

MINUTES

SHENANGO VALLEY METROPOLITAN  
PLANNING ORGANIZATION COORDINATING/TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Tuesday – November 14, 2017 – 10:30 A.M. - MCRPC Offices  
Hermitage, PA

PERSONS PRESENT

Dan Keane  
Brad Elder  
Ken Robertson  
Vance Oakes  
Shelli Oakes  
Brian Sharkey  
Cynthia Byers  
Stephen Theiss  
Michael Deibert  
Don Morrow  
Cindy Black  
Gary Lowers  
Rick Dillaman  
Dan Walston  
Marcia Hirschmann  
Kim A. DiCintio  
George Hagstrom  
Brian McNulty  
Matt McConnell  
Scott Boyd  
Jim Carroll  
Gary Hittle  
Walter Darraugh  
Tim McGonigle  
Bill Klumph  
Dennis DeSilvey  
Diane Helbig  
Lyle Huffman  
Dan Klecha  
Dan Gracenin  
Matt Stewart

REPRESENTING

PennDOT Central Office  
Mercer County  
Sharpsville Borough  
Grove City Borough  
State Rep. Tedd Nesbit  
PennDOT Central Office  
Citizen of Sharon  
Citizen of Sharon  
PennDOT  
South Pymatuning Township  
Wilmington Township  
Pymatuning Township  
Springfield Township  
FHWA  
Hermitage City  
Mercer County Regional COG  
Pine Township  
PennDOT  
Mercer County  
Mercer County  
PennDOT  
Hempfield Township  
Coolspring Township  
Mercer County  
South Pymatuning Township  
Shenango Township  
Senator Brooks' Office  
Greenville Borough  
GPD Group  
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 AUGUST 15, 2017

Mr. Hittle asked for any additions, corrections or deletions to the Minutes of the August 15, 2017 meeting. There being none, Mr. Hittle asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Morrow so moved, Ms. Black seconded. The motion passed.

## 2017-2020 TIP MODIFICATIONS

Mr. Dan Keane explained the Highway/Bridge TIP Management Actions and one informational item, which are all administrative actions and are for informational purposes. (A copy is attached to and made a part of the permanent record of Minutes.) Mr. Walston questioned if the information item regarding PE additions for the I-376 Statewide project should be processed as amendments rather than administrative actions. Mr. Keane noted that they are not over the \$2M increase so this would be for informational purposes only. Mr. Walston noted that they are new projects and new phases. Mr. Keane stated that they are not Federal dollars. Mr. Walston would like to clarify this after the meeting according to the TIP MOU.

## RESOLUTION: Re-Designation of Recipient for the Youngstown, OH-PA Urbanized Area

Mr. Stewart, Senior Planner, mentioned that there is a simple resolution designating the MCRCOG to be the recipient of FTA funding. Currently the City of Sharon was the designated recipient of FTA funds that come into the County. A motion was made by Mr. Morrow to adopt this Resolution designating the MCRCOG to be the recipient of FTA funding. Mr. Hagstrom seconded. The motion passed.

## SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURE TARGETS

Mr. Stewart, Senior Planner, mentioned that the Federal Highway Administration is making sure that MPOs establish targets for Safety Performance Measures which would be improving our transportation system in order to reduce fatalities and serious injuries. Mr. Stewart noted that we can agree to adopt the plan and program projects in support of PennDOT established targets or we can create our own targets. Mr. Stewart noted that it would make more sense if we adopt the plan and program projects in support of the PennDOT established targets. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. McConnell to adopt the PennDOT established targets. Ms. DiCintio seconded. The motion passed.

## PROJECT STATUS UPDATES

---Transportation Alternatives and STU Project Status Reports - Mr. Stewart noted that the **Clarksville Road Resurfacing Project in the City of Hermitage** and the **Kidds Mill Bridge Repair Project** wrapped up last quarter. Next, he briefly reviewed the four remaining Transportation Alternative and STU Projects: 1) everything is ready to go and has been bid out for the **SR 208 Multimodal Path, in front of the outlet mall, in Springfield Township**. They were awarded a notice to proceed on October 9, 2017, but given it is so late in the year and the asphalt plant shutdown on November 15<sup>th</sup>, the project will be completed in March or April 2018, weather pending; 2) they are working towards a February bid date for the **South Diamond Street Project in Mercer Borough**. A public meeting will be decided tonight in Mercer Borough for either a December 5<sup>th</sup> or December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting; 3) the engineer is working out the final details for the **City of Sharon Project along Silver Street/Sharpville Avenue/Thornton Avenue**. The only outstanding item is getting the clearance from the property owner on a few sidewalk bump outs that need to be installed, which will go outside of the legal right-of-way for Silver Street. This project is ready to advertise and obtain bids; and 6) all field surveying work is complete for the **City of Farrell Hamilton Avenue Project**. A draft copy of the right-of-way plan has been submitted to PennDOT.

---Major Road/Bridge Projects - Mr. Brian McNulty gave the presentation. He noted that the **US 19 Bridge over Munnell Run in Coolspring Township, north of Mercer Borough** project was let on November 2, 2017, with the apparent low bidder being Horizon Construction Group with a bid of \$2.1 million. Construction will occur around March 2018 and is estimated to be completed in October 2018. The **State Street Project from Forker Boulevard to Route 18** will include paving, drainage, ADA access and traffic signal replacements at Kerrwood Drive and Ellis Avenue in the City of Hermitage. A road diet will also occur from North Buhl Farm Drive west to the City of Sharon line. This project is on schedule and the let date is scheduled for December 7, 2017. The **West Middlesex Bridge Replacement Project** has a proposed let date of February 15, 2018. The right-of-way plan will be authorized to allow for parcels not affected by re-design to be acquired. Approximately half of the affected parcel owners have settled. The final right-of-way plan was signed on October 11, 2017 and the lighting plan was approved on October 12, 2017. Lastly, the **US 62/State Street Improvement Project** will involve intersection improvements at the Shenango Valley Mall entrance on US 62 in the City of Hermitage where a roundabout is being considered. A 3-D traffic simulation model was developed for a public meeting, which was held on October 26, 2017. This project has a proposed let date of September 27, 2018, with construction beginning in 2019.

---Planning Initiatives – Mr. Stewart, Senior Planner, mentioned that the **Southwestern Mercer County Bicycle and Pedestrian Circulation Study** is moving along. Another stakeholder meeting is scheduled for the end of November with a public meeting to follow. Next, he noted that we applied for some money to do a similar study in Greenville Borough (Thiel College area) and were notified yesterday that we were approved for this project. Public meetings will be held with Greenville Borough and Thiel College officials. He also noted that we finished our work for the year regarding our HPMS road segment reviews and traffic counting.

#### TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM – OVERVIEW OF 2017 SUBMITTALS

Mr. Stewart, Senior Planner, explained that we received 3 eligible Transportation Alternative projects and then gave a brief overview of the (TA) project applications submitted. He noted that \$55 million is available statewide, and just over \$2 million requested for the 3 eligible TA projects for Greenville Borough, Hermitage City and Springfield Township. He noted that we will also receive a small annual allocation of \$41,000 per year (\$82,000 for two years), because of our large MPO status.

Mr. Stewart explained how our Technical Committee is tentatively scheduled to meet on November 30, 2017 to review the 3 project application narratives based on significance, public impact and quality. The committee will review the 3 project applications submitted and provide scores back to MCRPC in order to submit ranking to PennDOT by January 5, 2018.

#### 2019-2020 STU FUNDING DISCUSSION

Mr. Stewart, Senior Planner, explained that another round of STU money will be available (\$767,000 in FY 2019 and \$800,000 in FY 2020). Tentatively, the application period will open on or around December 4, 2017 and projects would be due on or around January 12, 2018. He noted that the STU money funds a lot of transportation projects and has been really successful in the past. Scoring is based on several criteria, project type and project readiness account for 60% of total.

#### 2019-2022 TIP – INITIAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Stewart, Senior Planner, mentioned that we have been working closely with PennDOT, District 1-0 in developing our TIP for our next period starting in 2019. Discussions have been held with District 1-0 on various projects and ideas and how to graduate certain things that our on our Long Range Plan to the TIP in order to integrate those documents more. He noted that the NHPP funding that we currently have, which can

only be used on the National Highway System like Route 18, State Street, US 62, a section of Route 58 up by Greenville, significantly decreased this year. Also, we are hoping to use some of our safety dollars to fund two corridor-wide safety studies that will eventually lead to the programming of projects. One is on US 62 between the Shenango Valley and the Mercer area and the other is Route 58 from Mercer up to the Greenville area.

#### UPCOMING LTAP COURSES

Mr. Stewart, Senior Planner, mentioned that the LTAP courses are handled through the Northwest Commission in Oil City. The courses are free and give great technical assistance on things you can do in order to make your dollars go further.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Jim Carroll, from PennDOT mentioned that they have been conducting a survey (which will expire November 22, 2017) asking individuals to rate their performance on road smoothness, congestion, construction, winter services, etc. He thanked everyone for taking the time to participate in doing the survey in advance. Information received is very valuable to them when making their decision making process.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Morrow made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel M. Gracenin,  
MPO Secretary

DMG/ew