

MINUTES

SHENANGO VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION COORDINATING/TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 15, 2017 – 10:30 A.M. - MCRPC Offices
Hermitage, PA

PERSONS PRESENT

Garth Falkner
Adam Gregory
Dennis DeSilvey
Don Morrow
Jim Morton
Bill Klumph
Vance Oakes
Brad Elder
Gary Lowers
Jim Carroll
George Hagstrom
Stephen Theiss
Cynthia Byers
Gary Byers
Ken Sympson
Michael Deibert
Sam Bellich
John R. Miller
Gary Hittle
Lyndsie DeVito
Brian McNulty
Michael Ceci
Jason Tomko
Robert Fiscus
Mary Kay Mattocks
Jeremy Coxe
Walter Darraugh
Erin Houston
Jasson Urey
Lyle Huffman
Robert F. Lark
Cindy Black
Kim A. DiCintio
Dan Gracenin
Matt Stewart

REPRESENTING

Jefferson Township
JCL Development/Sharon
Shenango Township
South Pymatuning Township
Wolf Creek Township
South Pymatuning Township
Grove City Borough
Mercer County
Pymatuning Township
PennDOT
Pine Township
Citizen of Sharon
Citizen of Sharon
Citizen of Sharon
Eastgate
PennDOT
Mercer County Area Agency on Aging
Pymatuning Township
Hempfield Township
PennDOT
PennDOT
Farrell City
Sharon City
Sharon City
Grove City Borough
Hermitage City
Coolspring Township
Shenango Valley Urban League
Greenville Borough
Greenville Borough
West Middlesex Borough
Wilmington Township
Mercer County Regional COG
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 16, 2017

Mr. Hittle asked for any additions, corrections or deletions to the Minutes of the May 16, 2017 meeting. There being none, Mr. Hittle asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Falkner so moved, Mr. Klumph seconded. The motion passed.

2017-2020 TIP MODIFICATIONS

Mr. Dan Keane, explained the Highway/Bridge TIP Management Actions, 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.)

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES DISCUSSION AND ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

Mr. Stewart mentioned that another round of Transportation Alternatives (TA) funds will be available this summer. He spoke with a couple of municipalities that are planning on submitting an application. If there are any municipalities still planning on submitting an application, the applicants are required to talk with him and PennDOT District 1-0 staff to talk through their projects and make sure it is feasible.

Next, he noted that in addition to the much larger pot of funding that is controlled statewide, we will receive our own small annual allocation because of our “large MPO” status, since we are tied into the Youngstown Metropolitan area. We will receive an annual allocation of \$40,000 in 2017 and \$41,000 in 2018. This small amount of money is our MPO’s to use as we see fit, and this funding will need to be awarded by September 30, 2017. Currently, the TA Program has funded the Mercer County Kidd’s Mill Covered Bridge and the Springfield Township SR 208 Multimodal Path. Three STU projects were recently awarded and would be TA eligible: 1) the City of Sharon Silver Street sidewalks/Sharpsville Avenue/Thornton Avenue bike lanes; 2) the Mercer Borough South Diamond Street streetscape project; and 3) the City of Farrell Hamilton Avenue reconstruction and sidewalk project. The issue the MPO faces now is that we must move FY 2017 funds (\$40,000) to a tip project by 9/30/17. FY 2017 and FY 2018 funds (\$81,000) could be moved. A possible solution would be to add the funds to an existing TA or TA-eligible (STU) project and could be moved within our region to ensure it does not go to waste. After talking with PennDOT, it would be cutting it too close to allocate the \$40,000 to a new project, but could move the funds to an existing TA or TA-eligible (STU) project.

Mr. Stewart noted that currently the Springfield Township SR 208 Multimodal Path has sufficient funds based on their recent bid opening. The City of Sharon Silver Street sidewalks/Sharpsville Avenue/Thornton Avenue bike lanes projects recent estimate shows more funding could be needed; PennDOT is confident of FY 2018 letting at this point. The Mercer Borough South Diamond Street streetscape project does not have a refined estimate submitted and PennDOT is not sure about 2018 letting. Finally, the City of Farrell Hamilton Avenue reconstruction and sidewalk project already has a complicated funding scenario because they are using multimodal State funds. Only the sidewalk component would be TA-eligible and PennDOT is not sure about 2018 letting.

In discussion, Mr. Coxe mentioned about extending the City of Sharon Silver Street sidewalks/Sharpsville Avenue/Thornton Avenue bike lanes project from Bechtol Avenue (which is the Sharon City line) up to Forker Boulevard to meet Buhl Park. Mr. Adam Gregory, from JCL Development noted that this project fits within the Sharpsville Avenue corridor. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Falkner to move the FY 2017 (\$40,000) funds to the City of Sharon Silver Street sidewalks/Sharpsville Avenue/Thornton Avenue bike lanes project. Mr. Morrow seconded. The motion passed.

PROJECT STATUS UPDATES

--Transportation Alternatives and STU Project Status Reports - Mr. Stewart briefly reviewed the Transportation Alternative and STU Projects: 1) Mercer County received money to rehab the **Kidds Mill Bridge Repair Project**. A final inspection meeting was held on May 31, 2017 and work is 100% complete; 2) construction is anticipated for Fall for the **SR 208 Multimodal Path, in front of the outlet mall, in Springfield Township**. PennDOT has awarded the project and is in the process of contract approval; 3) the **Clarksville Road Resurfacing Project in the City of Hermitage** is 99% complete, the only thing left is a few catch basin grates that need delivered and installed; 4) the engineer working on the **City of Sharon Project along Silver Street/Sharpsville Avenue/Thornton Avenue** resubmitted the PS&E package and are going through some final issues determining the legal right-of-way of the streets. The City has about 50% of the utility clearances and working on the rest of them. The project will be let in Spring of 2018 and work should begin on July 1, 2018 after Aqua is completed with their work; 5) design is 90 to 95% complete for the **South Diamond Street Project in Mercer Borough**, but the project engineer is still working out the details on the utilities. The PS&E package needs to be completed and a meeting is scheduled with the new project manager on August 16, 2017 with PennDOT to discuss and review the project and its requirements; and 6) the **City of Farrell Hamilton Avenue Project** is moving along slowly. Another meeting is scheduled later this week to discuss the project.

--Major Road/Bridge Projects - Mr. Brian McNulty gave the presentation. He noted that Brian Yedinak retired at the end of July after 35 years with PennDOT. Mr. McNulty noted that the **US 19 Bridge over Munnel Run in Coolspring Township, north of Mercer Borough** added \$1.1 million to the construction phase of this project. The estimate went up due to expanded scope because the bridge is on a horizontal curve and the super elevation was not to standard. The decision was made to fix it as part of this project, which involved changing the profile of the roadway. The project is on schedule and the let date is scheduled for November 2, 2017, with construction starting in Spring of 2018. The **State Street Project from Forker Boulevard to Route 18** includes 2 new traffic signals at Kerrwood Drive and Ellis Avenue. This project is on schedule and the let date is scheduled for December 12, 2017, with construction starting in Spring of 2018. The **West Middlesex Bridge Replacement Project** has a proposed let date of December 21, 2017. The design is almost complete; and is in the process of getting an agreement executed for maintenance of the lighting and the sidewalks included in the project. The decision was made to not include sidewalks on the bridge, but the sidewalks leading to the approaches to the bridge, which are included in this project, will be maintained by the Borough of West Middlesex, as well as the lighting on the bridge. 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. Currently they are in a very early preliminary engineering phase and will work with the consultant (WR&A) on the design of this roundabout at this intersection. Currently this project has construction funds in 2018, but is very unlikely that we will achieve that let date of 2018 with the design-bid build, so it could turn into a design-build project in order to use those funds in 2018. In discussion, Mr. Bob Lark asked when construction will begin for the West Middlesex Bridge Replacement. Mr. McNulty stated that construction will start in Spring of 2018 and should be built before the end of that year. Also, Mr. Don Morrow asked for clarification of where the roundabout would be located for the US 62/State Street Improvement. Mr. Stewart noted that it would be at the Shenango Valley Mall entrance on US 62 and State Street.

SOUTHEASTERN MERCER COUNTY BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN

Mr. Stewart mentioned that this study was recommended under our Long Range Transportation Plan. He noted that there was a lot of interest in doing this bike/pedestrian study. Meetings have been held with

Springfield and Pine Township's as well as Grove City Borough and PennDOT, in order to get this project going and to interview consultants to prepare this planning study. Environmental Design Group was hired out of Akron, Ohio to start working on this planning study. A kick-off meeting is scheduled for later this month, and that project should be completed by June 2018. Mr. Stephen Theiss noted that he is always interested in bike/pedestrian paths and wanted to know where the path would start and end. Mr. Stewart stated that it is too early in the process to determine and multiple improvements (not just a bike path) will be considered. The consultant will look at all the avenues when determining this planning study.

OTHER PLANNING INITIATIVES

Mr. Stewart gave a brief presentation on the other planning initiatives that were recommended from the Long Range Transportation Plan last year. He noted that there were 11 LRTP recommended studies, which two projects have already started (the Grove City/Springfield/Pine Bike/Pedestrian Study and the US 62 Bessemer RR Tunnel Study in Coolspring Township). PennDOT is putting some State money towards the US 62 Bessemer RR Tunnel Study in order to get started. He noted that we have a lot of other studies that we eventually would like to do in the next few years.

Mr. Stewart noted that he received an email from the program center saying that as part of the PennDOT Connects Initiative, they are putting money towards a lot of studies, which is competitive money and you have to apply for it. He noted that there has been a lot of talk about doing a bike/pedestrian study in Greenville Borough (downtown/Thiel College area). He has had a few meetings with the Greenville Borough Manager about putting an application together to do this study. In discussion, Mr. Morrow asked what ever happened about doing a Greenville bypass. Mr. Stewart stated that it was taken off the table due to costs involved.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Gracenin noted that MCRPC updated their website recently and the transportation section has also been updated with the latest TIP documents, mapping, etc. If anyone has any questions regarding our newly updated website, please give our office a call.

Mr. Morton noted that the traffic signal on Route 62 at Keel Ridge Road is very hard to see on a bright, sunny day. Mr. Coxe stated that the City of Hermitage is responsible for that traffic signal. He will have the City take a look at it to see if anything else can be done, since sometimes it is very hard to tell if the light is green or red. Ms. Black from Wilmington Township mentioned that early this summer, PennDOT resurfaced Bethel New Wilmington Road and within 2 days it started falling apart in some areas and even impassable. PennDOT recently corrected this problem, but typically the winter is pretty rough on this road. Mr. Coxe stated that PennDOT has a 1-800-FIX-ROADS phone line to file/track complaints on various roads.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel M. Gracenin,
MPO Secretary

DMG/ew