

MINUTES

SHENANGO VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION COORDINATING/TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 16, 2016 – 10:30 A.M. - MCRPC Offices
Hermitage, PA

PERSONS PRESENT

Ken Robertson
Mike Ceci
Bill Petit
Ed Winslow
Dennis DeSilvey
Tom Tulip
Bill Klumph
Jeremy Coxe
Mark Miller
Frank Curl
Janet Thomas
Sam Bellich
Dan Keane, via phone
Kevin McCullough, via phone
Matt Stewart
Dan Gracenin

REPRESENTING

Sharpsville Borough
Farrell City
PennDOT
Winslow Engineering
Shenango Township
Mercer County Regional COG
South Pymatuning Township
Hermitage City
Mercer County
Mercer Borough
Sharon City
Mercer County Area Agency on Aging
PennDOT
PennDOT
MCRPC
MCRPC

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING NOVEMBER 17, 2015

Mr. Coxe asked for any additions, corrections or deletions to the Minutes of the November 17, 2015 meeting. There being none, Mr. Coxe asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Tulip so moved, Mr. Klumph 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. Robertson made a motion to re-nominate Gary Hittle as Chair and Jeremy Coxe as Vice-Chair for 2016. Mr. Klumph seconded. There being no other nominations, the motion passed.

2015-2018 TIP MODIFICATIONS

Mr. Dan Keane and Kevin McCullough, 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.)

APPROVAL OF 2016-2017 AND 2017-2018 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Mr. Stewart mentioned that the MPO is required to adopt a UPWP which will outline the tasks for the MPO, which, in the past, was done every year, but has moved to a 2 year work program cycle. This UPWP spells out what MCRPC will be doing, along with PennDOT to implement the programs that are done throughout the County. He noted that the amount of planning money we will be receiving for year one is the same amount as the past two years, which is very good. During year one, we will be continuing to fund our Long Range Plan Update, and all of the other line items are pretty much the same from last year. In year two, our budget will go up by about \$40,000 because of two special studies. The first would be an update for the "Congestion Management Processes" and "Other Special Studies to be determined" after the Long Range Plan Update for one or two smaller studies, if needed. There being no questions, a motion was made by Mr. Klumph to approve the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 UPWP. Mr. DeSilvey seconded. The motion passed.

ALLOCATION OF STU FUNDING

Mr. Stewart mentioned that we have a Technical Committee, which meets on an as needed basis to go over special projects. The Technical Committee met two weeks ago; the meeting was tabled and reconvened today prior to this MPO meeting to discuss the three STU projects. At this Technical Committee, all three STU project sponsors provided a brief outline of their project; which the Committee provided a score for each project, using both the objective and subjective criteria agreed upon at their last meeting. Mercer Borough's project, which includes new sidewalks, lighting and landscaping along South Diamond Street, scored the highest and the Committee recommended to fully fund Mercer's project, assuming that final estimates are at least somewhat in line with the estimates submitted. PennDOT had concerns regarding Mercer's project estimate, so their estimate was revised.

Mr. Stewart noted that Mercer's request currently is approximately \$555,000, which is well under the \$643,000 currently available in FY 2017. The Committee could also recommend allocating all or part of the FY 2018 money toward projects. Mr. Gracenin and a few others on the Committee initially had concerns regarding allocating both years now. The Committee ranked the City of Sharon project as second and the City of Farrell project as third to fully fund.

As discussion continued, Mr. Stewart briefly spoke about the City of Sharon's project, which proposes to replace sidewalks and curbing along Silver Street, east of Sharpsville Avenue and construct a bike lane on Sharpsville Avenue from State Street to Hall Avenue, and then continue on Thornton Avenue to the Borough line. Thornton Avenue would also be resurfaced. The City of Farrell's project includes new sidewalks, curbs and paving along the southern section of Hamilton Avenue. It was determined that Sharon's project could easily be broken down into phases, but that Farrell's project could not easily be broken down into phases.

Mr. Stewart again noted that \$643,000 is available in FY 2017, but the amount will likely end up being in the low \$700,000 range after the 2017 TIP is passed this summer. Mr. Coxe asked what the allocation amounts are for each project. Mr. Stewart stated that Mercer is requesting \$555,000, Sharon is requesting \$658,094.20 and Farrell will receive the remaining \$73,000+. It was also noted that the \$643,000 would be available in 2018, with each getting a bump in funds of up to \$60,000 each year, once the 2017 TIP is passed. The Technical Committee's ultimate recommendation was to allocate all 2017 and 2018 funding toward the three projects. Mercer and Sharon would receive their requested amounts, and Farrell would receive all remaining funds from 2018.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Robertson to approve the MPO's Technical Committees recommendations regarding the allocation of STU funding for the three projects. Mr. DeSilvey

seconded. The motion passed.

PROJECT STATUS UPDATES

---Transportation Alternatives and STU Project Status Reports - Mr. Stewart mentioned that he only had two Transportation Alternative Projects, which were reviewed briefly: 1) Mr. Winslow stated that the Environmental Clearance is in the process of being finalized by PennDOT for the **Kidds Mill Bridge Repair Project**. A letter was forwarded to the State Historic Preservation Office requesting their clearance approval. Work was done on the roof in December 2015 to fix some of the components missing on the roof supports and the Conservancy paid for this, so that it would not come out of the project funds. Approval from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and PA Fish and Boat Commission, have been received. All utility clearances have been received, with the exception of one, but are expecting to receive this in the next few days. The project will be advertised on 7/7/16 with the project let date of 8/11/16; 2) the **SR 208 Multimodal trail project in Springfield Township** also received funding to begin Phase I to build a walkway along SR 208 to the outlet mall. Mr. Stewart stated that Springfield Township also approved an additional service with HRG to complete a PennDOT right-of-way plan to identify the trail easements and they are currently negotiating the easement acquisitions with the affected property owners.

---Major Road/Bridge Projects - Mr. Petit first explained the Fast Act, which had a \$3.3 million bump over four years. He noted that Mercer County has 32 structurally deficient bridges and has the least amount of poor roads in the Commonwealth. He mentioned that under the P3 Rapid Bridge Replacement project, we have one bridge scheduled in 2016 and two bridges in 2017. Next he stated that the overall funding for the region is \$480 Million over the next four years in NW PA and \$82 Million in Interstate dollars. Also, he noted that Darryl Chapman is the new maintenance director. Mr. Stewart questioned the status of the Broadway Avenue Phase 3 project. Mr. Petit stated that the work is scheduled to start in 2017 with the roundabout scheduled in 2018 (Phase 3). Mr. Stewart next asked if there was any update to the State Street project which will include traffic signal replacements at Ellis Avenue and Kerrwood Drive in the City of Hermitage. Mr. Petit did not have anything to report regarding this project, but will have someone from his office email Mr. Stewart with an update regarding this project.

---Planning and Data Collection Project Updates - Mr. Stewart mentioned that there are 2 special planning studies; the **SR 208 Springfield Access Management Study**, starting in front of the Grove City outlet mall and heading east towards Pine Township. A consultant has been procured and will be signing the agreement soon. The other special planning study will begin soon in **Updating the Long Range Transportation Plan**, which is something we do every five years. An RFP was sent out to consultants, consultants will be interviewed and one will be selected. Periodic discussions with communities and other interested agencies continue concerning their LRTP needs and how their project can develop and eventually be programmed. Mr. Stewart noted that under our Data Collection project, we received our package regarding the 2016 traffic count program, which will soon start this summer.

In further discussion, Mr. Petit mentioned that when we start updating the LRTP, that we should look at all the components in the municipal comprehensive plans as well. Mr. Coxe wanted to mention, since this will affect a lot of people in the Shenango Valley, PennDOT is planning to repave SR 18 from I-80 through the City of Hermitage all the way up to South Pymatuning Township line. Also, PennDOT will be repaving East State Street from Keel Ridge Road down through the intersection of Route 18 and also the Shenango Valley Freeway from E. State Street to Route 18, plus a few other smaller projects. Mr. Petit stated that \$6.8 million will be spent on paving 34.6 miles in the Shenango Valley this summer.

TAP AND MTF UPDATES

Mr. Stewart stated that there was only one TAP project in the entire County that was submitted, which was for Mercer Borough, and it was determined to be ineligible. Also, he noted that there were five applications submitted for the Multi-modal Transportation Fund (MTF) project. Sharpsville Borough submitted an application on behalf of DSF towards the rail site project; Penn Northwest Development Corporation submitted an application on behalf of NLMK, the steel mill in the City of Farrell to do some track modifications on their site; the City of Sharon submitted an application for road resurfacing; the City of Farrell submitted an application on behalf of the Hamilton Avenue project and equipment purchasing; and Living Treasures Safari Resort being built in Liberty Township submitted an application.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Mark Miller gave an update on a couple County bridge projects: 1) The Oak Hill Road Bridge project in Shenango Township will be let in April with construction to start late June and will finish this construction season; and 2) the Race Street Bridge project, a 2-year construction project in Greenville Borough, will be let in April with construction to start July 5th and will finish in June 2017.

Mr. Tom Tulip mentioned that he has been very pleased with the progress of updating the Coordinated Human Service/Transportation Plan. Two workshops have been held with a third to be held sometime in early April. They will be working with a consultant to finalize the plan sometime this year.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Klumph made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel M. Gracenin,
MPO Secretary

DMG/ew