

MINUTES

SHENANGO VALLEY METROPOLITAN
PLANNING ORGANIZATION COORDINATING/TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

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

PERSONS PRESENT

Courtney Lyle
Mike McMullen
Darrell Chapman
Brian McNulty
Paula Klingler
Paul Miller
John R. Miller
David Garrett
Richard Stachel
Ken Robertson
Lyndsey Vogan
Bill Klumph
Don Morrow
Cindy Black
Gary Byers
Cynthia Byers
Walter Darraugh
Matt McConnell
Kim A. DiCintio
Jeremy Coxe
Robert F. Lark
Bill Finley, Jr.
Heather Maurer
Chuck Weber
Jasson Urey
Sam Bellich
Melinda Gosser
Michael Ceci
Holly Grande
Dan Keane, via phone
Dan Gracenin
Matt Stewart

REPRESENTING

PennDOT, District 1-0
PennDOT, District 1-0
PennDOT, District 1-4
PennDOT, District 1-0
PennDOT, District 1-4
PennDOT, District 1-0
Pymatuning Township
Shenango Township
Pine Township
Sharpsville Borough
MCAR, Inc.
South Pymatuning Township
South Pymatuning Township
Wilmington Township
Citizen of Sharon
Citizen of Sharon
Coolspring Township
Mercer County
Mercer County Regional COG
Hermitage City
West Middlesex Borough
Mercer Borough
Representative Mark Longietti
Wolf Creek Township
Greenville Borough
Mercer County Area Agency on Aging
Senator Michele Brooks
Farrell City
Sharon City
PennDOT
MCRPC
MCRPC

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING NOVEMBER 13, 2018

Mr. Coxe asked for any additions, corrections or deletions to the Minutes of the November 13, 2018 meeting. There being none, Mr. Coxe asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Stachel so moved, Mr. Morrow seconded. The motion passed.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Mr. Stewart mentioned that annually we need to appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair. He indicated that he had reached out to Mr. Hittle via phone, who said he felt that it's time for someone else to serve as Chair. However, he was willing to serve if needed. Mr. Hittle had suggested that he could swap positions with Jeremy Coxe, who is currently Vice-Chair, and that Mr. Coxe would do a good job as Chair. The floor was open for nominations. Mr. Robertson made a motion to nominate Jeremy Coxe as Chair and Gary Hittle as Vice-Chair for 2019. Mr. Morrow seconded. There being no other nominations, Mr. Robertson made a motion to close the nominations. Mr. Morrow seconded. The motion passed.

2019-2022 TIP MODIFICATIONS

Mr. Dan Keane, via phone, explained the Highway/Bridge TIP Management Actions, which are all for informational purposes. (A copy is attached to and made a part of the permanent record of Minutes.) Also, Mr. Keane referenced a Fiscal Constraint Chart noting that the District has been working with Brad Elder to receive some STP road map money to reconstruct 4 bridges (two on Gilmore Road and two on Hosack Road. These are located in Wolf Creek Township and Jackson Township respectively. Mr. McNulty explained in more detail that the State awarded Mercer County \$2 million in spike STP funds from the road map funding, without passing the \$5.00 fee ordinance. He explained that Deputy Secretary of Planning, Jim Ritzman, had an offer to all Counties that if you passed the \$5.00 registration fee, he would match up to \$2 million per County to go towards local, non-PennDOT-owned bridges. Mercer County had a creative proposal to not pass the \$5.00 fee but to invest in their local bridge program through other means. Mr. Ritzman liked the proposal and noted that Mercer County does a really great job in managing their local bridge system.

FINAL APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT 2019 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN, TITLE VI PLAN, AND LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN

Mr. Stewart mentioned that we will need this Board's consideration of approving the draft plan that went through a 45-day public comment period from December 10, 2018 to January 25, 2019. No comments were received. 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 English Proficiency persons to information and services provided by the MPO. A motion was made by Mr. Klumph to approve the Draft 2019 Public Participation Plan, Title VI Plan and Limited English Proficiency Plan. Ms. DiCintio seconded. The motion passed.

PROJECT STATUS UPDATES

---Transportation Alternatives and STU Project Status Reports - Mr. Stewart mentioned that there was not much new to report this quarter since a lot of the STU projects are either just getting started and a few that are finishing up. The City of Hermitage has been working with their engineer regarding the **Thornton/Forker Boulevard Project** to get all of their plans submitted to PennDOT by the end of the month and the City is

requesting that their let date be moved up a little. The City is currently waiting to get the environmental clearance from PennDOT. The **Sharpsville Borough 6th Street Reconstruction Project** received STU funds and the utility clearance last year. A reimbursement agreement was approved in January and the tentative let date is April 11, 2019. The **Sharon US 62 Gateway Project** received STU funds recently and the scoping field view meeting is expected sometime this spring. The **Alan Avenue Sidewalk Project in Greenville Borough** received TA funds and has been moving along. Greenville Borough has been working with their engineer on different alternatives for the roadway/sidewalks in that area. The tentative let date is December 5, 2019. The **SR 208 Multimodal Trail Phase 2 Project in Springfield Township** received TA funds and the Township is looking for a tentative let date of June 18, 2020. The reimbursement agreement was recently executed in January 2019. The **City of Farrell Hamilton Avenue Project** is moving along pretty well and the City is looking for a spring construction season.

---Major Road/Bridge Projects - Mr. Brian McNulty noted 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 has run into some issues with right-of-way concerns which lead to the design schedule being dragged out. The let date had been moved from February to June 2019. He noted that during this construction season they will be working on some utility relocations and hopefully some drainage and sidewalk work outside of the roadway. The construction of the roundabout will occur in 2020. Next, he mentioned that there have been some utility delays on the **State Street Project**. The culvert on State Street that was supposed to be replaced last year will be replaced this coming summer.

---Planning and Data Collection Project Updates - Mr. Stewart mentioned that there are two safety corridor studies that were recently written into the TIP and will be using highway safety monies to look at the corridors of Route 62, from Hermitage to Mercer and Route 58, from Greenville to Mercer. PennDOT is handling these two studies and they have hired two separate firms to look at intersection safety issues and roadway geometry improvements. Both of these corridor areas have high crash clusters. He noted that there is another study out for proposal now to hire a consultant to look for recommendations for low and moderate cost improvements to equipment and prioritizations to the 102 signalized intersections in Mercer County. Lastly, the pedestrian/circulation study in Greenville is moving along pretty well. Public meetings were held last week and there have been a lot of meetings with the school district, Hempfield Township and Greenville Borough officials as well as Thiel College. Consultants are working through sidewalk and roadway alternatives in this area and should have this study completed by late March or early April.

FUNDING UPDATES – MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION FUND AWARDS

Mr. Stewart mentioned that 3 projects in Mercer County received approximately \$1.9 million out of \$44.5 statewide in funding through the Multimodal Transportation Fund. The City of Hermitage received funds to construct sidewalks along the east side of SR 18 (Hermitage Road) between LindenPointe Business Campus and Morefield Road and intersection improvements at Armstrong, Emilie, and Morefield Roads. The City of Sharon received funds to repave and improve multiple streets throughout the City, complete ADA-compliant cut-outs and sidewalks, and make these streets more accessible for commerce in the City. South Pymatuning Township received funds for improvements to Wynwood Drive, Kane Road and Orangeville Road, including the removal and replacement of the current road surface; grinding, leveling, and repaving; replacement of the culverts, ditch, and berm areas of the roadway; and installation of new aggregate base to meet desired elevation on Wynwood Drive.

LOCAL BRIDGE FUNDING DISCUSSION

Mr. McNulty briefly discussed and stated that Brad Elder is planning to make a presentation regarding this at our May meeting. He mentioned earlier that the State awarded Mercer County \$2 million for local bridges.

There has been some other discussion at this meeting regarding the overall picture of the local bridge system in Mercer County and the needs that Commissioner McConnell had mentioned. Over the past several TIP updates, the MPO has designated \$1M/year to the local bridge program. This amount has never been set in stone and is up to this Board on how much should be put towards the local bridge program. PennDOT has agreed to increase that amount as long as it comes from somewhere within the TIP.

ASSET MANAGEMENT

Mr. McNulty mentioned that PennDOT is planning to make a presentation regarding this at our May meeting. Basically, PennDOT has a business plan that is updated every two years, where each district updates their business plan and submits the plan to the Central Office in Harrisburg. PennDOT looks at their entire assets to make sure they are investing the right amount of money in pavements and roadways and should anything need to be changed.

PRESENTATION: PAVEMENT BASICS

Mr. McNulty introduced Paul Miller, District Plans Engineer who has been with PennDOT for 30 years. Mr. Miller came to the MPO meeting to educate the Coordinating Committee on some of the factors that go into funding, choosing, constructing and maintaining pavement on the state's roadway system. He began by talking about different types of pavement and why certain pavements are chosen over other pavements. He then went into detail about the actual process of construction as well as the removal of old pavements, and explained how new pavement is laid onto the roadway. Mr. Miller also spoke about the design guidelines for different roadways and how projects can be prioritized and funded based on the unique needs of the condition. Certain funding sources are chosen based on the scope of the project (simple resurfacing vs. more intensive road projects that add capacity, address safety concerns, add new curbing or storm water improvements, etc.). These can range from simple projects under county maintenance contracts, to more-involved 3R/betterment projects, to full-depth reconstruction or new construction capital projects. After concluding his PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Miller asked if there were any questions. Mr. Morrow asked a question about road grading. Mr. Klumph asked about warm vs. hot mixes and the performance of these. Mr. Stachel asked about cost savings for in-place recycling and then Mr. Ceci asked about the longevity of recycled pavements. Mr. Klumph asked Mr. Miller about how well bituminous overlays over concrete bond. There was then a conversation about additives being put into mixes and to what extent, if any, District 1-0 has experimented with these. Mr. Stachel mentioned fibers being put into mixes, Mr. Morrow had heard of metals being put in, and Mr. Klumph talked about plastic additives. Mr. Miller stated that he has not heard of them using metals or plastic additives into pavement mixes in Mercer County; then he talked briefly about rubber being added into pavement mixes.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. McConnell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel M. Gracenin,
MPO Secretary

DMG/ew