement that is between the MPO and the transit organization agreeing that they understand this plan and to make sure their assets are up-to-date.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Morrow made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel M. Gracenin,
MPO Secretary

DMG/ew