

MINUTES

SHENANGO VALLEY METROPOLITAN
PLANNING ORGANIZATION COORDINATING/TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

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

PERSONS PRESENT

Mary Kay Mattocks
Gary Hittle
Kim A. DiCintio
Stephen Theiss
Wilma Torres
Robert F. Lark
Sue Smith
Laura Moore
Chuck Weber
John R. Miller
Dave Gregory
Jeremy Coxe
Bill Klumph
Michael Ceci
Brad Elder
Michael Diebert
Sam Bellich
John Trant
Diane Helbig
Marcia Hirschmann
Walter Darraugh
Jasson Urey
Dennis DeSilvey
Matt McConnell
Dan Walston
Richard Stachel
Deb Gabrel
Paula Klingler
Darrell Chapman
Zach Miles
Ken Sympson
Ken Robertson
Brian McNulty
Courtney Lyle
Lyndsie DeVito
Mike McMullen
Don Morrow
Ron Faull
Jason Tomko

REPRESENTING

Grove City Borough
Hempfield Township
Mercer County Regional COG
Citizen of Sharon
Community Action Partnership of Mercer County
West Middlesex Borough
Northwest Commission
Representative Tedd Nesbit
Wolf Creek Township
Pymatuning Township
Pymatuning Township
Hermitage City
South Pymatuning Township
Farrell City
Mercer County
PennDOT, District 1-0
Mercer County Area Agency on Aging
Springfield Township
Senator Michele Brooks
Hermitage City
Coolspring Township
Greenville Borough
Shenango Township
Mercer County
FHWA
Pine Township
PennDOT, District 1-4
PennDOT, District 1-4
PennDOT, District 1-4
PennDOT, District 1-4
Eastgate
Sharpsville Borough
PennDOT, District 1-0
PennDOT, District 1-0
PennDOT, District 1-0
PennDOT, District 1-0
South Pymatuning Township
Liberty Township
Sharon City

Mark Longietti
Bill Petit
Gary Byers
Cindi Byers
Dan Keane, via phone
Dan Gracenin
Matt Stewart

State Representative
PennDOT, District 1-0
Citizen of Sharon
Citizen of Sharon
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 NOVEMBER 14, 2017

Mr. Hittle asked for any additions, corrections or deletions to the Minutes of the November 14, 2017 meeting. There being none, Mr. Hittle asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Morrow so moved, Mr. Petit seconded. The motion passed.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Mr. Stewart mentioned that annually we appoint or reappoint a Chair and Vice-Chair. He noted that Gary Hittle has served as Chair for the past year and Jeremy Coxe has served as Vice-Chair; and they are both willing to serve again. The floor was open for nominations. There being no other nominations, Mr. Klumph made a motion to re-nominate Gary Hittle as Chair and Jeremy Coxe as Vice-Chair for 2018. Mr. Robertson seconded. There being no other nominations, the motion passed.

2017-2020 TIP MODIFICATIONS

Mr. Dan Keane, via phone, explained the Highway/Bridge TIP Management Actions, with 12 administrative actions and 2 information items which are all for informational purposes. (A copy is attached to and made a part of the permanent record of Minutes.) Mr. Morrow asked if there are any funds available, as a buffer, for the West Middlesex Bridge as materials become available, if there should be a cost increase. Mr. Keane stated yes.

FINAL APPROVAL OF TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE SET-ASIDE

Mr. Stewart mentioned that the Technical Committee met and ranked the three Transportation Alternative (TA) projects and provided their recommendation to the State. The Committee agreed that whatever was the top rated project selected, we would put our small set-aside towards that project. The three projects are: Alan Avenue sidewalks in Greenville Borough; SR 208 multi-modal path, Phase II going from the outlet mall towards the Municipal Building in Springfield Township and Route 18 sidewalks from LindenPointe to Morefield Road in the City of Hermitage. The Greenville project was ranked on top and the Committee recommended this project to the State. Mr. Stewart stated that he needs a motion to approve the action taken by the Technical Committee or if they would like to recommend one of the other two projects. There being no discussion, **a motion was made by Mr. Klumph to approve funding the Greenville Borough project based on the Technical Committee recommendation. Mr. Robertson seconded.** The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF 2019-2020 STU PROJECTS

Mr. Stewart mentioned that the Technical Committee met and ranked the five STU projects which we received from four sponsors. He noted that each project is scored and ranked as they deal with different scoring criteria related to inclusion in planning documents; project type; significance; public impact; quality; additional local match and project readiness (including design status, environmental phase, utility phase and right-of-way). The five projects are: 1) continuing the STU Sharon project from the City line up Thornton Avenue to Forker Boulevard for a bike/pedestrian/road realignment project in the City of Hermitage; 2) Route 18 sidewalks from LindenPointe to Morefield Road in the City of Hermitage; 3) SR 208 multi-modal path, Phase II in Springfield Township; 4) a gateway treatment project at the State line (Route 62), Irvine/Addison Avenue for a streetscape project in the City of Sharon; and 5) reconstruction/sidewalk improvements of North 6th Street and West High Street in the Borough of Sharpsville. The Technical Committee recommended to rank the Sharpsville project 1st based on project readiness; the Hermitage (SR 18) project ranked 2nd; and the Springfield project ranked 3rd. Available funding from 2019 and 2020 is \$1,567,000; which the total of the top 3 projects came in just under this amount.

Mr. Stewart noted that there was considerable discussion at the Technical Committee about the two Hermitage projects and how the Route 18 project scored higher, but pretty much the entire Committee liked the Thornton project more. The Technical Committee decided to stick with the scoring criteria and recommended funding the projects in the order of their total points, and to utilize both years of funding. Mr. Stewart noted that after the Technical Committee meeting, the City of Hermitage stated that they would be happy to receive any funding, but the City did like the Thornton project more.

Mr. Stewart mentioned that the State is currently reviewing the three Transportation Alternatives projects submitted back in November and they could fund 1, 2 or all 3 projects. The Hermitage (LindenPointe) project and Springfield project could possibly get Transportation Alternatives funding, so keep in mind when giving our recommendation today, that we have a back-up plan. He noted that if Springfield or Hermitage would receive TA monies, then the available STU funding would probably go to the Sharon project, which was the next higher ranked project, then the Thornton Avenue, Hermitage project.

After further discussion, it was noted that the Coordinating Committee could accept the Technical Committee's recommendation to fund the projects in the order of their total points, and utilize both years of funding, which would work out as follows: 1) Sharpsville; 2) Hermitage Route 18; 3) Springfield; 4) Sharon; and 5) Hermitage Thornton project. Mr. Hittle asked for a motion. There being none, this motion died. Mr. Hittle then asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee. A motion was then made by Mr. Klumph to fund: 1) Sharpsville; 2) Springfield; and 3) Hermitage Thornton project. Mr. McConnell seconded. It was noted that if the Springfield project would receive TA funding, then the Sharon project would be next in line to receive funding. The motion passed. Mr. Dan Walston mentioned that this is a noteworthy practice.

APPROVAL OF 2018-2020 UPWP

Mr. Stewart stated that every two years the MPO is required to adopt a UPWP which will outline the tasks for the MPO. This UPWP spells out what the MPO will be doing, along with PennDOT to implement the programs that are done throughout the County. He noted that there were many changes made under the program tasks. In year one, under Special Projects we are proposing to do a "Traffic Signal Inventory and Improvement Study". In year two, we would have a separate line item for "Other Special Studies to be determined". A motion was made by Mr. Morrow to approve the 2018-2020 UPWP. Mr. Robertson seconded. The motion passed.

PROJECT STATUS UPDATES

--Transportation Alternatives and STU Project Status Reports - Mr. Stewart briefly reviewed three STU

projects and 1 Transportation Alternative Project: 1) we are expecting a PS&E submittal from the engineer to PennDOT for the **South Diamond Street Project in Mercer Borough** to guarantee that this project will be constructed this season. The proposed let date is March 29, 2018; 2) the **City of Farrell Hamilton Avenue Project** is reconstructing a two block area with paving and sidewalks. The City has brought another engineer on board to make sure this project moves forward; 3) the **SR 208 Multimodal Path, in front of the outlet mall, in Springfield Township** has already been bid out and there are no new updates. Construction will begin when the weather breaks; and 4) the **City of Sharon Project along Silver Street and Sharpville Avenue** has a tentative let date of May 10, 2018.

---Major Road/Bridge Projects - Mr. Brian McNulty noted that the **West Middlesex Bridge Replacement Project** has been advertised for bid; bids will be open on March 1st with an anticipated notice to proceed of April 2, 2018. Mr. DeSilvey asked when the bridge will be closed and when will detour signs be put up. PennDOT explained the timing of this and thought detour signs would be put up around the end of April. The **US 62/State Street Improvement Project** is working on intersection improvements at the Shenango Valley Mall entrance on US 62 in the City of Hermitage. He noted that a single lane roundabout is now proposed for this intersection. The proposed let date is September 27, 2018 with construction in 2019. Mr. Stewart noted that if the SV Mall parcel would be redeveloped in the future, the roundabout is being designed so that multiple lanes with the drainage on the outside could be accommodated, if ever needed. Lastly, the **State Street Pedestrian Improvement Project** from Boyd Drive to SR 18 would be the addition of sidewalks along State Street. He noted that this will tie into a Betterment project that was just let recently and construction will start this year for fixing the roadway and rebuilding some traffic signals at Ellis and Kerrwood Drives.

---Planning and Data Collection Project Updates - Mr. Stewart noted that our traffic counting program for this year will be starting soon. If any municipality has a count that they would need to be addressed, to let Mr. Barnhizer or himself know so we can schedule the traffic count.

2019-2022 DRAFT TIP DISCUSSION

Mr. Stewart distributed the draft TIP to committee members to review and discuss prior to approval of the "Draft TIP" at the May meeting, with "Final TIP" approval at the July meeting. Mr. Stewart highlighted on some of the projects under the 2019-2022 Draft TIP and discussed various projects on the 2017-2020 TIP. Mr. Lark noted that the SR 18/318 traffic signal improvements should be addressed. Mr. Stewart explained that discussions have been held regarding upgrading this intersection's traffic signal with possible left turn lanes and be able to turn right on red. Mr. Stewart noted that this is an important issue and he will continue to work with PennDOT on what type of funding could be used to upgrade this traffic signal intersection. There was a question on the status of the tunnel near Mercer. Ms. DeVito from PennDOT noted that Mackin Engineering was hired to do a 12-month study, which should start sometime in March 2018. Three alternatives will be looked at for this tunnel with two public meetings being held; one for input and one to share results. Mr. Stewart noted that we are going to fund through our TIP two highway safety studies: US 62 between the Shenango Valley and Mercer and SR 58 between Mercer and Greenville.

MPO COMMUNICATION SURVEY

Mr. Stewart mentioned that he put together a Communication Survey to gather essential information about your role as a board member or stakeholder regarding the preferred method of receiving information from the MPO staff so we could share more resources and information about transportation and various projects. This will be available on MCRPC's website as well as by email/mail/handout.

PRESENTATION: FHWA PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Mr. Dan Walston gave a brief overview on Performance Based Planning and Programming. (A copy is attached to and made a part of the permanent record of Minutes.) He noted that there are three performance measures (Safety; Pavement & Bridge Condition; and Performance of NHS, Freight and CMAQ Measures) and one NHS Asset Management Plan that will be looked at between FHWA, State DOTs and MPO's for various projects under the Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Stewart noted that this FHWA Performance Measures will be available on MCRPC's website, as well.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Hittle introduced Courtney Lyle the new Planning and Program Manager from PennDOT. Ms. Lyle noted that she has been with PennDOT for 16 years; 11 years were spent in maintenance and the last 5 years at District 1 and is currently working in design.

Mr. Petit discussed an upcoming PennDOT meeting on February 21st with our planning partners to discuss our collaboration such as how they move transportation agendas throughout the northwest part of the Commonwealth under our TIP. Next, he spoke about some of the planning functions within District 1 and Lyndsie DeVito's role as a Planner. One major role for Ms. DeVito is to work on better communication with our municipal planning partners and making sure that our transportation investment meets the aspirations of the communities that we serve. Lastly, he mentioned that if any municipality would have a problem or questions about local bridges they should talk to PennDOT's maintenance staff for assistance.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Morrow made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel M. Gracenin,
MPO Secretary

DMG/ew