

MINUTES

SHENANGO VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION COORDINATING/TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

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

PERSONS PRESENT

Dennis DeSilvey
Darrell R. Chapman
Zach Miles
Ron Faull
Michael Deibert
Laura Moore
Emily Aloiz
Courtney Lyle
Mike McMullen
Jasson Urey
Gary Hittle
Kim A. DiCintio
Don Morrow
Gary S. Byers
Cynthia Byers
Brad Elder
Michael Ceci
Stephen Theiss
Vance Oakes
Melinda Gosser
Chuck Weber
Brian McNulty
Jeremy Coxe
Walter Darraugh
Erin Houston
Richard Stachel
James Foringer
Dan Gracenin
Matt Stewart

REPRESENTING

Shenango Township
PennDOT, Mercer County 1-4
PennDOT, Mercer County 1-4
Liberty Township
PennDOT, District 1-0
Representative Tedd Nesbit
Erie County Dept. of Planning
PennDOT, District 1-0
PennDOT, District 1-0
Greenville Borough
Hempfield Township
Mercer County Regional COG
South Pymatuning Township
Citizen of Sharon
Citizen of Sharon
Mercer County
Farrell City
Citizen of Sharon
Grove City Borough
Senator Michele Brooks
Wolf Creek Township
PennDOT
Hermitage City
Coolspring Township
S. V. Urban League
Pine Township
PennDOT, District 1-0
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 MAY 15, 2018

Mr. Hittle asked for any additions, corrections or deletions to the Minutes of the May 15, 2018 meeting. There being none, Mr. Hittle asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Morrow so moved, Ms. DiCintio seconded. The motion passed.

2017-2020 TIP MODIFICATIONS

Mr. Dan Keane, via telephone, explained 4 Highway/Bridge TIP Administrative Actions, which are all for informational purposes. Mr. Keane mentioned that this report has a different look. The report gives a project description, project location map, narrative and a column showing the total project cost estimate. Mr. Keane also explained 1 informational item for the Interstate. (A copy of this report is attached to and made a part of the permanent record of Minutes.)

APPROVAL OF 2019-2022 TIP

Mr. Stewart explained that Committee members have been discussing the Draft 2019-2022 TIP over the past year which includes highway and transit projects. The draft TIP was available for a 30-day public review and comment period, followed by a Public Hearing. This evening we are looking for Final TIP approval as well as three separate resolutions will also need to be approved.

---Approval of MOU for TIP Modification Procedures – Mr. Stewart explained that this MOU establishes a set of procedures to be used when processing modifications to the 2019-2022 TIP. He noted that nothing has changed since our last TIP update. There being no discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Morrow to approve the MOU for the 2019-2022 TIP modifications. Mr. DeSilvey seconded. The motion passed.

---Approval of Air Quality Resolution – Mr. Stewart noted since our last MPO meeting there were a lot of changes to how we calculate air quality and what standards we are using. The language needed to be corrected to reflect that. There being no discussion, a motion was made by Mr. DeSilvey to approve the Air Quality Resolution. Ms. DiCintio seconded. The motion passed.

---Approval of Self-Certification Resolution – Mr. Stewart stated that the Self-Certification Resolution explains what the MPO does and certifying them to do the work as an MPO, and is being carried out in accordance with all applicable requirements. Some language was corrected to reflect air quality. There being no discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Faull to approve the Self-Certification Resolution. Mr. DeSilvey seconded. The motion passed.

---Approval of 2019-2022 TIP – Mr. Stewart stated that we finally will need a motion to approve all of our TIP documentations, as noted above. There being no discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Morrow to approve the 2019-2022 TIP. Mr. DeSilvey seconded. 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** is basically complete and **Phase II was recently awarded funds**. No scoping meetings have been scheduled yet, but should be scheduled sometime in August; 2) the **City of Sharon Bike Lane Project along Sharpsville Avenue/Thornton Avenue (resurfacing) and new curbs and sidewalks on Silver Street** received STU monies. This project was bid out, but the project bids came in \$210,000 over budget. A decision was made to rebid this project and the City, PennDOT and the engineer are working to revise plans to reduce the scope. The City of Sharon also received Multimodal (MTF) Transportation monies to resurface several streets. The resurfacing portion for Thornton Avenue will now be part of the MTF Revitalization Project. They are working towards a September 2018 let date with construction anticipated spring 2019; 3) the **US 62 Gateway Project in the City of Sharon** recently received STU funding. PennDOT and the City of Sharon will be setting up the scoping meetings; 4) the **Mercer Borough Streetscape Project on South Diamond Street** recently opened bids and awarded bid slightly under estimate. Notice to proceed

was yesterday and project will mostly be done this year. Light poles and project cleanup, etc., will be completed in spring 2019; 5) the **City of Farrell switched engineers for the Hamilton Avenue Reconstruction Project**. Information was submitted to PennDOT and the City is waiting for comments back from PennDOT. A tentative let date is scheduled for September 2018; 6) the **North 6th Street/West High Street Improvement Project in Sharpville** Borough was awarded funding two meetings ago. A scoping meeting was held on June 13th; project design is far along; appears straightforward. They are working towards a late summer/early fall let date with construction anticipated in 2019. PennDOT is waiting on plan update based on scoping comments prior to circulation for review; and 7) the **City of Hermitage Thornton Avenue Bike Lane/Paving Project** was recently awarded STU funds. A scoping meeting is set for July 17, 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 September to December 2018. Discussion was held at the Hermitage Council workshop on June 21st and presented the current plans regarding the roundabout. 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 project scoping meeting was held June 19th and noted that a consultant is now on board and will start design work soon. 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.

---Planning and Data Collection Project Updates - Mr. Stewart gave a brief update on three projects. The first study is for the **SE Mercer County Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan** which is on the home stretch and is almost done. Several recommendations for potential alignments have been recommended, as well as share road paths and off-road trails. Hopefully before our next meeting the final report will be completed. The second study is for the **Greenville Pedestrian Circulation Study**. The consultants have been summarizing the pedestrian crossing data from the MioVision pedestrian counting cameras, as well as finalizing the data from over 300 surveys completed. The study will provide recommendations for various pedestrian improvements in the Greenville Borough and Hempfield Township areas. One of the major issues is around the Thiel College campus area (Routes 18/58 split) where a vast majority of people are jaywalking. The consultants are talking with PennDOT and are looking over different aspects of how this intersection could be redesigned. The third study is the **2018 Congestion Management Processes “CMP” Update** which we are required to do. Even though we are a very small MPO, we are considered a large MPO in the eyes of FHWA, due to the fact that we are linked into the Youngstown Metropolitan area. One of the requirements of a large MPO is to do a CMP and monitor any congestion around the county. The CMP relies heavily on INRIX data. INRIX is a travel time database that provides historic and current metrics for prominent corridors across the country. Some of the data found within this interactive database include average speed for the hour, reference speed, travel time, distance, buffer time index and planning time index. The first CMP was completed for 24 corridors in 2009 and had an update in 2013. A lot of changes have taken place in technology since then, so a 2018 CMP update is in the process of being summarized and completed by WRA, Consultants. Staff worked closely with the consultants as they updated the County-wide summary report to ensure that it meets our expectations, as well as the Federal guidelines that dictate what a CMP does. (A copy of this report is attached to and made a part of the permanent record of Minutes.)

Mr. Ceci asked what the purpose of the CMP besides data is. Mr. Stewart stated again that we are required to do this and this can be a good free planning tool that ensures accurate data collection over a longer period of time. Mr. Thiess asked if this data includes construction delays/congestion. Mr. Stewart stated yes. Mr. Morrow noted that he can see this becoming one of our future calculations for design criteria.

PRESENTATION: INTERSTATE STEERING COMMITTEE (ISC) PRESENTATION

Mike Deibert, PennDOT District 1-0 Assistant District Executive—Construction, gave a presentation highlighting his recent work with the PA Interstate Steering Committee (ISC). Mr. Deibert began by explaining the composition, role, and responsibilities of the ISC. Basically this committee meets quarterly to review Interstates and come up with creative ways to fund improvements to a system where need far exceeds available funding. Pennsylvania has 21 Interstate highways equaling 2,740 miles and owns over 2,200 bridges on the Interstate system.

Mr. Deibert highlighted the current conditions of both pavement and bridges with the Interstate system in Pennsylvania, and also talked about how Mercer County compares to statewide averages. He noted that, in Mercer County, the average combined age of the highway surfaces (not including pavement overlays) is 36 years old and the bridges average 46 years old. Many of our county's road surfaces have been reconstructed, and our oldest section of Interstate is a section of I-79 built in 1965. Overall, our Interstate condition (both road surface and bridge condition) compares favorably to statewide averages, and Mr. Deibert displayed several graphs demonstrating this.

Several slides were displayed and Mr. Deibert went into details regarding several other statistics related to the Interstate system's age, daily traffic, freight volumes, etc. All of this information is considered when evaluating how to prioritize maintenance on the Interstate system. In total, \$1.1 Billion is needed per year (in current dollars). He highlighted several large-scale projects that need to be done, and went into some of the maintenance issues that are coming due across the Commonwealth. He also highlighted several statewide concerns such as, structurally deficient bridges that are unfunded, some critical preservation that is being deferred, that preservation is not lasting as long (because segments are at the end of their useful life), and rapidly-growing freight and capacity issues that are also unfunded.

Mr. Deibert went into details regarding the specific plan to address these issues, to the extent possible, and what/where the priority needs are. This was explained on both a statewide scale and a local (county) scale. These needs are reflected in the draft 2019 Twelve-Year Program (TYP), a \$13.8 Billion list of 286 projects.

He finalized his presentation by talking about next steps, which include finalizing the Draft TYP, reviewing Interstate needs (priorities, policies, funding options, developing best practices), and also prioritizing Interstate preservation projects for SPIKE funding.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Morrow mentioned that the Starship Initiative Truck completed the cross-country test drive. The completion of the drive itself was a success. The Starship truck attained 178.4 ton-miles per gallon for freight ton efficiency, a nearly 248% improvement over the North American average freight ton efficiency of 72 ton-miles per gallon for trucks.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Morrow made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel M. Gracenin,
MPO Secretary

DMG/ew