

MINUTES

SHENANGO VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Tuesday – November 15, 2016 – 10:30 A.M. - MCRPC Offices – Hermitage, PA

PERSONS PRESENT

Matt McConnell
Tim McGonigle
Scott Boyd
Mirta Reyes-Chapman
Ken Symson
Mark Miller
George Hagstrom
David George
Vance Oakes
Stephen Theiss
Gary L. Lowers
Ken Robertson
Jim Knight
Cynthia Byers
Brian McNulty
Dan Walston
Jim Morton
Sue Smith
Scott Thompson-Graves
Bill Klumph
Garth Falkner
Brenda Tomko
Josh Jones
Darrell R. Chapman
Paula A. Klingler
Dan Whetzel
Greg Mezzara
Bill Petit
Cindy Black
Brian Yedinak
Gary Hittle
Michael Ceci
Dennis DeSilvey
Sam Bellich
Denise Anthony
Jeremy Coxe
Walter Darraugh
Janet Thomas
Jim Carroll
Dan Keane, via telephone
Matt Stewart

REPRESENTING

Mercer County Commissioner
Mercer County Commissioner
Mercer County Commissioner
Eastgate Regional Council of Governments
Eastgate Regional Council of Governments
Mercer County
Pine Township
West Middlesex Borough
Grove City Borough
Citizen
Pymatuning Township
Sharpsville Borough
Springfield Township
Citizens
PennDOT – District 1-0
FHWA
Wolf Creek Township
NW Commission
WRA
South Pymatuning Township
Jefferson Township
Representative Longietti
PennDOT – District 1-4
PennDOT – District 1-4
PennDOT – District 1-4
PennDOT – District 1-4
PennDOT – District 1-0
PennDOT – District 1-0
Wilmington Township
PennDOT – District 1-0
Hempfield Township
Farrell City
Shenango Township
MCAAA, Inc.
Senator Brooks
Hermitage City
Coolspring Township
Sharon City
PennDOT – District 1-0
PennDOT – Program Center
MCRPC

Mr. Hittle, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

APPROVAL OF JULY 12, 2016 & SEPTEMBER 21, 2016 MINUTES

Mr. Hittle asked for any additions, corrections or deletions to the Minutes of the July 12, 2016 and September 21, 2016 meetings. 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, via telephone, 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.)

PROJECT STATUS UPDATES

---Transportation Alternatives and STU Project Status Reports – Mr. Stewart mentioned that we have six active projects that received TAP or STU funding, which he reviewed briefly: 1) the **SR 208 Multimodal trail project in Springfield Township** is moving along. They are in the final stages of acquiring right-of-way agreements and they expect to have all the agreements in place by December; with construction still planned for the spring; 2) the **Kidds Mill Bridge Repair Project** opened bids, which came in pretty close to the estimate. There was a shortfall of \$12,500 in the construction funding, which the County has agreed to pay. A pre-construction conference is scheduled for next week; 3) the **Clarksville Road resurfacing project in the City of Hermitage** is waiting on PennDOT to give the City a confirmation on the final deliverables and bidding schedule; 4) the **City of Farrell Hamilton Avenue project** received funding to reconstruct a few blocks of Hamilton Avenue; replace some sidewalks and resurface the street. Meetings were held with Michael Ceci and the project is moving along; 5) the **City of Sharon bike/pedestrian improvements** had a TIP action to move money for the bike lane along Sharpsville Avenue and sidewalks along Silver Street. The project is moving along and we anticipate receiving the design submittal soon; and 6) the **South Diamond Street project in Mercer Borough** received STU funding, the project engineer is working on the first design submittal, which is expected to be done by December.

---Major Road/Bridge Projects – Mr. Yedinak explained the status of the **State Street Streetscape Improvement Project in the City of Sharon (Business 62)** from the hospital to Forker Boulevard; was recently bid to Kirila Contractors for \$5.2 Million. The **U.S. 19 Bridge in Mercer (Munnel Run)** held a public meeting in September; the foundation report was approved and will probably be bid in the fall of 2017 with construction in 2018. The **West Middlesex Bridge Replacement Project** is progressing along with no major updates. Design is moving along for the **State Street Project** and will be bid in September 2017 which will include ADA ramps/sidewalks at various intersections along State Street from Forker Boulevard to Route 18 to make them compliant with the regulations. Lastly, the **Rapid Bridge Replacement Project; P3 Public Private Partnership Project** will replace 558 bridges statewide with three bridges scheduled for replacement in Mercer County during the summer of 2017 (one on Route 318; Route 173 over Mill Creek and 3020 Lamor Road over Lackawannock Creek).

---Planning and Data Collection Project Updates – Mr. Stewart mentioned that the MCRPC completed the traffic counts for the 2016 year. If any municipality has a particular area that they would like to obtain a traffic count in 2017, to please let him know. In addition, the HPMS road segment reviews on State and local Federal

aid routes are continuing.

LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN FINAL PRESENTATION

Mr. Stewart, Senior Planner, noted that the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update has been finalized and went extremely well. He noted that a key goal of the plan was to coordinate directly with PennDOT so that PennDOT officials would be more involved in the planning process.

Mr. Scott Thompson-Graves, project consultant from WRA gave a final summary noting that the current 2011 plan was being updated in order to meet federal and state guidelines while being useful for a broad audience. A listening tour was done in order to engage people as much as possible to make the plan meaningful. Decision Lens, a software program was used in order to prioritize the highway projects based on pre-determined criteria. He noted that they had to address ten (10) federal planning factors, which included two (2) new planning factors (storm water and tourism). WRA worked with the PennDOT District 1 staff, and the MPO staff, to complete the plan and held various meetings with communities and other interested agencies regarding project ideas and how they would fit into the LRTP. Mr. Petit noted that the PennDOT Connects Initiative was initiated by the Secretary to improve communication between PennDOT and the municipality. WRA worked toward finishing the draft LRTP by holding several meetings to assess feasibility and consider programming of projects. A 30-day public comment period started in October and hopefully will be adopted by the MPO Coordinating Committee following this final presentation.

In discussion, it was noted that the County had a redundant bridge study prepared that included 35 bridges and questioned if this was woven into this LRTP process? Mr. Miller, bridge engineer stated yes.

APPROVAL OF FINAL LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Mr. Stewart, Senior Planner, asked if there were any questions or final thoughts about the LRTP. Hearing none, a motion was made by Mr. Klumph to approve the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Mr. Hittle seconded. The motion passed.

TRANSPORTATION NEWS

--PennDOT Connects Initiative – Mr. Petit also mentioned that the PennDOT Connects is meant to be multimodal to ensure safe and reliable form of transportation either by air, rail, bike and pedestrian safety.

--Multimodal Transportation Fund Application Round – Mr. Stewart mentioned that the funding round for the Multimodal Transportation Fund is out right now and applications are due December 16th. The Multimodal Transportation Fund provides financial assistance to municipalities, councils of government, businesses, economic development organizations, public transportation agencies, rail freight, passenger rail and ports in order to improve transportation assets that enhance communities, pedestrian safety and transit revitalization.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Jim Carroll from PennDOT District 1 mentioned that they are asking for everyone's views on "How PennDOT is Doing?" The survey is online and the survey will be available until January 3, 2017.

Mr. Dan Walston from FHWA mentioned that under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act includes two new programs; the National Highway Freight Program and FASTLANE. Mr. Walston gave a brief summary of these programs.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Falkner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Stewart,
MCRPC Senior Planner

MS/ew