

MINUTES

SHENANGO VALLEY METROPOLITAN
PLANNING ORGANIZATION COORDINATING/TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Tuesday – May 17, 2016 – 10:30 A.M. - MCRPC Offices
Hermitage, PA

PERSONS PRESENT

Ken Robertson
Dan Walston
George Hagstrom
Ron Faull
John R. Miller
Jim Morton
Bill Klumph
Dennis DeSilvey
Janet Thomas
Mary Kay Mattocks
Denise Anthony
Shelli Oakes
Vance Oakes
Mark Miller
Brenda Tomko
Brian Yedinak
Lyndsie DeVito
Brian McNulty
Stephen Theiss
Gary L. Lowers
Tom Tulip
Jeremy Coxe
Mirta Reyes-Chapman
Ken Sympson
Gary Hittle
Joe Pinchot
Lyle Huffman
Walter Darraugh
Christopher Friday
Bob Fiscus
Sue Smith
Robert F. Lark
Matt Stewart
Dan Gracenin
Scott Thompson-Graves
Ashley Tracy

REPRESENTING

Sharpsville Borough
FHWA
Pine Township
Liberty Township
Pymatuning Township
Wolf Creek Township
South Pymatuning Township
Shenango Township
Sharon City
Grove City Borough
Senator Michele Brooks
Representative Tedd Nesbit
Grove City Borough
Mercer County
Representative Mark Longietti
PennDOT
PennDOT
PennDOT
Self
Pymatuning Township
Mercer County Regional COG
Hermitage City
Eastgate
Eastgate
Hempfield Township
The Herald
Greenville Borough
Coolspring Township
Erie MPO
Sharon City
Northwest Commission
West Middlesex Borough
MCRPC
MCRPC
WRA
WRA

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 FEBRUARY 16, 2016

Mr. Hittle asked for any additions, corrections or deletions to the Minutes of the February 16, 2016 meeting. There being none, Mr. Hittle asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Faull so moved, Mr. Klumph seconded. The motion passed.

2015-2018 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.)

APPROVAL OF FINAL DRAFT 2017-2020 TIP

Mr. Stewart, Senior Planner, mentioned that he has been working the past few months with PennDOT in putting the TIP together for Mercer County which includes highway, bridge, transit and rail projects; and deciding what projects would be carried over and using projects from our Long Range Plan to advance onto the TIP. Mr. Stewart provided a map via PennDOT's MPMS IQ site showing the projects on the TIP, minus 3 projects (Irishtown Road, Bestwick Road and Bedford Road) that were accidentally shown on the TIP map, but will be moved and funded under the Appropriation 409 funds, which are used for simple resurfacing projects.

Mr. Stewart next displayed the current TIP since there were a few projects that were added to the TIP since it was approved. Those projects were the Route 518/18 (Longview Road) intersection improvements; Route 18 & Rutledge Road and Route 18 & Edgewood Drive intersection improvements; various work along the SR 3008 corridor; and intersection improvements on US 62/State Street, by the Shenango Valley Mall. Also, he noted that there has been a lot of work going on along Route 62 and 18.

Mr. Brian McNulty, from PennDOT, next discussed some basic information (terms and acronyms) regarding transportation programming. (A copy is attached to and made a part of the permanent record of Minutes.) Mr. Stewart stated that the draft TIP will be available for public review and comment from June 10th to July 11th with the Public Hearing scheduled for July 7, 2016.

There being no comments, a motion was made by Mr. Klumph to approve the final draft 2017-2020 TIP. Mr. DeSilvey seconded. The motion passed.

PROJECT STATUS UPDATES

---Transportation Alternatives and STU Project Status Reports - Mr. Stewart mentioned that he had two Transportation Alternative Projects, which he reviewed briefly: 1) the **SR 208 Multimodal trail project in Springfield Township** received funding to begin Phase I to build a walkway along SR 208 to the outlet mall and are working towards a Fall let date. Springfield Township submitted to PennDOT a draft right-of-way plan and is currently in the process of obtaining right-of-way easements; 2) the Environmental Clearance has been submitted to PennDOT for the **Kidds Mill Bridge Repair Project**. A public meeting was held on May 12th and the project let date is tentatively scheduled for 8/11/16 and the notice to proceed is scheduled for November 7th. Mr. Stewart stated that PennDOT is committed to keeping the TAP projects delivered on time. In order to do that, PennDOT has brought in an outside consultant to assist the communities with their TAP projects, if needed. Mr. Stewart briefly explained the four STU projects: 1) construction hopefully will start in August for the **Clarksville Road project in the City of Hermitage**. Ms. Lyndsie DeVito from PennDOT stated that there have been some inflexibility issues with timing to get constructed this year and they are hoping

to resolve it quickly. The other three STU projects were approved at our February meeting: 1) a one block, streetscape project along South Diamond Street in Mercer Borough; 2) in the City of Sharon, a bike lane along Sharpsville Avenue//Thornton Avenue and new sidewalks and curbing along East Silver Street, behind the Buhl Club; and 3) new sidewalks, curbs and paving along a two block section of Hamilton Avenue in the City of Farrell. Scoping and field view meetings have been held with all three municipalities during the past month or so. Mr. Stewart also reminded everyone that the TAP funding is a great source to take advantage of. He noted that we only had one application submitted last time and it was determined to be ineligible. He would highly encourage those of you that might have a potential candidate project to let him know as soon as possible, since the next funding round will start in the fall of 2017.

--Major Road/Bridge Projects - Mr. Yedinak explained the status of the Broadway Avenue Phase 3 project. He stated that they are looking to bid this project this summer, which will be a two year project (2017/2018) that will improve the intersection of Connelly Boulevard and Broadway Avenue in the City of Sharon. Construction will take place in 2017 and 2018 with the roundabout at Connelly Boulevard to follow in 2018. Next, the West Middlesex Bridge Replacement Project is advancing with the proposed bid date to be in the fall of 2017. Also, the State Street Streetscape Improvement Project in the City of Sharon from the hospital to Forker Boulevard is scheduled for bidding this fall. He noted that they will make sure that they take into account the major stakeholders concerns and issues with the school district and the hospital expansion. Mr. Yedinak noted that the other State Street project will improve State Street from Forker Boulevard to Route 18, which will include traffic signal replacements at Ellis Avenue and Kerrwood Drive in the City of Hermitage. This project is under design and the proposed letting is scheduled for September 2017, with construction in 2018. 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.

--Planning and Data Collection Project Updates - Mr. Stewart mentioned that the 2016 traffic count program has begun and Mr. Brian Barnhizer from our office started setting counters about two weeks ago. Roughly we set 75 counts for PennDOT and any additional counts, as requested.

PLANNING PROJECT UPDATES

--Long Range Transportation Plan Update – Mr. Stewart stated that numerous roundtable meetings were held around Mercer County, which had been very informative and were well attended. He noted that this LRTP is a very important document which will help identify transportation concerns and needs in Mercer County. As of today, a LRTP survey was launched through the MCRPC website to help identify the specific challenges facing area residents, business owners, visitors and other who travel in, around, and through Mercer County. Mr. Thompson-Graves, project consultant, gave a summary of the regional roundtable meetings. He noted that their first public meeting will be at the Grove City Strawberry Days Festival and they were going to have a booth set up to get input from individuals with respect to safety, mobility, congestion, bicycle and pedestrian needs, etc., which will give us the nice definitive report at the end. Mr. Stewart mentioned that we will collect information regarding the LRTP update until the end of October, with the update to be completed by mid November.

--Coordinated Human Services Public Transportation Plan – Mr. Tulip explained that every 6-7 years they are engaged to go through a planning process to update a Human Services Coordinated Plan for Public Transportation. This Plan looks at alternative strategies for coordination of transportation services in Mercer County related to public transit, a fixed route system that operates in the greater Shenango Valley and the County-wide shared ride system. Two workshops were held to date, with another workshop to be held with key stakeholders to strategize on the five areas that have been identified for improvements. The five areas they have identified for improvements are: central information source, central trip planners and trip brokering, coordinating administrative and operational functions of transit, adding new services/expanding hours and

consolidation of all transportation services in the County that are providing public transportation services.

---SR 208 Access Management Study – Mr. Stewart mentioned that this is one of the smaller studies that we currently have going on right now, through money from our Work Program. We were able to allocate funding to Springfield Township to look at the Route 208 corridor, both the section in front of the outlet mall and then going all the way east toward Pine Township, which could potentially have future development. We are looking at access management to make sure the road is as functional and safe as it can be and that future development may be occurring in a more responsible manner. A draft report is being finalized and will be presented to Springfield Township Planning Commission, then we will work with the Township to schedule holding a stakeholder/property owners public meeting in early June.

FAST ACT SUMMARY PRESENTATION

Mr. Dan Walston from FHWA gave a presentation on the new Federal transportation legislation in order to help educate the MPO Coordinating Committee members. He stated that the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act was signed by President Obama on December 4, 2015. Mr. Walston then provided several details of the FAST Act, including that it is a long-term bill providing 5 years of funding certainty for infrastructure, planning and investment of the transportation system. The \$305 Billion Act covers all modes of transportation and builds on the structure and reforms of the previous funding bill (MAP-21).

Mr. Walston continued by explaining the specific funding programs under the new legislation (NHPP, STP, TAP, CMAQ, HSIP), the amount of funding allocated to each, and what has changed under each sub-program. Other changes include a new National Highway Freight Program, competitive FASTLANE grants for freight programs, and a few other freight provisions.

The presentation then focused on changes to transportation planning. Planning is moving toward the incorporation of performance measures, and two new planning factors are included in the FAST Act. A few other changes that will affect the operation of the MPO were discussed.

Mr. Walston concluded his presentation by displaying links to several FAST-Act related websites. (A copy of Mr. Walston's presentation is attached to and made a part of the permanent record of Minutes.)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Klumph made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel M. Gracenin,
MPO Secretary

DMG/ew