

MINUTES

SHENANGO VALLEY METROPOLITAN
PLANNING ORGANIZATION COORDINATING/TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 14, 2017 – 10:30 A.M. - MCRPC Offices
Hermitage, PA

PERSONS PRESENT

Dennis DeSilvey
Matt McConnell
Marcus Cramer
Garth Falkner
Vance Oakes
Ken Robertson
Rick Dillaman
Ron Faull
Gary Hittle
Brian Yedinak
Denise Anthony
John Miller
Gary Lowers
Jasson Urey
Sam Bellich
Jeremy Coxe
Bill Klumph
Mark Longietti
Michael Ceci
Cindy Black
Sue Smith
Don Morrow
Jim Morton
Cheryl A. Wimer
Erin Houston
John Trant
Mike McMullen
Gary Byers
Cindi Byers
Laura Moore
Stephen Theiss
Melissa Beverly
Mark Miller
Brian McNulty
Cheryl Pastor
Kirstin Neidich
Jim Carroll
Kim A. DiCintio
Walter Darraugh
Robert F. Lark

REPRESENTING

Shenango Township
Mercer County
PennDOT
Jefferson Township
Grove City Borough
Sharpsville Borough
Springfield Township
Liberty Township
Hempfield Township
PennDOT
Senator Brooks
Pymatuning Township
Pymatuning Township
Greenville Borough
Mercer County Area Agency on Aging
Hermitage City
South Pymatuning Township
State Representative
Farrell City
Wilmington Township
Northwest Commission
South Pymatuning Township
Wolf Creek Township
PennDOT
Shenango Valley Urban League
Springfield Township
PennDOT
Citizen of Sharon
Citizen of Sharon
Representative Tedd Nesbit
Citizen of Sharon
MCAR
Mercer County
PennDOT
PennDOT
PennDOT
PennDOT
Mercer County Regional COG
Coolspring Township
West Middlesex Borough

Matt Stewart
CALL TO ORDER

MCRPC

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING NOVEMBER 15, 2016

Mr. Hittle asked for any additions, corrections or deletions to the Minutes of the November 15, 2016 meeting. There being none, Mr. Hittle asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Falkner so moved, Mr. Morrow seconded. The motion passed.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Mr. Matt 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. Falkner made a motion to re-nominate Gary Hittle as Chair and Jeremy Coxe as Vice-Chair for 2017. Mr. Robertson seconded. There being no other nominations, the motion passed.

2017-2020 TIP MODIFICATIONS

Mr. Brian McNulty, 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 Transportation Alternative Projects, which were reviewed briefly: 1) the **SR 208 Multimodal Path, in front of the outlet mall, in Springfield Township** has all SR 208 trail easements secured and the project will be let in July 2017; 2) the **Kidds Mill Bridge Repair Project** has received their notice to proceed to begin construction on January 31, 2017; 3) the **Clarksville Road Resurfacing Project in the City of Hermitage** recently opened bids and the lowest bid came in at \$688,335. Mr. Coxe stated that the City had requested and was approved at the November 17, 2015 MPO meeting for \$643,000 in STU funds for the Clarksville Road Resurfacing Project, with the City contributing more local match. Mr. Stewart noted that the next three projects were allocated STU funds at the February 16, 2016 MPO meeting: 1) the **City of Sharon Project along Silver Street and Sharpsville Avenue** is going smoothly and are working towards submitting the PS&E package by April 13, 2017 and aiming for a let date of June 8, 2017; 2) the **South Diamond Street Project in Mercer Borough** has been working with Bob Zarecky from PennDOT regarding ADA compliance and is moving along nicely; and 3) the **City of Farrell Hamilton Avenue Project** also received funding through the Multi-modal Transportation Fund (MTF) and Lyndsie DeVito from PennDOT is guiding them along. Utility easements, etc., are anticipated to be done this spring with a let date of spring 2018.

---Major Road/Bridge Projects - Mr. Brian Yedinak noted that under the P3 **Rapid Bridge Replacement Project**, 558 bridges will be replaced statewide with three bridges in Mercer County scheduled for replacement in the summer of 2017. The three bridges are SR 318 over Little Neshannock Creek, SR 173 over Mill Creek and SR 3020 Lamor Road over Lackawannock Creek. The **US 19 Bridge over Munnell Run in Mercer Borough** is currently addressing the comments made on the right-of-way plan with a proposed let date of September 14, 2017. The **State Street Project from Forker Boulevard to Route 18** is also scheduled for a proposed let date of September 14, 2017 with the bulk of the work taking place in 2018. The **West Middlesex**

Bridge Replacement Project has a proposed let date of December 21, 2017 and a public meeting is scheduled February 15, 2017 to discuss bridge lighting and also context sensitive design features. The **US 62/State Street Improvement Project** are working on intersection improvements at the Shenango Valley Mall entrance on US 62 in the City of Hermitage. He noted that very likely they could put a roundabout in at this intersection. He noted that the **Broadway Avenue Phase 3 Project** was already bid and is currently under design for a roundabout that will be built to improve the intersection at Connelly Boulevard and Broadway Avenue (near The Sharon Herald) in the City of Sharon. Lastly, 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 and work should be starting in March/April 2017.

--Planning and Data Collection Project Updates - Mr. Stewart discussed a potential planning project to study pedestrian circulation and trail feasibility in the Grove City area based on what was recommended in the Long Range Transportation Plan. The LRTP was approved at the November 15, 2016 MPO meeting. Discussions continue to occur with municipal officials and District 1-0 regarding how best to prioritize project recommendations from the studies as well as other projects listed on the LRTP. Mr. Stewart noted that we have not started our traffic counting for this year, so there is nothing to report under our Data Collection project update.

FEDERAL CERTIFICATION REVIEW REPORT

This item was tabled until our May MPO meeting so that Dan Walston from FHWA can make a formal presentation. Mr. Stewart noted that the Federal Certification Review was conducted back in July 2016 and went incredibly well and we received our Certification Report back a couple of weeks ago. The report we got back differed to some extent with what we were told was going to be in it. Discussions were held with FHWA regarding these issues. Overall, he noted that the review was good, we were certified and are doing what we should be doing.

TRANSPORTATION NEWS

--PennDOT Connects Initiative – Mr. Stewart mentioned that the new Transportation Secretary is pushing to make sure that PennDOT is connecting in a more meaningful way with municipal representatives, as well as the MPO. He noted that we attended a few training sessions, alongside District 1-0 employees. State-wide work groups were assigned and are hammering out how to link our LRTP with this new initiative and try to make sure it is as successful as possible. Mr. Brian Yedinak next explained the PennDOT connects process. The key to making this initiative work is to keep communications open and to inform PennDOT early in the process to ensure safe and reliable form of transportation either by air, rail, bike and pedestrian safety so it can be incorporated into the job.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Hittle thanked Mark Miller for his excellent job as the County Bridge Engineer and wished him much happiness in his retirement. Mr. Miller thanked everyone for their support over the years and especially PennDOT.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Falkner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DMG/ew

Daniel M. Gracenin,
MPO Secretary